

implement dozens of programs for enhancing health care delivery across the State. He also served as national director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Practice Sights Program through NCFAHP.

Before retiring in 2005, Jim had, since 2001, served as assistant secretary for Health at the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. In that role, he oversaw the North Carolina Departments of Facility Services, Medical Assistance, Mental Health, Minority Health, Public Health and Rural Health. He also served as an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Department of Social and Administrative Medicine; 1979 to 2005 and as an adjunct assistant professor at the School of Medicine at Duke University in Durham, NC, Department of Community and Family Medicine; 1978 to 2005.

Jim's impact on North Carolina will never be forgotten. He was a champion for rural health care and the belief that every individual should have access to high-quality health care.●

RECOGNITION OF BENNIE COOLEY

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an outstanding marksman and employee at Idaho National Laboratory: Bennie Cooley, who with teammate Todd Salmon has recently won the 2005 World Sniper Championship.

Bennie Cooley is no stranger to such competitions, as he currently holds three world titles and seven national titles within the shooting disciplines, but this competition was particularly special to him because many of the participants were some of the finest members of our Armed Forces and the national law enforcement community. Like him, I believe that all these competitors are world champions in their own right.

Bennie has made a career at the Idaho National Laboratory, beginning as a security police officer for the Laboratory before moving to the Laboratory's special response team where he became a team leader. He is now a firearms safety engineer, "part of a team that makes security successful, especially in the safety realm . . . able to articulate anything that's necessary to help keep us safe," according to one of his superiors, because of his knowledge of firearms.

Respect for firearms and marksmanship have been important qualities throughout our Nation's history and it is rewarding to see those values preserved and practiced by people like Bennie Cooley.

As Mr. Cooley continues to assure the safety of Idaho National Laboratory and to demonstrate his excellence in the art of marksmanship, I wish him good luck and offer congratulations and thanks for his dedication to public service.●

350 YEARS OF JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Jewish community on 350 years of Jewish life in America. In September of 1654, 23 Jews founded the first Jewish community in America when they sailed to what was then New Amsterdam. The Jewish community in this country has a rich and fascinating history, surmounting numerous obstacles and working diligently to make great contributions to our Nation. I offer my sincerest congratulations to the Jewish community on reaching this important milestone and express my endorsement of the 350th Rabbinical Resolution and ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The resolution follows:

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

Let it be known that in Elul 5764 (September 2004) the Jewish community of the United States began a year long commemoration marking the 350th Anniversary of Jewish settlement in this country.

With the help of God and under the protection of the Constitution of the United States, we have lived and prospered in this land. We have been an integral part of American life. We have worked with all other Americans in the never-ending effort to keep secure the democratic way of life. Our ancient prophetic ideals and the teachings of our sages serve as cornerstones of this Nation's values. Our work, our hopes, and above all, our living religion have been among our proudest offerings to the American community.

In some lands across the seas the Jewish people have felt the searing flame of prejudice, persecution and death. The American Jew has had the sad, yet inspiring opportunity to bring comfort to the oppressed, the joyous opportunity to participate in the reconstitution of the Jewish state on the ancient soil of Israel, and the inescapable and ennobling responsibility to mend the broken places in our world.

Even as we have worked for the well-being of our people abroad, the Jewish people in America have struggled to preserve our noble heritage, our historic traditions, our ancient teachings, our ethics, and our spiritual ideals in the free climate of our Nation.

Mindful of our manifold blessings and with deep gratitude in our hearts to the God of Israel, who, in 1654, led our forebears to the shores of this great new land,

We have proclaimed the period from Elul 5764 (September 2004) through Elul 5765 (September 2005) to be one of special thanksgiving, prayer, study, reflection and celebration to mark the 350th Anniversary of Jewish Communal Life in America. We call on all American Jewry to participate in the observance of this anniversary; to thank God for the bountiful blessings that have been bestowed on us in this remarkable land. Let us express our col-

lective hope that peace, security, and prosperity will reign in our Nation for all.

May the principles of freedom and liberty that have been the lodestar values of this great Republic continue to radiate their blessings on our Nation.

Central Conference of American Rabbis

Rabbi Harry Danziger, President
Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Perry Raphael Rank, President
Rabbinical Council of America
Rabbi Dale Polakoff, President
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Rabbi Brant Rosen, President.●

RETIREMENT OF DR. BRUCE HALVERSON

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Bruce Halverson on the occasion of his retirement as president of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD.

Dr. Halverson, a native of Sioux Falls, is the first alumnus to ever serve as Augustana's president. As a member of the class of 1966, he majored in speech and drama, earning cum laude distinctions. He continued his education at the University of Washington where he secured his Ph.D. in theater history in 1971.

Following graduation, Dr. Halverson compiled an impressive resume, including an array of educational and theatrical credits. As a theater director throughout the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, he worked with award-winning actors, producing and directing pieces he occasionally even co-authored. In addition to his professional stage work, Dr. Halverson served as dean of the School of Theatre at Florida State University, as well as artistic director and chairman of theater departments at various universities, including the University of Illinois, Grinnell College, and Ithaca College. Moreover, he was director of education at the National Institute for the Deaf, where he displayed his skills and dedication as an educator and advocate of equal opportunity. Most recently, Dr. Halverson has shown his commitment to South Dakota by returning to his alma mater in 2000 as the 22nd president of Augustana College.

During his presidency, Augustana implemented \$13 million in projects to expand the campus, including constructing the Fantle Building for the Center for Western Studies, enhancing the Elmen Center, and creating the Center for the Visual Arts. A new football training facility is also in progress. Under Dr. Halverson's leadership, Augustana's \$50 million Sunrise Capital Campaign is expected to successfully conclude around the time of his retirement. Further, he has been praised for his work in securing a record number of State scholarships for Augustana students. In recognition of his dedication to the college, Augustana's board of trustees asked

Dr. Halverson to continue his work with the school following his retirement. As the school newspaper, *Augustana Today*, notes: Halverson has laid the groundwork for his successor by enhancing Augustana's financial viability, encouraging faculty research, undertaking strategic planning, and strengthening alumni support.

Additionally, Dr. Halverson is a steadfast proponent of eliminating barriers for people with disabilities, particularly concerning theater and the arts. His compassion and outspoken commitment have moved him to write extensively on the topic, as well as travel all over our country, speaking and presenting at various conferences. As Augustana's first president proficient in sign language, it is clear that Dr. Halverson personifies his values and takes to heart his role as an educator.

Mr. President, it is an honor for me to share the impressive accomplishments of Dr. Bruce Halverson with my colleagues. I commend him for his tireless dedication to theatre, education, and enhancing the arts, especially in the State of South Dakota. The lives of countless people have been enormously enhanced by Dr. Halverson's talent and leadership as president of Augustana College. I wish the very best for him, his wife Nancy, and their three sons Tait, Jeffrey and Cole, as Dr. Halverson continues to contribute to and improve education throughout South Dakota. ●

HONORING THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and publicly recognize the city of Alexandria, SD. This year marks the 125th anniversary of the founding of Alexandria, and from August 14 through August 18, its citizens will gather to celebrate their proud past as well as their hope for a promising future.

Located three miles from the banks of the James River in southeast South Dakota, Alexandria was originally named Clarksville after Dearborn Clark, who donated the land upon which the town was built. It was renamed Alexander in 1879, and later changed to Alexandria, to honor Alexander Mitchell, the president of the Chicago, Milwaukee Railway. The first buildings were built in 1880, and the city was officially incorporated in 1883. Later that decade, Alexandria was named county seat of Hanson County, a title it still maintains.

The frontier town grew quickly in the following years, and by 1893, the population exceeded 1,000 people. Enjoying a robust agricultural economy, Alexandria shipped more than 1,000 boxcars of grain annually. In 1914, the city purchased an electric generator, and local businessmen financed a \$1,200 project to make Alexandria one of the first communities in South Dakota with electric streetlights. In 1885, the city applied to become the State capital, but came in fourth in the voting.

Since the boom years of the early 1900s, economic circumstances have, of course, changed. Still, Alexandria continues to provide essential services and support to local farmers and ranchers. The rugged days of pioneer life have ended, but the residents of this extraordinary community continue to exemplify the bold and enterprising pioneer spirit.

In her book, *Hanson Heritage*, Mildred Soladay celebrates the courage of the settlers who founded Alexandria: "They had no past," she writes, "but the infinite future lay before them." Today, the citizens of Alexandria do indeed have a past worthy of celebration, yet as they commemorate their city's 125th anniversary, the promise of their future remains infinite. ●

MAYOR HARRY MIMS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to say a few words about one of Louisiana's finest public servants, Mayor Harry Mims of East Hodge. Mayor Mims recently celebrated his 91st birthday and has dedicated the past 37 years to the people of East Hodge as their mayor. First elected in 1968, he has the distinction of being the first and so far only mayor of this community, population of 366. In fact, some say that if it were not for Harry Mims, there would not be an East Hodge as he was instrumental in the city's founding.

Mayor Mims' motto that has made East Hodge thrive is one many small town politicians understand, when there is work to be done, "You have to do it yourself." One of the best examples of his drive to bring to East Hodge some of the amenities and services enjoyed by their neighbors is his unyielding efforts to pave the streets of East Hodge. At one point in recent history, the streets were too narrow for cars to pass. The mayor wrote grant after grant to find the money he needed to manage this small community and as a result of his tenacity, they now have a new town hall, a large water system, two apartment buildings, a fire station, two trucks and a community center.

Last Saturday, the Louisiana Chapter of the National Conference of Black Mayors honored Mayor Mims for his years of service to the people of East Hodge and the State of Louisiana. Mayor Mims told them he plans to run for 8 more years, if the Lord will allow him to. It is my fervent prayer that the good Lord allows Mayor Mims to continue to serve the people of East Hodge as he has so diligently for the past 37 years and that he does so in the best of health. As the daughter of a Mayor, I know that the people of East Hodge join me in this prayer. Thank you Mayor Mims, for all that you have done and continue to do for the people you serve. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 27, 2005, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3453. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 27, 2005, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3453. An act to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Under authority of the order of July 27, 2005, the enrolled bill was signed on July 27, 2005, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. MCCONNELL).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:32 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3045. An act to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement.

At 12:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1132. An act to provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State.