

Cathy Lewis, from Cleveland, OH, has been a strong and clear voice for children and their families for many years. Cathy's volunteer and philanthropic works have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of Clevelanders, most of whom she is likely never to meet. But her commitment to see our children get a strong start in life and the nurturing development they deserve has changed lives and our community for the better.

Cathy's life has been one of service to others. As chairperson of the board of directors of the Cleveland Foundation from 2001 to 2003, she was instrumental in starting Cuyahoga County's early childhood initiative, Invest in Children. This successful public/private partnership has helped families and communities provide that nurturing environment that we know is essential for the success of our children.

As Americans we are realizing the depth and breadth of the impact of HIV/AIDS on our communities, Cathy stepped up with others to form the Citizens' Committee on AIDS/HIV. This group created a strategy for addressing AIDS prevention, education, and services that continues to this day as the AIDS Funding Collaborative, which she chaired for 10 years.

Cathy currently serves on the Advisory Committee for the Center for International Child Health at Case Western Reserve University, the board of directors of the Institute for Research on Unlimited Love, cochair of the Strong Families=Successful Children Vision Council at United Way, and is a trustee of the George Gund Foundation, where she serves as cochair of the Communications Committee for Invest in Children.

Cathy richly deserves the 2009 Champion for Children Award, and I thank her for her selfless service to Ohioans in need.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN PHILLIPS

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend John Phillips of Holly Bluff, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi during 2009, through his service as the 74th president of Delta Council.

Delta Council is an economic development organization representing the business, professional, and agricultural leadership of the 18 delta and part-delta counties of Mississippi. This prominent and widely respected organization was formed in 1935 to deal with the challenges which faced the economy and quality of life of this region of our State.

John Phillips has served as president during a period when our Nation, as well as the State of Mississippi, and the Mississippi delta region, have experienced precedent-setting economic challenges.

As a successful businessman and farmer, John has brought an abundance of practical knowledge to the role of Delta Council president. His ex-

perience and expertise have enabled him also to be an effective advocate for flood protection in the Yazoo-Mississippi River basin. Additionally, he has demonstrated the foresight to accelerate and expand the efforts of Delta Council in other important areas of interest such as improved access to healthcare, adult literacy, early childhood education, and transportation throughout this region of our State.

John has also proven himself to be an exemplary conservationist by supporting efforts to protect wildlife and other valuable natural resources. He has utilized his year of service as president of Delta Council to advance the economic opportunities of all of the people of the Mississippi delta region. I am confident that John will continue to be an effective leader for the Mississippi delta in the years ahead.

In Mississippi we appreciate John Phillips, and his wife Ann Elise, their son, Jack, and their daughters, Whitney and Reid, for the sacrifices they have made to help improve the quality of life of all who live in the Mississippi delta.●

#### HONORING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STUDENT HONOREES IN THE 2009 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor two young New Hampshire students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Edward Zaremba III of Hampstead and Colleen Slein of Salem have just been named State Honorees in the 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school student and one middle school student in each State.

Mr. Zaremba was nominated by Pinkerton Academy for his work in co-founding a club at his school that promotes awareness and inclusion of students with developmental disabilities. The club sponsors social events throughout the year so that classmates with and without disabilities cannot only have fun together, but learn from each other as well.

Ms. Slein was nominated by St. Joseph Regional Catholic School for her work raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She baked cookies and cupcakes every night for 2 months and sold them at school the next day, raising a total of \$440 for this very worthy organization.

It is important that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions these young people have made. People of all ages need to think more about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers such as Mr. Zaremba and Ms. Slein are examples to all of us, and I commend them for their service.

I would also like to congratulate two other young people in my State of New

Hampshire who were named Distinguished Finalists by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service. Rachel Liff of Bedford prepared a handbook for Special Olympics athletes and volunteers, and Jane Stark of Merrimack raised money to purchase water filtration systems for people living in developing countries.

All these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is encouraging in today's world, and they deserve our admiration and respect. Their initiative shows that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold great promise for the future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN A. GARRETT

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to John A. Garrett, an honorable Alabamian and a good friend of mine. On Sunday, May 10, 2009, John A. will celebrate his 100th birthday.

John A. was born in 1909 in Bay Minnette, AL. He graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now known as Auburn University, in 1936, the same year that he married the love of his life, Katherine Virginia Stowers, at the Snowdoun United Methodist Church in Montgomery. Together, they have two daughters, Kitty Walter Dawson and Mary John, a son-in-law Sim Byrd, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Most people in Alabama know John A. for his many contributions to Alabama's agriculture industry. During the 1950s, he served as the State director of commodity services for the Alabama Farm Bureau. Later, he would go on to own and operate Cherokee Builders, an industrial and commercial construction business.

In 1969, he was appointed by President Nixon to serve as the director of the Alabama Farmer's Home Administration, a position he would hold until 1977. In the early 1970s, John A. became a nationally recognized leader on agricultural and water issues. Later, at the age of 68, John A. established the Alabama Rural Water Association, an organization of which he served as executive director for 17 years.

An avid leader, John A. is the recipient of many honors and awards. In 1970, John A. was designated an Honorary State Farmer by the Future Farmers of America. Two years later, he relieved the ACTION Federal Employee Distinguished Voluntary Service Award for his extraordinary volunteer service. In 1985, Auburn University honored John A. for his outstanding services on the Montgomery County Auburn Committee. He was named Alabama Arthritis Foundation Humanitarian of the Year in 1989 and was inducted into the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1991.