

cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.”

To the Christenson family and the Hurst family, I offer these words as a prayer for an end to their sorrow.●

**LEO JOHN SWEENEY JR. AND
CATHERINE EILEEN CLAFFEY
SWEENEY'S 25TH WEDDING ANNI-
VERSARY**

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate John and Eileen Sweeney, who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on November 25, 2002.

As they celebrate this milestone in their lives, they will surely reflect on the many changes, successes, and accomplishments they have experienced together over the last 25 years. Theirs is a journey of which they can be proud.

Leo John Sweeney Jr. is the son of the late Leo John Sweeney Sr. and Isabelle Moore Sweeney, and is a lifelong Wilmingtonian. He is a graduate of St. Elizabeth's Elementary School and Salesianum High School. His wife, Catherine Eileen Claffey Sweeney, is the daughter of the late John J. Claffey and Alice G. Rowan Claffey, and is also from Wilmington. She is a graduate of St. Paul's Elementary School and St. Paul's Commercial School.

John and Eileen met and began dating in early 1976 and became engaged in June 1977. They were married on November 25, 1977, at St. Joseph's on the Brandywine Roman Catholic Church in Wilmington. They made a welcoming home on South Broom Street.

A lieutenant, John has worked at the Wilmington Fire Department for 28 years. In 1961, he played in Delaware's Annual Blue and Gold All-Star Football Game, and, on the 25th anniversary of the Blue/Gold Game in 1980, John began umpiring these games. He continues to umpire high school football games today.

Eileen has worked for the Catholic Diocese for 30 years and has also served as Publicity Chair for the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. In 1994, she opened an Irish Shop in the Forty-Acres neighborhood. We have shared many laughs together at the Irish Culture Club of Delaware over the years.

Today, I congratulate John and Eileen on their 25th wedding anniversary. Both have shown great service and commitment to their family and their community. I know that their years together hold many beautiful memories. It is my hope that those ahead will be filled with continued joy and contentment. I wish them both the very best in all that lies ahead.●

**HONORING ANNA MARIE
O'LOUGHLIN**

● Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Anna Marie O'Loughlin, a woman who has dedicated more than

a decade of her life to advocating and caring for children in the foster care and adoption system. Her boundless energy, courage, and commitment to children make her an outstanding parent and an asset to the State of New Jersey. I congratulate her on receiving of the 2002 Congressional Angel in Adoption Award.

In 1991, Anna Marie O'Loughlin and her husband, Frank, adopted their first child from the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, DYFS. Jason, a toddler born drug and alcohol addicted, suffered multiple learning disabilities as a result of his unfortunate start in life.

Five years later, Anna Marie and Frank adopted another child, a 10-year-old boy with an attachment disorder. Later that same year, the O'Loughlins volunteered to serve as foster parents, receiving their first foster child, an infant girl, in January of 1997. Seven months later the infant girl's biological sister joined the family. Anna Marie and Frank adopted both girls in December 2000.

In January 2001, Anna Marie left a twenty-year career in order to be more consistently available to her children, and opened her home and heart, this time as an emergency placement foster home for older children and teenagers. Children aged 2 to 17 passed through her home, some in the middle of the night, and moved on when DYFS found a foster home. Anna Marie established a particularly special relationship with one of these children, a 16-year-old boy who had been in multiple homes and treatment facilities. He would soon be forced to leave the foster care system due to his age, and would have been left to face an uncertain future on his own. However, Anna Marie stepped in with her characteristic determination to change that outcome, and in January 2002, the O'Loughlin home became a permanent foster home for this young man.

Over the course of these years, Anna Marie also became an outspoken advocate for children in the foster care and adoption system. She has served on the board of Concerned Parents for Adoption in a variety of positions, including president from 1996 to 2000. Currently, Anna Marie works as a co-trainer for adoptive and foster parent applicants. She presents workshops at the Concerned Parents for Adoption conference on older child adoption and teenage issues, offering a wealth of experience and practical knowledge.

Anna Marie has said that she cannot help feeling that her work is making a difference. Indeed, she has reached out to children in desperate need to offer them a better life. As our nation reaffirms its commitment to service, Anna Marie is a shining example. Again, I congratulate Anna Marie on her well-deserved recognition, and I thank her for her tireless efforts on behalf of children.●

**RICHARD I. BONG WORLD WAR II
HERITAGE CENTER**

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, it is my honor today to celebrate the opening of the Richard I. Bong World War II Heritage Center in Superior, WI.

The Richard I. Bong World War II Heritage Center honors World War II participants both on the home front and on the battle front. Named for America's Ace of Aces and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, MAJ Richard Bong, the new center tells visitors of all ages about World War II through the eyes of those who participated in the war effort.

Major Bong, a native of Poplar, WI, fell in love with aviation as a small boy, watching mail planes fly over the family farm. In 1940, at the age of 20, he became a flying cadet in the U.S. Army Air Corps. Major Bong downed 40 enemy aircraft in the Pacific theater of war and made Poplar famous. Today would have been Major Bong's 82nd birthday. We celebrate by opening the Richard I. Bong World War II Heritage Center which not only honors Major Bong's war efforts but also pays tribute to all brave veterans who never saw themselves as heroes but truly embody the word.●

**IN RECOGNITION OF DR. RICHARD
RYAN'S RETIREMENT FROM DES
MOINES UNIVERSITY**

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, one of Iowa's foremost leaders in medical and health sciences education, Dr. Richard M. Ryan Jr., has announced his retirement from Des Moines University at the end of this December. Today, I rise to acknowledge his many contributions to health care in the State of Iowa, the Nation and the world.

Dr. Ryan's career reflects his lifelong commitment to community and population-based medicine. He began his career with a doctoral degree in public health from Harvard University, and has continued to serve on numerous academic and health boards, professional organizations, committees, and task forces.

Harvard University, Boston University, and Tufts University have all been a part of Dr. Ryan's distinguished career in medical education and health services administration. Iowa was fortunate to attract Dr. Ryan in 1996, when he became president of Des Moines University.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Ryan created a new Public Health Program, significantly expanded the Des Moines University research enterprise, and laid the foundation for a campus revitalization plan. Under Dr. Ryan's leadership the University recently established a Geriatric Education Center on campus. Through all of these efforts, Dr. Ryan has helped to expand the reach and recognition of the University's medical and health sciences programs in Iowa and across the Nation.