

baseball games, contests and parades would come to be identified as traditional parts of the celebration as well. However, from the very beginning food, family and friends played central roles in these remembrances.

Many African Americans will continue this celebration through various activities in their local communities. I was honored to join Arkansans in celebrating Juneteenth in Little Rock this past weekend, and I challenge all Americans to join me in celebrating the rich history and countless contributions African Americans have made in our country, to remember the struggles for dignity and racial equality in America and to commit to fighting for equality in our schools, workplaces and in our communities.

THE BOSTON CELTICS—THE "HEROES AMONG US" AWARDS

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, the Boston Celtics are heroes on the basketball court, and they are heroes off the court as well. In 1997, they established the "Heroes Among Us" Awards to honor outstanding persons in the area who have had an especially significant impact on the lives of others. The award pays tribute to men and women who have made a difference because of their unselfish commitment to their community. Their extraordinary achievements take place in a wide variety of fields, and are made by persons of all ages and in all walks of life.

At each home game during the basketball season, the Celtics and their fans pay tribute to one of the honorees in a special presentation on the basketball court. So far, over 300 persons have received the "Heroes Among Us" award.

All of us in the Kennedy family are proud that one of this year's awards was made to my nephew Tim Shriver. He was honored for his leadership of the Special Olympics, which provides training in sports and opportunities to participate in competitive sports for children and adults with mental retardation in many nations throughout the world. Tim was honored in Boston last December during a Celtics game against the Utah Jazz, and several Special Olympics athletes were part of the ceremony on center court.

Massachusetts is proud of the Celtics and proud of this successful and inspiring awards program, which has become one of the most respected such initiatives in the Nation. I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the names of the honorees for the 2003–2004 season.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Frank Kilroy (Danvers), Karen Butler and Tom Lee (Brockton), Atala Esquillin (Lynn), Karen, Bob and Alex Bean (Shrewsbury), Mary Soo Hoo (Boston), Caitlin Gorski (Hopkinton), Chris Constantino (Plymouth), Nadine Burgeson (Lakeville), Kellie Burgeson Surdis (Lakeville), Joe Lawless

(Lynnfield), Dr. Arnold Scheller (Milton), Jackie Jenkins-Scott (Roxbury), Honorable Leslie Harris (Dorchester), Anne Norton (Boston), Lieutenant Paul D. Lucas (Boston), Firefighter Dorian Jenkins (Boston);

Firefighter Vincent Dimino (Boston), Cory Arno (Central Falls, RI), Mel Rubin (Chestnut Hill), Ryan and Hattie Wilkinson (Medfield), Mason Hedberg (North Attleboro), Myra Fox (Newton), Margela Olivier-Galette (Randolph), Lee and Allison Weissman (Springfield), Jesus Gerena (Jamaica Plain), Veryl Anderson (North Andover), Bob Michalczyk (Lowell), George Kouloheras (Lowell), Michael Danziger (Lincoln), Melinda Pellerin-Duck (Springfield), State Trooper Kevin Fogwill (Brookfield), Tony DeBlois (Randolph);

Matt Haymer (Andover), Brian, Calvin and David Owino (Framingham), Debby Sabin Kanzer (Lincoln), Daniel Gonzalez (Cambridge), David Goodfellow (Lakeville), Linda Brooks (Framingham), Greg deZarn-O'Hare (East Kingston, NH), Peter Bruce (South Dartmouth), Brendan McDonough (Dorchester), Ron Bielicki (Waltham), Tim Shriver (Washington, DC), Charity Bell (Jamaica Plain), Alex Cortes (Springfield), George Giddings (Yonkers, NY);

Charles Diggs (Norwood), Harvey Sanford (Boston), Willis Saunders (Boston), Boston Police Sergeant John Danilecki (Boston), Boston Police Officer Adam Gill (Boston), Boston Police Officer Michael Mylett (Boston), Boston Police Officer Michael Doyle (Boston), Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police Officer James St. Croix (Boston), Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police Officer Richard Lum (Boston), Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Police Officer Chi Keung (Boston).

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KENTUCKY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I rise to honor and pay tribute to the Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation, KMHDC, for receiving one of the Fannie Mae Foundation's 6 Maxwell Awards for Excellence.

The Maxwell Awards of Excellence program showcases the outstanding work of nonprofit organizations in developing and maintaining housing for low-income Americans. Each year the award is given to only 6 projects nationwide. The Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation is a church-related nonprofit established in 1973, that provides safe, decent, affordable homes for low-income families in Southeastern Kentucky. The staff of nearly 30 works with volunteers to build and repair houses for low-income families and provide financing for families with income too low to qualify for any other housing assistance. KMHDC originates and services low-interest loans and provides jobs and promotes economic development through housing production in rural Appalachia.

The Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation is an outstanding example of how Kentuckians use their entrepreneurial talent, drive, and vision to create opportunities not just for themselves, but for others. In the last 30 years, they have provided 600 homes

for low-income families and it has completed more than 400 home repairs to substandard owner occupied units.

Southeastern Kentucky is fortunate to have the Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation as a home-based business. I appreciate their loyalty to Kentucky and their community. The company is a shining example of leadership, hard work, and compassion. They are an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

Congratulations, Kentucky Mountain Development Corporation. You are Kentucky at its finest.●

WEST VIRGINIA DAY

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the beautiful State which I am proud to call my home, West Virginia. Yesterday, June 20, was truly a day to celebrate our great State. One hundred and forty one years ago, West Virginia became the 35th State to join our Nation.

West Virginia's travel slogan "Wild and Wonderful" captures the essence of West Virginia's terrain. In reference to the spirit of our landscape abundant with roaming rivers and dense forests, the early settlers created the state motto: "Mountaineers are always free." To this day, West Virginia remains known for its breathtaking natural beauty. It is a growing destination for people from around the world interested in hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, white water rafting, skiing, golf, and many other outdoor activities which take advantage of the natural beauty of the West Virginia hills.

Visitors to the State are often impressed by our sweeping vistas, mountainous terrain, and undisturbed wilderness. Much of our beauty is preserved for the ages in several world class National and State Parks.

While the landscape of the Mountain State is inspiring, it is the people of West Virginia who truly encapsulate the majesty and spirit of our State. Over the last 141 years, many different people have called West Virginia home. Native Americans came here for our rich hunting grounds. Civil War soldiers fought many battles on our land, diverse waves of immigrants worked in our thriving industries of glass, coal, steel, wood products, oil and the railroad. We have come so far over the last 141 years, and yet we maintain the same sense of pride in our culture, people, and rolling West Virginia hills.

These historical influences helped to diversify our population and create the vibrant culture we enjoy today. West Virginia culture is famous for its pottery, glass, history, stories, and in particular, its music. This music, including bluegrass, ballads and gospel songs, has a special tie to our culture and our people, telling of our history and our industry. Aside from what we produce, it is who we are that makes West Virginia a place of which to be proud. We