

National School Backpack Awareness Day is a prime example of how occupational therapy works within our schools and communities to promote wellness and improve quality of life. I know today will be a success and ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating September 20, 2006, as National School Backpack Awareness Day.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### STILLWATER MINING COMPANY

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I once heard my home State of Montana described as a small town with long streets and I can't think of a more apt description. We are all neighbors, and one of our cardinal rules is if your neighbor needs help, lend a hand. Last month, as fires raged across our State, many of our neighbors needed a hand and Montanans from all over Big Sky country pitched into help. Among the first to help out was the Stillwater Mining Company.

As many are aware, the massive Derby Mountain Fire caused serious damage around Big Timber, MT. At one time the Derby Mountain Fire was the top priority fire in the country. When the communities around Big Timber needed help, the folks at the Stillwater Mining Company rolled up their sleeves and figured out how they could help.

The Stillwater Mining Company knew what a massive disaster the Derby Fire had become, and how those fighting the fire needed every pair of hands they could get. To get more boots on the ground, the Stillwater Mining Company provided full pay leave to all of their employees who volunteered to either fight the fire or to assist the fire crews. They paid for every meal that the Red Cross served at the Derby Fire. They sent their human resource staffers to the area to help manage the evacuations. Their computer mapping specialists helped to make highly sophisticated fire maps. They sent their own personal bulldozers to the fire lines. They sent their sprinkler systems to the front lines to saturate areas to protect homes. They also allowed helicopters to dip into their mining ponds. And all of this was done by the Stillwater Mining Company while at the same time they were forced to shut their mines down for 8 days due to the fire.

The Stillwater Mining Company saw a neighbor in need and without hesitation they lent a hand. I am proud to call them neighbor, and in Montana there is no higher compliment.●

##### IN MEMORY OF JULIANNE HAMMOND

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, earlier this month, the Wilmington community lost Julianne Hammond—one of our most prominent lawyers and a good friend to my wife Jill.

She was the 28th woman ever admitted to practice law in Delaware and worked for 30 years in real estate finance and land use law, changing the landscape of our city with many redevelopment efforts.

Juli was a very outgoing, optimistic, happy person, who never let her illness get her down even as she battled breast cancer for 18 years. She literally worked until a week or so before she passed away, never talking about how sick she was.

She also was a very caring person and wanted to help others in their battles with cancer. That is how we got to know Juli. In 1994, she became a founding board member of the Biden Breast Health Initiative to help educate young women on the importance of breast self-exam and early detection. She would assist Jill with special events and raising funds, doing everything and anything to help others.

I don't know how she had the time and energy, but Juli also served as vice president of the board of the Wilmington Economic Development Corporation, a board member of the Land Use Committee for the Committee of 100, and secretary of the board of the Wellness Community of Delaware.

Wilmington and New Castle County will not be the same without Juli. I know my colleagues join Jill and me in extending our deepest sympathies to her family.

##### MONTANA'S HEROES

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, the great America poet Robert Frost once said that "good fences make good neighbors." In my home State of Montana, nothing could be further from the truth. Although our State is more than 600 miles wide, and nearly 300 miles long, we really are one big small town. And when one of our neighbors is in need, we are always willing to roll up our sleeves and lend a helping hand.

During this year's fire season, many of our neighbors were in dire need as fires raged across our State. Nearly 1 million acres burned, an area larger than the State of Rhode Island. As homes, livestock, crops, and land burned, Montanans from one corner of the State to the other lost everything they had. But from this destruction and rubble, arose many Montana heroes, and I would like to take a moment to publicly recognize them.

On the front lines were all the brave wild land firefighters. These men and women came from all over the country, and even some foreign countries, to put their lives on the line for people they had never met. While it is easy to be a Monday morning quarterback and criticize some of their techniques, it is clear that these brave men and women deserve nothing but praise. When I visited the fires and I looked into the men and women's eyes after working 12 hour days in 100 degree heat, as they were so exhausted they could hardly stand, I knew that they had given ev-

erything their all, 110 percent, to protect Montanans. These men and women sought no praise or recognition, and whenever they were congratulated they would merely say, "We're just doing our jobs." But these men and women weren't just doing a job; they were saving lives, protecting property, and nothing could be more heroic. Words cannot do their deeds justice but on behalf of every Montanan, I would like to offer my deepest thanks.

And these men and women couldn't have done their job without all the support from different people and agencies throughout the State. All the folks at the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Montana Department of Emergency Services, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana State and local law enforcement, the local governments and county commissioners, volunteer fire departments, and the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group, which coordinated all these efforts, and their Federal partners. All these folks worked tirelessly to manage these blazes. Day or night they were constantly monitoring the fires, providing important updates, and making sure the people of the affected communities had every resource possible to deal with these disasters.

I would also like to recognize all the people who worked behind the scenes, the people whose names might not appear in the news, but without whose effort these fires couldn't have been contained. The busdrivers, the local volunteers, the food service providers, the pilots, the list could go on and on. Without these services, the damage to my home State would have been much worse.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Montanans who rolled up their sleeves, saw a neighbor in need, and helped out. Whether it was ranchers helping move livestock, community organizations and churches holding clothing drives, or people opening their homes to those who had nowhere to go, all these people truly exemplify the Montana spirit.

The 2006 fire season will go down in history as one of worst in our State's history. Yet it will also go down as a time when neighbors helped neighbors, when people traveled hundreds of miles to lend a hand to a friend. It will go down as a time of heroes.●

##### IN MEMORY OF ELLA LITTLE CROMWELL

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today in memory of Ella Little Cromwell, a truly remarkable woman from Hartford who passed away Sunday, September 17. Mrs. Cromwell was one of the most engaging and charismatic people I have ever had the pleasure to know. Through tireless effort, Ella Cromwell became a real political institution in Hartford, and was a leader in many efforts to promote justice and equal rights.

Mrs. Cromwell believed very deeply in the value of political participation and believed that it was essential for Americans from all backgrounds to become involved in the democratic process in order to reach their fullest potential. Growing up in Hartford, she saw that there were various obstacles preventing African Americans and other minorities from being involved in the political process, and she dedicated her life to helping people overcome those obstacles.

Through her hard work with both the Hartford Democratic Town Committee and the Hartford chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, of which she served as second vice president for many years, Mrs. Cromwell played an active role in helping African Americans develop a stronger voice in the city's politics. A master of both grassroots and retail politics, she was able to quickly increase her influence in Hartford politics, and helped to elect African-American candidates to local and State level offices. In many ways, her home in Hartford served as a kind of political club, where prospective candidates would come seeking her support and advice. It was well known that her support could be extremely helpful for any candidate.

Also, as a member of the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee for 38 years, right up until her death, she made certain the interests of her community were represented at the State level as well. Almost every democratic candidate for statewide office would have to pay a visit to Ella Cromwell.

Rarely does an individual have such a meaningful and lasting effect on her community, but whether with the NAACP or the Democratic State Central Committee, Ella Cromwell never failed to touch the lives of the people around her. What is truly remarkable is the faith she continued to show in the power of the political process to effect change in her community, and the way in which she would continue to engage in the hard, sometimes thankless, work of grassroots campaigning even after she had achieved considerable political influence. Even at the age of 76 she would campaign door-to-door at the same brisk pace she had employed years earlier as young women first getting involved. Ella Cromwell truly embodied the democratic spirit upon which our country was founded.

With this in mind, I bid a sad farewell to Ella Little Cromwell, and I will keep her friends and family in my thoughts and prayers. May her commitment to the well-being of others continue to serve as an inspiration for all who knew her.●

#### CHIEF ROB STONE: IN MEMORIAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of a dedicated public servant, battalion chief Rob Stone of the California Department of For-

estry. From the time he became a seasonal firefighter at the age of 18, Chief Stone devoted his adult life to providing the citizens of California with safety and service. On September 6, 2006, while assessing a fire from the air and coordinating ground firefighting efforts, Chief Stone was tragically killed in the line of duty when the spotter plane crashed in the rugged forest of the Mountain Home State Park.

Upon graduation from high school, Chief Stone attended the California Department of Forestry Firefighting Academy to pursue his lifelong goal of becoming a firefighter. His prodigious talents were evident as Chief Stone moved in rank from firefighter to become one of the youngest engineers ever in the California Department of Forestry. He was then promoted to captain, and his most recent assignment was battalion chief of the Porterville Air Attack Base. Chief Stone's commitment to excellence, coupled with his passion for his profession, enabled him to become a model member of the California Department of Forestry. Chief Stone's colleagues shall always remember him for his leadership and commitment to his job.

Chief Stone is survived by his wife Randi, son Wil, and daughter Libbie; parents Cliff and Janet; sister Melissa Martin; brother Marty; and his grandmother Louise Lyons. When he was not on duty or spending time with his family, Chief Stone was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed gathering cows, hunting, fishing, and camping. Chief Stone served the State of California with honor and distinction and fulfilled his oath as a firefighter. His contributions and dedication to firefighting are greatly appreciated and will serve as a shining example of his legacy.

We shall always be grateful for Chief Stone's exemplary service and the sacrifices he made while serving and protecting the people and the land that he loved.●

#### SIERRA OAKS SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the Sierra Oaks Senior and Community Center for 20 years of dedicated service to the seniors in the communities of Tollhouse, Auberry, Shaver Lake, and Prather. Since opening their doors in 1986, this regional asset has made significant contributions to improving the lives of northeastern Fresno County's senior community and their families.

For the past two decades, the Sierra Oaks Senior and Community Center has provided a myriad of important social services and activities to help seniors live more independent and active lives. Whether it is providing free health assessments, offering classes in quilting, painting, and computers, or holding a stroke survivors support group, the center upholds the principle that seniors should be afforded the opportunity to live independently and

thrive in their own communities. The dedicated staff and outstanding group of senior volunteers work diligently to ensure that those who are in need of their support are treated with the care and respect that they deserve. Through the center, many seniors have acquired invaluable tools to help them lead more active and enjoyable lives.

I congratulate the Sierra Oaks Senior and Community Center on its 20th anniversary and wish its staff, volunteers, and sponsors even greater success as they continue to provide important services to the seniors of Tollhouse, Auberry, Shaver Lake, and Prather. You have not only been a pillar of support for your clients, but you have performed a great service for the communities that you serve.

#### HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I recognize the University of Redlands. This academic year, the university celebrates its 100 anniversary.

The University of Redlands was originally chartered in 1907 on a tract of donated land by individuals associated with the American Baptist Church. It admitted its first student in September 1909 and in 1910 proudly celebrated its first graduating class of three students. Throughout the next century, the University of Redlands has become a pre-eminent institution and today celebrates a century of contribution and service through education.

With today's growth in population, there is an ever-present strain on our Nation's university systems and the ability of students to receive meaningful direct contact with university faculty. The University of Redlands has successfully maintained personal instruction throughout the years and continues today to maintain a student to faculty ratio of 12 to 1. There are currently over 200 full-time faculty and a core of 200 adjunct faculty who are selected for their expertise and experience in their fields. Throughout these past 100 years, the university has also maintained a high level of faculty quality, with 88 percent of the full-time faculty holding a Ph.D. or terminal degree.

The University of Redlands has successfully met the ever-changing needs of a diverse population. Over one-third of the university's students are members of historically underrepresented groups, and the student body represents all corners of the world and draws students from across the United States. Most recently, the entering class of 2006 saw 40 percent of its students from outside of the State of California.

The university's success contributes significantly to the growth of the local community. Its faculty and staff make the University of Redlands one of the largest employers in the region, helping to maintain a strong local economy. In the past decade, the university