

The Medtronic mission, in part, states, "To contribute to human welfare by application of biomedical engineering in the research, design, manufacture, and sale of instruments or appliances that alleviate pain, restore health, and extend life."

Not every CEO gets the privilege to lead a company that makes lifesaving products, but for Bill the Medtronic mission is very personal and is a source of encouragement for his distinguished career. Several members of his own family received medical technology products developed and manufactured by the very company he has led. In 2008 when he was made chairman, he recalled the personal feeling he experienced during an assembly for employees. Included in the audience were the family members who had received coronary stents, a heart valve and a pacemaker, and a deep brain stimulator to control tremors caused by a World War II injury.

I have most especially appreciated Bill Hawkins in my role as chair of the Subcommittee on Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export Promotion, where my focus has been creating an innovation agenda that can help grow our economy and create jobs in America. Bill has a true passion for advancing innovation to make the world healthier and has been a major influence on all of Medtronic's innovation-related policies. I could not have asked for a more inspired or committed partner with which to work during the last few years.

Bill has nearly 35 years of career experience in the medical device industry, serving in leadership positions at Novoste Corporation, American Home Products, Johnson & Johnson, Guidant Corporation, and Eli Lilly. He began his medical technology career with Carolina Medical Electronics in 1977.

He joined Medtronic in 2002 as senior vice president and president of the company's vascular business before serving as corporate president and chief operating officer. Bill Hawkins was named chief executive officer of Medtronic in 2007 and assumed the additional role of chairman in 2008. Under his guidance, Medtronic's capacity to serve patients extended further to provide an array of diagnostic, preventive, and chronic disease management solutions. During his decade of service and leadership, the company launched many important new technologies, made major investments in quality and innovation, and successfully navigated through an increasingly challenging environment. I have been pleased to work with Bill on health care and FDA reform and a host of matters that have ensured improved patient access to advanced medical technology.

In March of 2010 Bill received the Biomedical Engineering Society's Distinguished Achievement Award. This award is given to recognize those who have made great contributions to the field of biomedical engineering/bio-engineering.

Bill serves on the board of visitors for the Duke University School of Engineering and the board of directors for the Guthrie Theater and the University of Minnesota Foundation.

I know that my colleagues join me, his friends, family, and colleagues in commending Bill Hawkins on his numerous accomplishments and wishing him well as he begins a new phase of his career.

Congratulations, Bill Hawkins.●

#### ARMOUR, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Armour, SD. The town of Armour will commemorate its 125th anniversary this year.

Located in Douglas County, Armour was founded in 1886 and named after Philip Armour, owner of the famed meatpacking giant Armour & Company. Philip Armour served on the board of directors of the railroad during the time the railroad was being constructed in Douglas County. Today, the community of Armour is known for its outstanding health care facilities and its school district's strong record of academic and athletic accomplishment.

Armour has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Armour on this important milestone.●

#### CLAREMONT, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Claremont, SD. The town of Claremont is commemorating its 125th anniversary this year.

Claremont was founded in 1886 and named by rail workers after a town of the same name in the state of New Hampshire. Located in Brown County, Claremont was built along the rail line which ran from Rutland, ND to Aberdeen, SD. This resulted in rapid growth for the budding town. Settlers quickly realized the excellent farming potential in the area and a booming agricultural industry was born.

Claremont has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Claremont on this landmark occasion.●

#### FERNEY, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Ferney, SD. The town of Ferney commemorates its 125th anniversary this year.

Located in Brown County, Ferney was founded in 1886 and named after a town in France, which was the home of a railway worker's wife. Ferney has a

colorful past and saw its heyday during the prohibition era. When nearby towns imposed prohibition laws, Ferney refused, earning itself a reputation as a "liquor town." During this time Ferney's saloons and local establishments were booming businesses and among the first to reopen after the repeal of prohibition. Today, Ferney is known for its excellent hunting grounds and friendly people.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Ferney on this milestone occasion and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### STRANDBURG, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Strandburg, SD. The town of Strandburg will commemorate its 125th anniversary this year.

Strandburg was founded in 1886 and was named after John Strandburg, an original settler and the man who would become the first postmaster. Located in Grant County, Strandburg has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Strandburg on this historic milestone.●

#### TRIPP, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Tripp, SD. The town of Tripp will commemorate its 125th anniversary this year.

Tripp was founded in 1886 and was named after Judge Bartlett C. Tripp, who served as President of Dakota Territory's first Territorial Constitutional Convention. Located in Hutchinson County, today Tripp is home to beautiful prairies and excellent hunting.

Tripp has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Tripp on this landmark date.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 Committee on the Judiciary.

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