

and promote economic growth in the Asian community. Today, they will install the first woman to be president of their esteemed organization. Vida Chan Lin steps into this role—respected by her peers and energized by her passion for furthering the goals of the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce.

While this leadership role is a new opportunity for Ms. Lin, her lifetime of experience has prepared her to take on this role. As a child, she was exposed to running a business as she saw firsthand the daily challenges and joys in the restaurants her family owned. She then found great satisfaction in the insurance industry where she continued to exceed expectations and eventually start her own company.

Ms. Lin has always balanced her business drive and success with her commitment to community service. She has been an instrumental force behind the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce for many years. Her ability to bring people together, develop innovative programming, and mentor young leaders has helped ensure the long-term success of the Asian Chamber well beyond just her tenure.

She has been recognized by countless organizations for her business acumen and her heartfelt commitment to public service. I am proud to congratulate Vida Lin on this special day, and I wish her great success in the coming term of her presidency.

#### 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Peace Corps on the occasion of its 49th anniversary.

Since the Peace Corps' inception in 1961, nearly 200,000 Americans have volunteered to live and work in developing countries around the globe in an effort to help provide stability and progress.

Through aiding in education, community development, business development, health awareness and food security, these volunteers are improving lives and communities and making them better places to live and thrive.

It is this selfless dedication to helping people and communities help themselves that has strengthened ties between America and the world.

I am proud to say that 155 Georgians are serving as volunteers with the Peace Corps, including a former staffer of mine, Rebecca Riccitello, who is working in Ghana.

My home State of Georgia has a long history with the Peace Corps. Former U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell of Georgia devoted much of his time to the Peace Corps, and served as its director in the late eighties. During his tenure, the World Wise Schools Program was founded, which connects students in the United States with Peace Corps volunteers around the world.

Peace Corps volunteers engage in real, meaningful work and truly make a difference in individual lives around

the world. I commend them for their efforts on our nation's behalf, and I am pleased to recognize the Peace Corps and all those who help the organization help others in America's name.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO GEORGE WIDMAN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I offer my congratulations and warm regards to George Widman, the "Candy Man" of Grand Forks, on the momentous occasion of his 90th birthday.

Throughout his life, George Widman has been an example of what it means to be a great North Dakotan and a great American. Growing up in the Great Depression taught George the value of hard work, something he has never forgotten. To this day, George and his wife Betty work 6 days a week at Widman's Candy Store in downtown Grand Forks.

George demonstrated his lifelong patriotism through his service in World War II. During that war, he served as a naval A1C aviation mechanic on the USS *Bunker Hill* aircraft carrier from 1942 until it was hit by kamikazes in 1945. The ship suffered the loss of 346 men, but, miraculously, George survived.

After the war, George returned home to work in the family business. Sixty years later, Widman's Candy Store is best known for its Chippers—Red River Valley potato chips covered in delicious Red River Valley chocolate. They are truly a treat. They have become famous not only in North Dakota but in Washington, DC, with fans at the White House, in the office of the Vice President, at the Pentagon, and here in the Senate.

To me, the story that best defines George and Betty is how they responded to the 1997 flood that devastated the city of Grand Forks. After their store was destroyed by the floodwaters that took out most of Grand Forks, George offered Betty the opportunity to rebuild anywhere in the world. They chose Grand Forks.

Ten years ago, George said his secret to longevity was "lots of candy." Today, it is my pleasure and honor to wish George a wonderful 90th birthday. He is representative of the best of North Dakota, and he has my respect and admiration. I can never forget George's birthday, because it is my birthday too. Happy 90th, George, and here's to many more!•

##### TRIBUTE TO DORIS THOM

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I am very pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Doris Thom, a Wisconsinite from my hometown of Janesville who has blazed a trail for women's rights, and shown a tremendous commitment to public service, throughout her 90 years. I have known Doris for many years, and I greatly admire the

many contributions she has made to Janesville. She is a good friend who has shown outstanding leadership in her community. I am also grateful for the excellent work of her granddaughter Sara Thom-Agress, who worked in my Washington, DC, office.

Doris's life story is one of great determination and outstanding achievement. Working at Gilman Engineering in Janesville during World War II, she received the U.S. Army and Navy "E" for Excellence Award for her work to produce emergency landing gear for fighter planes, and served as the first woman on the Executive Committee for Machinists Local 1266.

Her life has been a series of firsts for women in Janesville, particularly during her years at the General Motors' Fisher Body Plant. There she served as the first woman committee member of United Auto Workers Local 95, and then the first woman to sit on the executive board of Local 95. She also opened doors for women at the plant when she filed a successful grievance after being denied a transfer from a traditionally female line at the plant to an all-male one. Her grievance resulted in all of the plant's jobs being open to women for the first time.

All the while, as Doris was breaking new ground for women in Janesville, she was raising a family and making countless other contributions to her community and her state. Among many other activities, Doris served on the Wisconsin Governor's Commission on the Status of Women from 1971 to 1975.

I am very pleased to recognize Doris's many achievements, and send her my warmest wishes as she celebrates her 90th birthday. I thank her for everything she has done for our shared hometown, and for women in Wisconsin and nationwide.•

#### RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to thank the director of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs and members of his staff for attending to the medical needs of MAJ James E. Gibson.

Back in January of this year, I received a letter from Mrs. Barbara-lea Gibson Wright of Bull Shoals, AR. Barbara wrote to me, soliciting help in extending her sincere gratitude to the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs for tending to the medical needs of her father with unfailing diligence until his unfortunate passing. Major Gibson was wounded in Omaha Beach back in 1944, and passed away at the age of 90 in 2009. Although he lost the use of his right arm, Army doctors and nurses brought him back from the brink of death on multiple occasions. Major Gibson eventually retired and was able to live a long and prosperous life with his wife and children thanks to the superior medical attention he