

American B-29 bombers incinerated Japan's major cities, reducing industrial production by a third and leaving 14 million homeless. Admiral of the Fleet Chester Nimitz, Pacific commander, convinced Pentagon planners to create airfields even closer than Formosa by capturing Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Kamikaze suicide planes sank 38 ships, damaged 368, and killed over 5,000 sailors. Soldiers of the U.S. 10th Army and the Marines suffered almost 72,000 killed and wounded.

But on August 6, 1945, a Boeing B-29 Superfortress named Enola Gay lifted from the runway at Tinian in the Marianas and headed for Japan, nearly 1,500 miles across the open Pacific. Six and a half hours later the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. It detonated above the city with the force of 20,000 pounds of TNT. Several thousand members of the Second Japanese Army, then outside doing calisthenics, were wiped out in a millisecond and the city was flattened.

Three days later Nagasaki suffered the same fate. On August 14 the Japanese emperor finally overruled his military chiefs and accepted Allied surrender terms.

Americans of World War II understood that to bring down a form of tyranny, it was necessary to sacrifice lives. In liberty and in prosperity, the world after 1945 became a far, far better place than it had been in 1939. World War II was worth fighting, after all. To have lost would have brought unimaginable sorrow and slavery.

To the veterans here today that we honor—particularly from World War II—I salute you. You stood tall, you did your duty, you survived, you returned. And we remember with heavy hearts those of our comrades that paid the supreme sacrifice, that were wounded, that were prisoners of war. We who are here are the fortunate ones. It has been truly said: "In war there are no victors, only survivors."

My fellow veterans, I salute you.
God Bless America.●

CONGRATULATING EASTER SEALS GOODWILL INDUSTRIES REHA- BILITATION CENTER

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to honor the 35th anniversary of the merger between Easter Seals of New Haven, CT, Goodwill Industries of South Central Connecticut, and the New Haven Area Rehabilitation Center. The celebration of this historic occasion will occur on Monday, June 14, 2004.

For 35 years, Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center has made remarkable achievements in its mission to enhance employment opportunities and the quality of life for people with disabilities and other special needs.

1930 marked the initial formation of Goodwill Industries of Central Connecticut. The New Haven Area Rehabilitation Center and the New Haven Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults were created in 1954. Eventually, the leaders of these three organizations recognized that they could accomplish far more working together than they could as separate entities. They made the decision to put aside any feelings of personal or institutional pride, and to come together for the benefit of those they served. The merger in 1969 was the first in our

Nation's history that involved two major American non profit organizations.

The results speak for themselves. In the 35 years since the merger, the Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center has served approximately 50,000 individuals with disabilities and special needs throughout the New Haven area.

Today, Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center continues to provide valuable assistance in career exploration and job placement, work skill development and training, and various other employment support services to individuals with disabilities and special needs. The center also offers vital social assistance to individuals with disabilities, enabling them to connect with others and to become active participants in their local communities. Finally, Easter Seals Goodwill Industries works throughout Connecticut to help our State's residents find proper housing, transportation, and education.

I especially congratulate my good friend Malcolm Gill, who has contributed 20 years of dedication and leadership as President of the Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center. I also recognize the hard work of the Board of Directors, the staff, and community volunteers who selflessly continue to serve the New Haven community.

On behalf of the State of Connecticut, and the United States Senate, I congratulate Easter Seals Goodwill Industries Rehabilitation Center on 35 outstanding years of service. I wish them continued success for many years to come.●

A TRIBUTE TO BETTY STRONG, THE GRANDE-DAME OF IOWA POLITICS

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, in the early 1950s, at a time when political backrooms were still smoke-filled and the sound of a woman's voice was still a cause for heads to turn, Betty Strong involved herself in politics in her home State of Iowa and did not hesitate to speak her mind. She turned many heads and made folks in Iowa listen in those days and folks have been listening to what she has had to say ever since.

A strong and rare woman, she had a deep and abiding commitment to the rough-and-tumble of the political process and will long stand as an inspiration to all of us, to every American who believes in the great idea of representative democracy, to all those whose values and dreams are represented by a political party and by the process through which we elect our representatives.

She held firm her deep beliefs. She was, first and foremost, a Democrat. In fact, Betty Strong was the grande-dame of Democrats in Iowa. She was an organizer who knew how to bring people together for a cause, a woman who

understood the issues, knew the process better than almost anyone, and felt with every fiber of her being that she had not only the right but the duty as a citizen to fight for what she believed was right and fair and just. She fought on behalf of organized Labor and through the Central Labor Council for the basic dignity of the American worker, and for a host of causes in her community, and did not hesitate to make her opinion known, did not waver when it came to bringing about the changes necessary to elect those who agreed with her. But partisanship was not what we should remember when we remember Betty Strong today.

To watch her in action was to understand what America is all about. To see her build a coalition, to rally support, to bring out the best in her community to rise to an issue, to support a candidate, to lay out a platform, to build consensus, was truly a lesson in the best of the American political dynamic. And, every four years without fail, she was in the vanguard of the unique process we have come to understand as the Iowa Caucuses.

I first met her in 1987 when I entered the Iowa Caucuses, and I can say without hesitation or equivocation: I will never forget Betty Strong. She was with me then and her memory will remain with me always. I wrote her a letter in 1988 thanking her for her help and for her lifelong service, and I am honored to know that the letter hung on her living room wall all these years. I will long be beholden to Betty for her commitment, for her support, for her help, for the extraordinary grace she showed me and the dignity with which she lived her life and fought for the causes to which she was so committed.

Iowa has lost a great woman and I would ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lasting contribution that Betty Strong made to that fundamental Tip O'Neill-notion that all politics is local. Today we mourn her loss and offer to her family and all of her friends in Iowa and across America, the thanks of a grateful Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT EDWARD PARRISH, PRESIDENT OF WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC IN- STITUTE

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the distinguished president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Edward Parrish, as he nears his retirement this year.

Ed Parrish came to WPI as president in 1995 after an impressive career in engineering at NASA and in teaching and academic research. From the University of Virginia to Vanderbilt and finally to WPI, he was widely recognized for his skill and dedication in engineering and engineering education. He has led regional and national efforts to expand the recruitment of students and the scope of engineering programs, and he has demonstrated his commitment