

nothing to spur investment in clean energy alternatives.

Most important, it would provide yet another excuse for once again punting the urgent, national security imperative of developing a sustainable energy policy for this country. That is what the decision about the Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline has come to represent regardless of what route it takes.

RECOGNIZING GOLDEN VALLEY, MINNESOTA

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to honor the 125th Anniversary of the incorporation of Golden Valley, MN. As a child growing up in St. Louis Park, I have many fond memories of time spent in my neighboring town to the north, Golden Valley. As next-door neighbors, our cities shared a commitment to civic engagement, strong families, and a tight-knit community that worked for the wellbeing of all its citizens. We can see the results of those values today.

On its 125th birthday, Golden Valley has much to be proud of, a high quality education system, high living standards, and model businesses ranging from Fortune 500 companies to family-owned small businesses. Clearly, Golden Valley is doing something right.

As a representative of the great people of Minnesota, I can see that it's cities like Golden Valley make my State the best place to live in the country. My colleagues here might get tired of hearing how our State consistently does things better, but I will never get tired of telling those stories. Congratulations to the residents of Golden Valley.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING GIL CHAVEZ

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I come before you with a heavy heart to honor the life of Gil Chavez. Mr. Chavez died on November 30, 2011, of injuries sustained in a car accident outside of West High School in Denver, CO. He was 63 years old.

Mr. Chavez was a true community leader in every sense of the word. After graduating from Denver's West High School in 1967, Mr. Chavez spent the next 30 years of his life giving back to the school through teaching, coaching, and counseling. He was always there for his students, so much so that after retiring, he came back to volunteer coach for the wrestling team beside his son, Gil Junior, the current head coach at West. Mr. Chavez's family continues his legacy of always striving for excellence in all that they endeavor.

Gil Chavez was a committed educator and coach who was a role model to the students he worked with. He was a sincere motivator, and he backed up his words with promises that he kept to his students. Mr. Chavez was always

there for those who needed him with an ear to listen, with help figuring out classes or locating a tutor, and always believing in those who needed it most.

To Mr. Chavez's entire family, I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Gil's life and by your knowledge that his community will never forget him. His memory will live on in the team, the school, the community, and all those he has touched along the way.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM M. VOIGT

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to praise an exceptional man, COL William M. Voigt.

Colonel Voigt has been one of the foremost civil and military leaders in Birmingham and in my State of Alabama for around a half century now. I was proud to join Colonel Voigt recently in Birmingham when he accepted his well-deserved award as the 2011 National Veteran of the Year.

I have had the pleasure to know Bill personally for many years and to observe his devotion to his country. His patriotism is unsurpassed.

Colonel Voigt served his country with 30 years in the Alabama Air National Guard and another 5 years of service with the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He has achieved not only a bachelor of science in business administration from Auburn University and a master's in business administration from the University of Alabama in Birmingham but has also graduated from the Air War College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the Air Command and Staff College, and the Squadron Officer School.

In addition to his own education, COL Bill Voigt has given his time and efforts to an impressive and exhaustive list of nonprofits and service organizations. On top of this, he has served for over 20 years as the president of the National Veterans Day organization.

Birmingham is the birthplace of Veterans Day. The very first Veterans Day celebration was held in Birmingham by this very organization in 1947. It was only in 1954, 7 years later, that Congress agreed to the value of this wonderful event and made Veterans Day the national holiday it is today.

The Birmingham National Veterans Day celebration is believed to be not only the oldest but also the largest in the country. The day includes a parade and a large awards dinner. The entire effort is a monumental planning exercise. For 20 years Bill Voigt made it happen.

This year's dinner was a very special one. The organization's president, James A. Holt, Congressman Spencer Bachus, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, and others took part in the excellent program. I was honored to be a part of the program also. The superb keynote speaker was RADM Tom Stefens (retired), a U.S. Navy SEAL for 34

years. It was a special program indeed, but the remarks all revolved around Colonel Voigt. I know he and his wonderful family were most proud.

Colonel Voigt represents the model for the type of person we should push our youth to emulate. He is a man who has proven time and time again that he is willing to serve his country, his community, and his fellow veterans who have fought for the ideals and goals of the United States of America.

Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to this great man and by extension this wonderful annual Veterans Day event.●

RECOGNIZING SOUTHCENTRAL FOUNDATION

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Southcentral Foundation, an Alaska Native-owned, nonprofit health care organization serving nearly 60,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people. Southcentral Foundation received the 2011 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, an award administered by the Baldrige Performance Excellence Program to honor the country's most innovative organizations. The Baldrige Award is the only formal recognition of the performance excellence of both public and private U.S. organizations given by the President of the United States. Southcentral Foundation is the Alaska's first health care organization to receive this award.

Southcentral Foundation was established in 1982 to improve the health and social conditions of Alaska Native and American Indian people, enhance culture, and empower individuals and families to take charge of their lives. They employ over 1,500 people, of which 53 percent are Alaska Natives or American Indians. As mayor of Anchorage and now as Senator, I watched the growth of this excellent nonprofit from a small outpatient facility to a beautiful, culturally designed campus encompassing many buildings to serve their customer-owners.

Southcentral Foundation's innovative Nuka system of care combines medical, dental, behavioral, and traditional practices and creates relationships that focus on supporting wellness instead of just treating illness. This system has received national and international attention for its successes in health outcomes, operational efficiencies, and customer and employee satisfaction. It is a truly exemplary health care system that is one of the best in the country.

The award will be presented by President Barack Obama in April, 2012.●

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. BILL VANDERWENDE AND MR. DAVE BAKER

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mr. William "Bill" Vanderwende and Mr. David "Dave" Baker for their leadership, vision and commitment to Delaware's agriculture