

And there were 3,000 people in the Waldorf Astoria Ballroom. I had been, and have been since, to many of these dinners. It is quite unusual that you can even hear the speaker usually by half-way through the speech. We have all been at dinners like that.

I remember sitting there, and Fred Rogers was talking about how important it is to be a positive influence in one child's life. Now, we all talk about mentoring and the importance of mentoring. It is sort of a new and current thing to talk about. Well, Fred was ahead of his time. He talked about that.

He talked and gave the example of someone in his life who meant something to him. It was a rivetting and compelling speech. I remember he stopped and said: I am going to stop for a minute. And I want you to all think about someone who made a difference in your life. I am going to stop for 1 minute, and I just want you to think about that person, what they have meant to you, and whether you can be that person for somebody else.

And he stopped talking. And for a minute, in that ballroom, with 3,000 people in it, you could have heard a pin drop. That was the power of someone who not only reached out to children, and spoke and preached a good talk, but someone who lived it, and who was sincere, and acted it out in his life. Obviously, it had an impact on me because I remember it to this day. It inspired me to try to make that contribution to someone.

Mr. DAYTON. Will the Senator yield for another question?

Mr. SANTORUM. I am happy to yield.

Mr. DAYTON. I thank the Senator for bringing this great man to our attention. I was not aware, until the Senator spoke, about his passing.

I, like so many others, felt I knew this man indirectly, as the father of two sons, who are now 19 and 22 years old. So I reckon it was about for 20 years that I watched that show. And I think I looked forward to it as often as my sons did.

The Senator captured very eloquently and sensitively the spirit of a very gentle soul, yet a very visionary man.

I recall going to the National Education Foundation dinner here just after I arrived 2 years ago, and there were not as many people there as the Senator described in the event he mentioned, but there were a good 700, 800 people.

Mr. Rogers was receiving the honor, Award of the Year. The first thing I noticed was, when he came out, everybody knew the song, and they all sang that song. As the Senator said, you could have heard a pin drop when he spoke. And he spoke in the same general way to adults as he did to kids.

I say to the Senator, are there any other neighborhoods like that in Pittsburgh you could send to the rest of the country? If so, we can use a few.

Mr. SANTORUM. We have lots of wonderful neighborhoods. And like Minnesota, we have a lot of old, wonderful, ethnic neighborhoods. I think Mr. Rogers reflected that spirit in a lot of those communities—the close-knit, caring spirit, looking after your neighbor in those communities.

Some may suggest that "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" was from a bygone era that does not exist anymore, that that neighborhood isn't around anymore. Well, I make the argument that the neighborhood is what the neighbors make it, and that he sets a pretty good model for what neighbors should be, and neighborhoods can be, and, hopefully, again someday will be.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF PENNSYLVANIA'S HISTORICALLY BLACK UNIVERSITIES

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, in celebration of Black History Month, I rise today to honor Lincoln University and Cheyney University of Pennsylvania for the contribution they have made in the education of African-Americans over the past two centuries. These two institutions of higher learning are charter members of a group of schools known as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and they have had a seminal role in our Nation's academic heritage.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proud to be the birthplace of secondary education for African-Americans in this country. Cheyney University, originally named the Institute for Colored Youth in Pennsylvania, was founded in 1837 as an elementary and high school for young blacks. The Institute was a successful, free school for young students and, after some years, became a teachers college. Cheyney's charter mission was to instruct African descendants in mechanical arts and agricultural trades so that they might teach their peers to compete and be self-sufficient in the post-slavery economy. Today, Cheyney educates men and women in more than thirty disciplines and maintains its legacy of providing for minorities of various cultures and nationalities.

Lincoln University rivals Cheyney for the title of oldest historically black university. Initially founded as the Ashmun Institute, the school opened in 1854 as the very first place of "higher education in the arts and sciences for male youth of African descent." In addition to the important message of educational equality and opportunity through learning these universities continue to convey, there are thousands of Lincoln and Cheyney alumni who illustrate the great gift these schools have given the African-American community in particular and the academic community at large. Among these graduates are Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, author

Langston Hughes, former Nigerian President Nnamdi Azikiwe, journalist Ed Bradley, and publisher Robert Bogle, to name but a few.

HBCUs are an integral aspect of what has always been the American dream, an ideal that sees education and industry as the tools for succeeding in life and pursuing one's talents and interests. The livelihood of institutions such as Lincoln and Cheyney Universities is central to the preservation of this ideal and with it, our national heritage. Our Government has a responsibility to help sustain the legacy of these schools, and I am proud to support legislation to this end. Bills that bring 21st Century technology to tomorrow's graduates and funds intended to keep quality, affordable higher education available to all of our Nation's young students are part of the process. I encourage my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of our country's HBCUs. I hope that together we can celebrate their history and ensure their future for the posterity of the Nation's higher education system. •

EMILY LANCE HAS A BLAST AT SPACE CENTER

• Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, today I share with my colleagues the thoughts of Emily Lance, an 8-year-old third grader at Calhoun Elementary School, who had the privilege of watching the launch of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*:

We left at 6 o'clock Tuesday morning, Jan. 14, to see the Space Shuttle launch. But first we had to get there. It was a 10-hour drive. We were staying at the Hilton.

Before we could get to the hotel, we had to go through security because the Israeli ambassador and the astronauts' families were staying there. Finally, we got to the room. Then we found our bathing suits and went out to the beach.

That's when we saw the horse patrol. They were very pretty horses. We found a lot of shells at the beach. Then we went back to our room, had dinner, and went to bed.

We woke up early and went to the Kennedy Space Center. We checked in the protocol office and got our mission briefing passes. Then we had to go through NASA security.

Going to the briefing wasn't all we did. First we checked out the Rocket Garden. It was huge and had replicas of the rockets that went into space.

Then it was time for the briefing. First we got our seats. There were a lot of people. The briefing was very interesting.

They announced that the shuttle was to go off at 10:39 Thursday morning. I learned a lot at the briefing.

After the briefing we went to the Mad Mission to Mars. It was 3-D and so cool. They called for volunteers, and I was picked. I was chosen to be the planet Venus. Then we were blasting off to Mars. Then it was the end of the show. After that we went to eat.

Then we got to see a movie called "The Dream Is Alive." I liked it very much. Then it was time to go back to the hotel. But before we did, I got to go get Space Dots. That is ice cream in little balls, also known as Dipping Dots.

Then it was time to go home after a great day at the Kennedy Space Center. I couldn't

wait until tomorrow. It was going to be awesome.

After dinner I had to go to bed early. We had to get up at 5 in the morning. On the way to Kennedy Space Center, we stopped at Waffle House to get some breakfast.

When we got there we went to the Protocol Office and got our bus passes so we could get to the grandstand.

While we were standing in line, we met this man who works at NASA in California. He was really excited, too. Then I noticed he had a really cool necklace and on it was the word NASA. It also had a blue flashing light.

I told him it was really cool. Then he asked me if I really liked it. I said yes, then he gave it to me. I was so happy.

After that, he showed me his official NASA badge. Then we got on the bus. It was a 10-minute ride to the grandstand.

When we got there we picked seats on the top row. You could see the Launch Pad perfectly. It was a long time until the shuttle went off so I went in the Saturn Building and watched a movie.

It was about the Apollo 11 mission. Neil Armstrong walked the first few steps on the moon in the Apollo mission. Then I had to go sit down.

The shuttle was about to go off. At 9 minutes the countdown stopped. Then it started again. At 1 minute until it launched, I was so excited. When it got to 10 seconds, we all went 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Then it happened. It was so awesome. It was like an earthquake. The ground shook, and the noise sounded like an explosion.

It lasted about two minutes, then it was gone. It was already in space. It can go around the world in 90 minutes.

Then we got back on the bus. When we got back to the Space Center, we went to see a 3-D movie called "The Space Station." The space station is a place where astronauts can go and live.

Then we went home after our last day at the Kennedy Space Center. So ends my wonderful space vacation.●

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA S. GEIST

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mrs. Brenda Geist on the occasion of her retirement from the Department of the Navy. Today, we celebrate with Brenda and her family her remarkable 37 years of exemplary and distinguished service to the Navy and the Nation. It is a privilege for me to address the Chamber today in honor of Brenda.

"Far and away the best prize that life offers," Teddy Roosevelt remarked, "is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." When Brenda first began with the Navy Department at the Charleston Naval Station, she understood that supporting the men and women of the Sea Service was indeed work worth doing. Brenda has remained true to this principle ever since.

From the small Navy office on the Cooper River to the many postings around the world that followed, Brenda quickly became recognized by all for her acumen and accomplishments. Understandably, Brenda's talents were ultimately sought by the Chief of Naval Operations and the Secretary of the Navy in Washington, D.C. In 1987, Brenda was selected to serve as the director of the Congressional Travel Division

for the Navy Secretary's legislative affairs office. Past being prologue, Brenda's record of success continued unabated and has been nothing short of outstanding.

For 15 years, Brenda has been a key advisor to a succession of eight admirals. During her tenure, Brenda planned and coordinated travel around the world for more than 300 congressional delegations. A superb financial manager, Brenda also responsibly managed annual budgets of over \$1.5 million—maintaining flawless documents and receiving the highest possible praise at every audit. Every day, her work directly supported the positive, productive interaction of senior Navy leadership and the Congress.

The Pentagon on the Potomac is a long way from the little Navy office on the Cooper River. Brenda's heartfelt commitment to the Navy's officers and sailors, her guiding compass over the years, never wavered.

Sharing this adventure with Brenda is Captain Gary Geist, U.S. Navy Ret., her husband of 24 years, and their children, Jim, Stacey, Darcey, Sam, and Curtis. With the loving support of her immediate Navy family, Brenda time and again, rose to the occasion for her larger extended Navy family.

Mr. President, I invite you and our Senate colleagues to join me and offer our sincere appreciation to Brenda Geist for her years of dedication and outstanding service. We wish her and her loving family "fair winds and following seas" as they begin their next adventure together. They will be sorely missed, but most certainly never forgotten.●

HEALTH CARE HERO

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a Health Care Hero from my home State of Oregon, the N2K Nursing Shortage Demonstration Project.

Several of my colleagues and I have come to this chamber before to discuss the growing shortage of health care workers in this country. This growing crisis has severe implications for quality patient care, retention of qualified nurses, and the future of health care delivery. Last year, Congress began to address this problem by passing the Nurse Reinvestment Act, but there is much more work to be done.

Fortunately, an exciting new program in Oregon is working to find new ways to recruit nurses. The N2K project offers paraprofessional staff from local hospitals and clinics the opportunity to secure a nursing degree while continuing to receive their current salary and benefits. Participants finish prerequisite classwork, participate in clinical training and complete an 18 month nursing degree program. Because they have come from health care institutions, these workers are more likely to continue in the nursing profession and stay in the communities where they were trained, solving some

of the pressing issues creating the nursing crisis.

But the most unique and beneficial part of this program is that recruits must be bilingual or be from a minority population. A major challenge facing health care delivery today is the severe lack of bilingual health professionals. In Oregon, and in many other places, we have large immigrant communities, primarily Spanish-speaking, and few nurses who can communicate with them easily. Many N2K participants would not have the opportunity to pursue a professional nursing career were this program not available. As nurses, they will bring a new level of comfort and care to non-English speaking patients.

Although the N2K demonstration project is still in its initial stages, it is already showing great success. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health visited Oregon this week to meet with the participating institutions and 11 students completing the program. The visitors were deeply impressed with the project, particularly after speaking with these excellent students who look forward to a rewarding career in nursing.

Today I honor the N2K project as a Health Care Hero. N2K's vision and dedication to building a more diverse health care work force is helping Oregon find the quality workers we need to meet tomorrow's health care challenges. I look forward to the project's continuing success and wish the partnership all the best as it moves forward.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today in the Senate to pay tribute to the Johnson Central High School Academic Team. Recently, the members of this Academic Team won their fourth straight 15th Regional Governor's Cup.

The Johnson Central Academic Team won the overall District 60 Governor's Cup Championship and went on to claim the Regional title. Along with winning the overall title, the team was awarded top honors in the Written Assessments section and the Future Problem Solving team also won first place. Also, the Quick Recall team defended their title by placing first 2 years in a row. Individual members also placed first in Mathematics, Language Arts and English Composition, and Science and Social Studies.

The citizens of Paintsville, KY are fortunate to have the 15th Regional champ's living and learning in their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

I congratulate the members of the Academic Team for their success. But also, I want to congratulate their peers, coaches, teachers, administrators, and parents for their support and sacrifices they've made to help the