

County who briefed me on their work to host this national competition. Their enthusiasm and excitement was contagious, and I share in their anticipation for hosting the rodeo in northwest New Mexico. This is a great opportunity for the youth in the area to showcase their talents, and an excellent chance to boost the Four Corners area economy.

This year's competition is a continuation of a tradition begun in 1949 in Hallettsville, TX, with the first National Championship Rodeo. That contest laid the foundation for what became the National Championship High School Rodeo Association. New Mexico was one of the first five charter members. Subsequently, in 1961, this association was incorporated into the National High School Rodeo Association and included 20 states. Today, they have grown to include 39 States and two foreign countries.

Every year, the National High School Rodeo Association holds a National High School Finals Rodeo. New Mexico has been the proud host of three previous finals, and is proudly hosting the 2002 and 2003 competitions at the San Juan County Fairgrounds.

The National High School Rodeo Association serves to challenge high school students to keep alive a rich tradition of Western life through rodeo competitions. By providing a competitive environment, participants learn the spirit of sportsmanship and grow as individuals. In addition, participation in the association promotes student achievement and provides opportunities for college scholarships and further professional development. I believe their efforts at furthering student education bodes well for the association, and I applaud them for impacting young lives in such a positive manner.

Being selected as a host site is an honor, and I commend the Tres Rios High School Rodeo Association, San Juan County, the cities of Farmington, Aztec and Bloomfield, and everyone associated with the event for their efforts to prepare for the National High School Finals Rodeo. I wish all participants in the rodeo the best of luck.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOE FORD

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, for the last several months the American people have been subjected to a string of stunning revelations from some of our largest public companies. Accounting irregularities, shady business practices, and exorbitant executive compensation packages are apparently standard operating practice in some of our corporate boardrooms. As a result, thousands of families have lost their jobs and their savings, and investor confidence in our system of free enterprise has been severely shaken.

I would like to take a few minutes today to pay tribute to an Arkansas businessman who represents a vastly different picture of the American business leader Joe Ford of ALLTEL Corporation, who retired from his position as CEO this year.

A native of Conway, AR, Joe graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1959 before joining Little Rock's Allied Telephone Company. He advanced through several management positions and was named vice-president in 1963. By 1977, he was named president of Allied, a position he held until 1983 when his company merged with the Mid-Continent Telephone Corporation of Hudson, OH, to form ALLTEL. This merger, along with the 1990 purchase of Systematics, Inc., in Little Rock, laid the foundation for the telecommunications leader that ALLTEL has since become. Joe Ford was named ALLTEL president and CEO in 1987. He became chairman and CEO in 1991.

In a competitive and rapidly changing environment, Joe steered ALLTEL through a number of changes, including the deregulation of the telephone industry. He also led ALLTEL into a number of new, growing markets most notably wireless communications.

When ALLTEL turned on its cellular service in 1986, they had only 310 customers. Ford and many of his colleagues were unsure as to whether the new technology would catch on. But as we know now, the wireless industry exploded, and ALLTEL expanded across the southeastern United States. Today, ALLTEL covers portions of 23 States, serving six million wireless customers. Today, the company has expanded even further into information services, financial services, and mortgage processing.

When Joe Ford joined Allied Telephone in 1959, the company had 65 employees and 5,000 telephone customers. Today, ALLTEL is my State's largest high-tech company, with 4,100 employees working at the main campus in Little Rock. ALLTEL is also the sixth largest wireline and wireless company in the world, a Fortune 500 company with 26,000 employees worldwide serving 8 million communications customers. Many have contributed to ALLTEL's success in the American marketplace, but clearly it has been Joe Ford's vision and leadership that has brought the company to this level.

I will also pause to note that, throughout his career, Joe Ford has been the very embodiment of the engaged corporate citizen. In 1966, while serving as a vice-president for Allied Telephone, Joe ran for a seat in the Arkansas Senate. He served in this body from 1967 to 1982, a term spanning the administrations of five governors. A longtime advocate for public education, Joe chaired the Senate Education Committee, where he worked to improve our state's educational system and helped to create the kindergarten program in Arkansas public schools. He has also been involved with numerous civic organizations.

Joe Ford once offered the following words of advice to his son: "In all that you do in life, seek to make life better for others, work hard and honestly, be a man of strong character, humble in times of greatness, and try to leave things a little better than they were left to you." His record certainly indi-

cates that he has lived by these words himself. On the occasion of Joe's retirement, I'm proud to pay tribute to an Arkansan whose every move has represented the ideals of the American business world: trust, responsibility, hard work, and the greater public good. I hope that all of our business leaders will follow Joe's example in adhering to these ideals.●

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in November 1998 in Providence, MA. A gay man was assaulted outside a bar. The assailants, David E. Sheldon, 19, and Taylor Grenier, 18, who used antigay slurs during the attack, were charged with a hate crime in the incident.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

#### DO THE WRITE THING CHALLENGE 2002

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Do the Write Thing Challenge, sponsored by the National Campaign to Stop Violence, is a national writing contest in which students express their concerns about subjects such as domestic violence, easy access to guns, and gang activity. DtWT currently operates in 14 cities, including Detroit, MI. In 2002, more than 75,000 students from more than 550 schools participated in the DtWT program. This week 38 Do the Write Thing national finalists came to Washington, DC, to talk to lawmakers about the impact of and solutions to the epidemic of youth violence in our Nation.

The national student finalists, along with their teachers and family members, also attended a ceremony at the Library of Congress on Monday. Representatives of the Secretary of Education and the Library of Congress placed the students' writings in the Library of Congress. The writings, ranging from poems to essays to stories, describe the impact of youth violence on the lives of children. Two students from Michigan, Chastity Stewart and Justin Mozader, were honored by the National Campaign to Stop Violence for their writings on youth violence.