

Elgin has a proud past and a bright future.●

#### WAKONDA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of Wakonda, SD. The town calls itself "The Good Life Town" and I would have to agree. With a strong sense of community and a welcoming spirit, Wakonda is a wonderful place to call home.

Wakonda was founded when the North Western Railroad expanded its line in northwestern Clay County. Surveyors originally planned out the town, calling it Summit, but when negotiations on land price fell through, the town was moved southwest. The building crews stayed on local farms and completed their work by the end of the year. GEN William Beadle is credited with suggesting the name of Wakonda, a Santee Sioux word meaning "wonderful." The town quickly sprouted, with many new businesses popping up in the coming years.

To celebrate Wakonda's historical achievement, the town will join together for a weekend of activities. With a golf tournament, kids carnival, and artistic exhibits, this town is sure to have a great time celebrating. I am proud to recognize Wakonda on reaching this milestone and wish them all the best in their future.●

#### FIRST STATE BALLET THEATRE

● Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, it has been an honor to watch the arts blossom in the State of Delaware. One of the organizations leading this movement is the First State Ballet Theatre, which is celebrating 10 years of dedication and excellence in the art of dance.

The late choreographer Martha Graham once said:

We look at the dance to impart the sensation of living in an affirmation of life, to energize the spectator into keener awareness of the vigor, the mystery, the humor, the variety, and the wonder of life. This is the function of the American dance.

Since the founding of the First State Ballet Theatre in 1999 by Pasha and Kristina Kambalov, it has been devoted to exposing Delawareans to dance. Through providing dance training and conducting education outreach, its audiences have learned much about the history and relevance of the art of dance.

The company's impressive 10-year run has brought a host of classical ballets, including favorite classics such as "The Nutcracker" and "Swan Lake." The theatre has also been involved in vibrant productions such as "Carmen," showing the depth and amazing talent present within the troupe. The theatre hosts a cast of talented dancers, who come long distances to perform throughout our State. The ballet company currently has a troupe of 15 talented resident dancers who star in a variety of productions.

The theatre has also attracted an outstanding group of master choreographers, who have created a diverse range of shows. They are led by artistic director Pasha Kambalov, school director Kristina Kambalov, and assistant artistic director Lev Assaouliak. Between them, these three have many years of experience in the art of dance and countless achievements, including performing in many impressive repertoires, and they were trained professionally in renowned schools of ballet. In 2006, the Kambalovs were honored with the Wilmington and Wilmingtonian Awards for their outstanding work improving the quality of life in the community.

As Delaware's only professional dance company, the First State Ballet Theatre has strived to help the arts flourish, and by doing so it has drawn both in-State and out-of-State audiences to its performances. By offering enticing productions that appeal to various sections of the population at affordable prices, the First State Ballet Theatre has inspired a whole new generation to become a part of the theatre's family. The theatre has also taught over 7,000 children about dance with the help of its talented and caring staff.

For 10 years, the First State Ballet Theatre has stood for excellence in the arts, and has treated its audiences to breathtaking and vibrant productions that have inspired the people of Delaware. The First State Ballet Theatre has been a great asset to my home State, and its accomplishments will inevitably continue to bring it success for years to come. Once again, I would like to congratulate the theatre on reaching this 10-year milestone.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS PROFESSIONALS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize three Arkansans who have been recognized as leaders in their professions. These individuals represent the best of their fields, and I am proud of their accomplishments on behalf of our State.

Bobby J. Brooks has been named the 2009 Driver of the Year by the Arkansas Truckers Association.

Kevin McDaniel, vice president of production at O.K. Farms Inc. in Fort Smith, received the Poultry Federation's 2010 Industry Leader of the Year Award.

Kathy Manis Findley was named as the Nonprofit Executive of the Year for her work at Safe Places in Little Rock.

I commend these individuals for their hard work and dedication, as well as the work of all Arkansas professionals who strive to make our State better each and every day.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BASS REEVES

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an American hero, Arkansas native Bass Reeves, one of the

first African-American U.S. Deputy Marshals west of the Mississippi River. He was one of the most respected lawmen who served the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Arkansas, which had criminal jurisdiction in the Indian Territory, the present State of Oklahoma. He captured more than 3,000 fugitives in his legendary career. Many scholars consider Bass Reeves to be one of the greatest frontier heroes in U.S. history.

Born into slavery in 1838 in Crawford County, AR, and then moved to Texas, Bass fled to Indian Territory during the Civil War and lived with the Seminole and Muscogee (Creek) Indians. Following emancipation, he settled near Van Buren, AR, to raise horses and start a family. He and his wife Nellie Jennie had 10 children: 5 boys and 5 girls.

In 1875, Isaac Parker was appointed U.S. district judge for the Western District of Arkansas, and Bass was recruited to serve as a Deputy U.S. Marshal. He stood 6'2", weighed 180 pounds, and could shoot a pistol or rifle accurately with either hand. He was known for his toughness, intelligence, and detective skills, even though he could neither read nor write.

He arrested some of the most dangerous criminals of the time, repeatedly demonstrating honor and integrity. He had to stand trial himself and was imprisoned for 5 months on a false accusation of murder. Following acquittal, he returned to tracking down and arresting criminals.

Bass served the Federal courts in the Indian Territory for 32 years, from 1875 until 1907 when Oklahoma became a State. At age 68, he became a member of the Muskogee, OK, police department and served until his death from Brights disease on January 12, 1910.

Mr. President, I recognize Deputy U.S. Marshal Bass Reeves as a real American hero.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JOHN B. NOWELL, JR.

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Captain John B. Nowell, Jr., U.S. Navy, to our Nation. Captain Nowell has served with exceptional distinction as the director, Navy Senate Liaison, a position of great responsibility, from August 2008 to June 2010.

Captain Nowell's service to our country began with his induction into the U.S. Naval Academy in the summer of 1980. Upon his graduation and commissioning in 1984, he started out on what would become a distinguished career as a talented and respected surface warfare officer—a career that continues today. His naval service has literally taken him around the world, as he has served on ships from the east coast to the west coast, from Africa to Japan, and all of the oceans and seas in between.