

we all yearn for will not be built by skeptics who spend their lives admiring the complexity of the problems. It'll be built by free men and women who believe in themselves.

I know Ronald Reagan is in a better place today, and, from his view, he is rooting for us and believing in our future.

Leaders like Ronald Reagan change the course of history with their vision and inspire a new generation. I serve Nevada in the United States Senate because I, too, was inspired by Ronald Reagan. Today, I thank him from the bottom of my heart for his service to this nation, for his unwavering leadership, and for his spirit that will always represent our greatness and remind us that we can achieve anything.

President Reagan, may God bless you and watch over you. And may God continue to bless America.

FLAG DAY AND THE BIRTHDAY OF THE ARMY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, our Nation celebrates two birthdays today.

On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress agreed to forge, from several different State militias, one single Army to fight America's War of Independence.

Congress called for 10 companies of expert rifleman to be raised from among the colonies of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia and ordered them to march to Boston to meet the British Army.

Two years later, Congress established a flag for the young Army to fight under.

With the war still raging, and the future of the Revolution very much in doubt, the Continental Congress decreed it "Resolved, That the Flag of the 13 United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; That the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

In a way, the entire history of our Nation is contained within these events. From diverse parts, America set forth to create a single nation, founded on common values and a shared vision for its future.

Struggling against the preeminent military power of its age, our Founding Fathers looked upon the different rebellions waged by State militia, independent of one another, taking place throughout the colonies, and determined that if the 13 colonies were to share a single fate, it would be best if we chose to meet it together.

The design of the new American flag reflected that wisdom and symbolizes the union of disparate parts. While the 13 stripes and the 13 stars represented the different colonies, the colors signified the common values that bound us together as a nation. Red for valor. White for liberty. Blue for justice.

Today, Old Glory is America's most treasured national symbol. It captures the imagination of both young and old because, in a way, each American is represented.

Each of us can see among the stars in the deep blue field one star that represents our State, our neighborhood, ourselves. And in the 13 stripes representing the colonies that banded together, each of us can also feel the connection to our history.

In this way, the flag is alive. Each American adds to its meaning and significance through the work we do to build our Nation.

Few expressed this better than Franklin Lane, Woodrow Wilson's Secretary for the Interior. Speaking to a group of civil servants in 1914, Secretary Lane imagined a conversation with, as he called it, "Mr. Flag."

"Yesterday," the Flag tells Lane, "the President spoke a word that made happier the future of ten million . . . but that act looms no larger on the Flag than the struggle which the boy in Georgia is making to win the Corn Club prize this summer. . . ."

"Yesterday the Congress spoke a word which will open the door of Alaska; but a mother in Michigan worked from sunrise until far into the night, to give her boy an education. She, too, is making the Flag.

"Yesterday we made a new law to prevent financial panics, and yesterday, maybe a schoolteacher in Ohio taught his first letters to a boy who will one day write a song that will give cheer to the millions. . . . We are all making the Flag. I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become. . . . I am no more than what you believe me to be and I am all that you believe I can be. . . . I am what you make me; nothing more."

Looking back at 227 years under Old Glory, the American people can be proud of what we have made the flag. Throughout the world it is recognized as a symbol of freedom and valor.

And, there can be no doubt, few American institutions have done more to make this true than the United States Army, the oldest institution in the world dedicated to defending a democracy.

In its 229 years, the Army has engaged in more than 175 different campaigns to defend our Nation, and to defend freedom throughout the world.

As we celebrate the Army and the incalculable contributions it has made to the life of our Nation, and the world, members of the Army are once again far from their families, fighting shoulder to shoulder, to extend freedom's reach throughout the world.

Each day, we see new examples of the courage, loyalty, and fortitude that have been hallmarks of the Army since its birth more than two centuries ago.

The stories of the heroism of Army troops rescuing our Nation from a pivotal moment are too numerous to count. But I would like to relate one of my favorites from the War of 1812.

For the first 2 years of that war, the American forces had been beaten badly by the British. The English generals had become openly contemptuous of the American forces, which they con-

sidered little more than a ragtag band of untrained and unprofessional conscripts.

As the British met the American Army on the banks of the Chippewa River, the British general looked out over the American Army and mocked them as little more than a militia—the same forces they had been routing for the past 2 years.

The British opened fire, expecting the Americans to scatter. But the Army marched directly through the British fire.

Seeing a bravery and professionalism he had never encountered, the British general cried out, "Those are regulars, by God."

Soon, the Army troops had encircled the British forces, catching them in crossfire. The Battle of Chippewa was soon won, and it brought about a turning point in the War of 1812, and the history of our young Nation.

Countless times, the United States Army has stunned an enemy commander by its discipline, its skill, and its bravery. But while America continues to be awed by the achievements of the U.S. Army, we are no longer surprised.

Whether on the banks of the Chippewa, the fields of Gettysburg, the banks of Normandy, or the streets of Baghdad, the U.S. Army continues to represent the best hopes and the best achievement of a single nation, united in common defense of its shared values and dreams.

They have brought honor and freedom to our Nation for 229 years. And while it is historical coincidence that the Army birthday and Flag Day fall together on June 14 each year, it is altogether fitting that they do so.

The same values the Flag represents, the Army exemplifies and defends. When we look upon the flag, we see the heroism with which our military has defended it, and we are proud.

All this is represented in the American flag. And when Americans pledge allegiance to the flag, it is this history, these values, these ideals, to which we promise loyalty.

Knowing the power of the Pledge to unite Americans, I was encouraged to learn that the Supreme Court has rejected the recent challenge to the constitutionality of the Pledge.

I have long believed in the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance, and though the Supreme Court Decision was made on procedural grounds, it represents a positive step forward in our efforts to affirm its central place in the life of our Nation.

In a simple way, the Pledge gives us the chance to reaffirm the history and values that bind us together—the history and values represented by our flag.

When I think of the importance of the flag to our country, I am reminded of the days after September 11, 2001.

One week after the attacks, I recall walking into the Hart Senate Office Building to see American flags hanging

from each window, on each of the eight floors of the building.

Like the individual stars standing united together, the Senate offices were spontaneously united in a pure and impromptu display of patriotism and loyalty.

If anyone ever had doubts about our Nation's resolve to persevere in the face of terrorism, they would be put to rest at that moment.

As Franklin Lane said, each of us makes the Flag.

As we work to build our Nation and extend its ideals throughout the world, we are extending the constellation of stars our Founding Fathers saw in the 13 colonies. And today, the light of this constellation extends throughout the world.

This is what we celebrate on both Flag Day and the Army's birthday.

Each in its way reminds us of the continuing work of our Nation, to create a more perfect union, united under one flag, defended by one force, and inspired by a shared vision of a future, as the Pledge states, "with liberty and justice for all."

AULD-BROKAW TRAIL DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today I recognize the Auld-Brokaw Trail Day that is scheduled for June 19, 2004, in Yankton, SD. This day-long initiative is the culmination of years of hard work from numerous Yankton leaders, including the Yankton Rotary Club, the Auld-Brokaw Trail Committee, the City of Yankton and the Yankton Parks and Recreation Department.

This day also represents the completion of Tom Brokaw and Meredith Auld Brokaw's vision to further enhance the community where they first met nearly a half century ago.

Several years ago, Yankton leaders designed the concept for an expansive walking trail as part of a flood mitigation project. Yankton raised \$1 million for the Auld-Brokaw Trail, relying upon investments from residents—past and present. With a generous donation from the Brokaws, the dream soon became a reality. The city began construction in 2001.

As the trail began to take shape, an Outdoor Classroom to further capitalize on the educational opportunities that it presented. The partnership that developed between the Brokaws, the Yankton Rotary Club and the Rotary Foundation is the way that most things get accomplished in my State—good people working together toward a shared vision.

The Outdoor Campus along the Auld-Brokaw Trail will feature flowers and grasses native to the South Dakota prairie. The nearly 3 acres of natural lands will be a great resource to showcase the area's beauty. The Yankton Chamber of Commerce has already found the Auld-Brokaw Trail to be a strong regional recreational attraction.

As we know all too well, Americans are spending less active time outdoors.

This trend is having a negative impact on our country's collective health, and I was pleased to learn that the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton will sponsor health and walking programs along the Auld-Brokaw Trail in conjunction with the upcoming events. A Pilates demonstration, nutrition forum and community walk will teach area residents about the important contribution that the Auld-Brokaw Trail can make to the community's health.

The Auld-Brokaw Trail is an outstanding enhancement of Yankton's beauty, and the Outdoor Classroom addition will strengthen the trail's attractiveness. I am pleased that Yankton residents will soon come together to celebrate the completion of this outstanding project, and I am proud to recognize this outstanding effort.

Tom and Meredith Brokaw's friendship began in high school. He went to Boys State, allowing him to have lunch with South Dakota Governor Joe Foss, a World War Congressional Medal of Honor winner. She went to Girls Nation, where she met President Eisenhower in the Rose Garden of the White House. They were class leaders; Tom's broadcast career began on KYNT Radio. Though they are far away geographically, their emotional bond remains strong.

"The world in which I work and live is a long way from home," Brokaw wrote in his 2002 book, "but the early bearings I took as a child on the prairie, surrounded by working people and the communities they established, often in difficult circumstances, have been a steady and reassuring presence. They are familiar markers and sentinels, useful and reliable even now, forty years after I left the land and the people that launched me."

Yankton continues to be blessed by the generous way that Tom and Meredith Brokaw have chosen to give back to the community that provided so much to them. The Auld-Brokaw Trail and the Outdoor Classroom are two of the latest examples.

CONGRATULATING SHANKARI RAJAGOPAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I congratulate Shankari Rajagopal on her outstanding performance at the 77th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Nevada's lone speller at the national competition, Shankari outlasted 219 of 265 contestants to earn a spot among the top 46 competitors. An eighth grader at Churchill County High School, Shankari won the Nevada State Spelling Bee in March to earn the right to participate in the national competition. She had finished 12th and 6th in the State contest the previous 2 years.

Administered by The E.W. Scripps Company in conjunction with more than 250 sponsors around the world, the Scripps National Spelling Bee is the Nation's largest and longest-running educational promotion. Each sponsor

organizes a spelling bee program in its community, with the local champions advancing to the finals in Washington, DC. This tremendous program helps thousands of students every year improve their spelling and expand their vocabularies through a fun competition.

I was able to visit with Shankari an hour before her last day of competition. She was relaxed and satisfied with her tremendous accomplishment, as well she should be. I was very impressed with her parents who came to Washington, DC, to support her. They too were proud of what she had accomplished, and this helped to put her at ease.

I have seen too many parents, in athletics and other student activities, put such tremendous pressure on their children that it takes away from the pleasure of the student's involvement. But not so with Shankari's parents. I congratulate Jeeks and Karpagam, her mother and father, for doing such a great job of raising their daughter.

The Fallon community and the State of Nevada can take great pride in Shankari's performance in the State and national competitions. It reflects her strong commitment to her education and her tremendous potential. Please join me in congratulating this talented young Nevadan on her impressive achievement.

CONGRATULATING ALVIN McLANE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I congratulate Mr. Alvin McLane, a Nevada Bureau of Land Management, BLM, volunteer, on his selection for the "Making A Difference" award. This award recognizes Alvin's strong commitment to preserving the natural and cultural heritage of our public lands.

Mr. McLane is one of seven individuals who received this prestigious national award this year. As a volunteer for the Nevada BLM's Carson City field office, he recorded more than 120 discrete cultural sites primarily in the Dry Lake area of northwestern Nevada. Mr. McLane also instituted a full-scale monitoring program for the area.

Thousands of volunteers throughout the country contribute to the preservation of the 261 million acres of public lands managed by the BLM. Volunteers donated approximately 1.5 million hours last year alone, tantamount to the work of 866 full-time employees with an estimated value of \$25 million. Launched in 1996 as a part of the "Take Pride in America" initiative, the "Making A Difference" program has recognized 87 individuals or groups for their exemplary service.

Mr. McLane has demonstrated a commendable commitment to public service. Please join me in thanking him for his tremendous efforts.

HONORING ROGER PELTYN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I extend my condolences to the family of Roger