

helping refugees grew, she enrolled at Harvard to pursue a master's degree in international education. A few years later, she became director of refugee and immigration services for Catholic Charities in Boston.

She was always there to help. Once, when 112 Haitian children arrived in Boston on a military plane, Mary was there to greet them with a friendly face. The children had lost contact with their families. They were barefoot, in a country they had never seen before. Mary comforted them, and took them to eat at a local restaurant called Buzzy's Fabulous Roast Beef. After that, she took them to a local swimming pool, and then she began the effort to reunite them with their families or place them in foster care. Stories like this about Mary are well known to all her colleagues.

Last year, Mary was honored for her work in protecting the rights of refugee women by Rudd Lubbers, the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees. When Commissioner Lubbers learned of Mary's death, he spoke for us all when he said that it "left a void in the refugee and humanitarian world, where she touched many lives."

Sadly, Mary died too young. But she made the world a better place, and we will always have our warm memories of her and her inspiring legacy to guide us as we carry on her mission.●

REMEMBERING RICHARD PARSONS

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on February 16, 2004, a good friend of mine and a distinguished farm leader from my State was a victim of heart failure. At the age of 56, Richard Lynn "Rick" Parsons died at his home in Vance, MS, where he managed a family farming operation and served in numerous capacities of leadership for his community and the State.

Rick was a native of Water Valley, MS. He was an elder at the Sumner Presbyterian Church and a member of the local Rotary Club. In 2001, he was appointed by President George W. Bush and served with distinction as a member of the State Farm Service Agency Committee, which oversees the implementation of Federal farm programs in Mississippi. Rick was also a leader in Delta Council and the National Cotton Council, in addition to being on the Board of Directors of Delta Wildlife and Delta F.A.R.M., which are local organizations that promote wildlife conservation on the farm.

Additionally, Rick Parsons was selected to represent Mississippi as a finalist in the Southeastern Farmer of Year competition, and he was elected by his peers to serve on the board of directors for the successful Mississippi Boll Weevil Management Program and the Cotton Leadership Program for the National Cotton Council.

Rick was an unselfish and dedicated leader on behalf of agriculture in Mississippi. My office always relied on his sound judgment and good counsel in

matters which affected farmers. We extend to his wife Carlisle, his son Scott, and the entire Parsons family our sincerest condolences.●

HONORING THE AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS TEAM

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, on May 1-3, 2004, more than a 1,000 students from across the United States will converge on Washington, DC to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program has a primary goal of promoting civic competence and responsibility among our Nation's elementary and secondary school students. It is the most extensive educational program in the country designed to educate young students about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and since its inception in 1987, more than 26 million students and 86,000 educators have participated.

I am very proud to announce that Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton will represent the State of California in this year's We the People national final. Four years ago I had the honor of recognizing Amador Valley for winning California's contest, and am proud to be able to do so again today. On February 6, this year's class from Amador Valley placed first in California's statewide contest. The school has a rich tradition of excelling in this program, having won California's competition five times from 1992-2000, and even winning the national championship in 1995.

During the national final, the class from Amador Valley will again have to testify as experts before a panel of judges on a wide variety of historical and contemporary constitutional issues. They will also be quizzed by the judges in an effort to illustrate depth of constitutional understanding, and ability to apply that knowledge. The competition is designed to resemble what hearings would be like in the U.S. Congress.

I congratulate the civics class at Amador Valley High School for winning this year's California We the People competition, and wish them best of luck as they conduct research and prepare for the national finals.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL L. MIHALKO

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, public service is a long and honored tradition in the United States. Through the dedicated commitment and tireless service of our Nation's Federal workforce, our country is safer and more secure than ever. I wish to take this opportunity to honor one such person, Daniel L. Mihalko, who since January 28, 1978, has served as a postal inspector in the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. After serving as a postal inspector for the past 26 years of his 31-year career with the Postal Service, Inspector Mihalko retired on March 2, 2004.

Inspector Mihalko was known to many in congress as their contact with the Postal Inspection Service in his capacity as the inspector in charge of congressional and public affairs. He was also known to the American public as the face of the Inspection Service when discussing issues such as the anthrax attacks through the U.S. mail in 2001 or pipe bombs in midwestern mailboxes. He professionally represented the Inspection Service in television appearances ranging from shows such as "60 Minutes" and "Larry King Live" to all the major television networks.

In addition to Inspector Mihalko's service as spokesman for the Postal Inspection Service, he was the guiding force behind several high-profile publicity campaigns: Project kNOw Fraud, National Fraud Against Seniors, and Awareness and Operation: Identity Crisis—important educational programs directed at increasing consumer awareness of mail fraud and deceptive mailing practices. His official appearances added to public confidence in the mail, and it is fitting that upon Inspector Mihalko's retirement from the Postal Inspection Service, we take a moment to recognize the Federal agency he promoted so well.

The United States Postal Inspection Service protects the integrity of our Nation's postal system and is one of the country's oldest law enforcement agencies. Founded in 1772 by the first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin, the Postal Inspection Service is the primary law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service. Initially the Inspection Service helped regulate and audit postal functions, but in 1830, these functions were expanded and its auditors became special agents. By the late 1800s, special agents were renamed postal inspectors, and, in 1916, solved the last known stage-coach robbery in the United States. The modern Postal Inspection Service enforces more than 200 Federal laws relating to the U.S. mail, including identify fraud, mail bombs, child pornography, controlled substances, counterfeit stamps, money laundering, robbery, and mail theft. Because of overlapping jurisdictions, postal inspectors work closely with U.S. Attorneys, other law enforcement agencies, and local prosecutors to investigate postal cases and prepare them for court. Inspectors are aided in their work through five regional forensic crime labs strategically located throughout the United States which support field office operations.

As the former chairman of the Senate Postal Subcommittee, I have had the privilege of supporting this distinguished Department and have had to postal inspectors/attorneys as detailees on my staff. Inspector Mihalko is a fine example of the men and women who make up the Postal Inspection Service, and I wish Mr. Mihalko and his family well.●