

work and know that wherever she goes, those around her will benefit from her leadership, insight, and commitment.●

WEST VIRGINIA VET CENTER RECEIVES AWARD

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, once again I rise to congratulate the Morgantown Vet Center in my State of West Virginia for receiving both the "Clinical Programs of Excellence" award presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration and the "Vet Center of Excellence" award presented by VA's Readjustment Counseling Service.

For the second time in a row, the skilled, dedicated staff of the Morgantown Vet Center has been recognized by VA for providing the best of VA care in their field. To receive either of these two awards once would be an outstanding accomplishment. But to receive both of them, twice in a row, by continuing to meet such high standards of care is something to be enormously proud of.

The services provided by the staff at the Morgantown Vet Center include individual and group counseling, family/marital counseling, sexual trauma counseling, substance abuse counseling, vocational and employment assistance, VA claims and benefits information, help for the homeless, and social service and health care referrals. They provide readjustment counseling to combat veterans and their families, including veterans who served during Vietnam, Korea, World War II, and the Persian Gulf.

The staff at the Morgantown Vet Center is extremely dedicated, and literally hundreds of veterans have benefited from their expertise. In fiscal year 2001, 11,528 visits were made to the Morgantown Vet Center, a 41 percent increase in the number of visits for fiscal year 1998. This growth is just one of the many positive facets of Morgantown's program that allowed VA to select them once again as a "Clinical Program of Excellence."

So to each and every one of the staff at the Morgantown Vet Center, thank you again for the exemplary work you do, for your professionalism, your dedication, and your compassion.

Congratulations for a job well done.●

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week. This week of wildlife education and activities marks the 99th birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Following in the footsteps of one of our first conservationist Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, who in 1903 instituted the National Wildlife Refuge on Pelican Island in Florida, the National Wildlife Refuge System attentively monitors and preserves wildlife habitats on 538 National Wildlife Refuges spanning 94 million acres.

The National Wildlife Refuge System plays a unique and critical role in ensuring Americans a safe, clean, and natural ecosystem where both wildlife and people benefit from a healthy environment.

The National Wildlife Refuge System protects a wide range of wildlife and landscapes throughout the country. In particular, the refuges in the Southwest are necessary to secure the well-being and survival of an assortment of migratory birds, including the bald eagle, who make the Southwest their home during the fall and spring months. The National Wildlife Refuge System concentrates not only on the hands-on aspect of environmental protection but, focuses on the importance of science in determining the future and well-being of wildlife. Specifically, they direct their scientific endeavors towards the accelerating rate of extinction of species and the associated loss of biological diversity coupled with habitat alteration and destruction. Their efforts towards the preservation of wildlife are in conjunction with and for the well-being of Americans and their ability to enjoy a peaceful, natural, and unspoiled national refuge.

The National Wildlife Refuge contributes greatly to ensuring many of New Mexico's natural landmark treasures such as Bitter Lake, Bosque del Apache, Grulla, Las Vegas, Maxwell, San Andres, and Sevilleta. The National Wildlife Refuge has been devoted to the restoration of Sevilleta, making native animals such as deer, elk, coyotes, mountain lions, and various birds and reptiles more abundant and visible. In particular, and of great interest to me, is the Long-Term Ecological Research Project the National Wildlife Refuge System they have launched. Such programs are key to the revitalization of not just Sevilleta, but to all of New Mexico's varying ecosystems. Their project is in line with the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge program and the Rio Grande Bosque Initiative that was implemented in 1991.

As part of my concern for New Mexico's wildlife, I included a provision in this year's Interior Appropriations bill providing \$1.25 million for the Fish and Wildlife program to design a new research complex for Sevilleta NWR. This facility will support numerous university and Federal agency research programs.

The National Wildlife Refuge System consistently helps prevent and regulate environmental disasters through their highly cultivated set of management tools that includes farming, prescribed burning, exotic plant control, moist soil management, and water level manipulation. Without the perseverance of such organizations as the National Wildlife Refuge System, we would not be able to successfully tackle the many environmental obstacles that stand in the way of a healthy and well managed ecosystem.

I wish the National Wildlife Refuge System a great week of learning, ex-

ploration, and fun and a continued success in their wildlife and environmental work. Although I cannot be in my beloved home of New Mexico for this noble event, I congratulate this organization for their almost one hundred years of conservation and public works.●

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the work of the Center for Civic Education. The center offers outstanding professional development institutes for teachers of civics and government throughout the United States.

While the center is based in my home State of California, their programs are administered nationally by a network of State and congressional district coordinators. Many of you are familiar with We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, a nationally acclaimed civic education program for upper elementary, middle, and high school students. I know that a number of you have met with the high school students who participate in the We the People national finals, a three-day academic competition in which students respond to questions on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The center-sponsored professional development institutes are offered at national, regional, and State levels. These institutes are designed to instruct teachers in the content and methodology required to deliver quality education in civics and government. Institutes are usually one week long and provide rigorous content knowledge, innovative teaching techniques, and authentic assessment practices. Regional institutes provide an opportunity for teachers from neighboring states to share best practices in civic education.

This past year, 27 regional and State institutes were held in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. A Juvenile Justice Institute was offered for teachers of incarcerated youth, and a civics and government institute was held for university professors of education.

The center also sponsors a more intensive 3-week National Academy for teachers from across the country; the academy is held in California. Participants in the academy study major works of political theory such as Aristotle's Politics, Hobbes' Leviathan, Locke's Second Treatise, The Federalist, anti-federalist writings, and U.S. Supreme Court opinions. They also discuss relevant knowledge and creative ways to apply this experience when they return to the classroom.

National institutes for elementary school teachers and teachers interested

in advanced content knowledge were held for the first time this year. These institutes were conducted in Virginia and Missouri, respectively. In 2003, the center will increase the number of summer professional development institutes offered.

The poor performance of students on the 1998 National Assessment for Educational Progress, NAEP, Civics Report Card can be traced to inadequate teacher preparation and insufficient quantity of instruction. We know that outstanding programs and student outcomes are directly attributed to adequately prepared teachers.

Investment in professional development opportunities, such as the summer institutes and the National Academy sponsored by the Center for Civic Education, are helping to address this critical situation of teacher preparedness in the field of civics and government.

I commend the center for their efforts and applaud their investment in one of our most treasured resources, the American classroom teacher. ●

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL A. BENAC

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to bring to the attention of my colleagues a great American. Mr. Daniel A. Benac of Hillman, MI has made service to his country and community a cornerstone of his life. In 1942, Daniel answered the call to serve his country and joined the United States Army's 103rd Infantry Division. After being honorably discharged from the Army, Dan went back to Michigan where he became a member of a variety of important organizations including the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the United Auto Workers. As a skilled tradesman, Dan also ran a successful small business. In the military, business and personal life, he has demonstrated his commitment to his country, family, and friends.

Dan's leadership capabilities are highlighted by his commitment to a variety of community-based organizations including the Masons, Shriners, Disabled American Veterans, and the American Legion. He also serves as a Board member for the United Auto Worker's state-wide coordinating committee for the Democratic Party and the National Council for Senior Citizens. Furthermore, Dan is the Chairman of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for Montmorency County and Past Chairman of the Montmorency County Democratic Party. Dan currently serves as the chairman of Region 1D, United Auto Worker Retirees, a region which encompasses 62 counties. Daniel was instrumental in the formation of the Montmorency County Democratic Party and has served as the party chairman for many years.

Dan and his wife Geraldine will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on February 9, 2003. They have three children, eight grandchildren, and fif-

teen great grandchildren. At 80 years of age, he has been, and continues to be, an inspiration to all who know him. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Daniel Benac for his leadership in the community dedication to his country, and loyalty to his family and friends. ●

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce "Feed America Thursday," a resolution which designates November 21, 2002, the Thursday before Thanksgiving Day, as "Feed America Thursday."

This resolution encourages Americans to sacrifice two meals on November 21 and donate the money they would have used for food to a charity or religious organization of their choice. The charities and churches, in turn, are encouraged to feed the hungry with the funds received. "Feed America Thursday" will not only encourage Americans to help those in need, it will encourage a spirit of selflessness and sacrifice vital to our strength as a nation.

Each day people in our Nation suffer due to hunger. The United States Department of Agriculture recently reported that 33 million Americans, 13 million of whom are children, live in homes that do not have an adequate supply of food. Hunger among children is especially devastating because it has a serious impact on physical growth and brain development. The contributions this resolution encourages will serve the needs of those who suffer from hunger in our Nation, especially the children. This resolution will not only help alleviate hunger, it will both affirm and restore the spirit of giving in our society. Hunger affects people from every state and in all age groups.

I ask every American to join me in feeding the hungry and affirming the values that make our Nation great. This resolution, if passed, will provide food to the hungry and hope to our nation. ●

THE RETIREMENT OF SHERIFF BILL BREWER

● Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I have often heard it said that Wyoming is such a remarkable place to live because of the remarkable people who live there. For my part, I can not only assure you that it is true, but I have the proof in the form of one of the stories of our remarkable citizenry that I would like to share with my colleagues today.

In just a few weeks, Bill Brewer will be retiring after serving for 26 years as our Sheriff for Park County. All told, he will be closing the books on a career in law enforcement that totals almost 40 years.

As a former Mayor, I know full well the importance of a good Sheriff in city and county management and the important role law enforcement plays in the services we provide to the citizens of our communities. If nothing else, good city and county government demands that we ensure the safety of our

people to the fullest extent possible. That is why law enforcement officers like Bill Brewer are so important in the day to day life of our communities.

Sheriff Brewer has been an integral part of the daily life of the community of Cody and Park County since 1972, when he became the Sheriff of Park County. Over the years, he proved to be instrumental in bringing the Cody Police Department and the Park County Sheriff's Department together as he worked to bring both offices into the modern age. Through his efforts, he was able to improve the technology both offices have come to depend on as they became more effective and responsive to the needs of the people of the area. Thanks to his dedication to improving the system he was a part of, numerable changes were made in the way the offices communicated with each other. And thanks to his willingness to try new things, the kind of information they exchanged and the speed with which it was shared increased dramatically.

Sheriff Brewer's vision and commitment to making a difference in his corner of the world did not go unnoticed through the years, and he was named Wyoming Peace Officer of the Year in 1981. The award was presented to him to recognize his devotion to duty as well as his dedication and commitment to improving the tools his officers had access to in the performance of their daily duties.

For example, in the 1980's, Sheriff Brewer's foresight and commitment to ensuring Cody and Park County had the most modern crime fighting tools possible led him to create a SWAT team for the County. Although there was quite a bit of dissension about the formation of such a force, it proved to be an important addition to the law enforcement team of the area when there was a shooting at a bar in Cody. The perpetrators fled the scene and barricaded themselves in a cabin. It was then up to the newly formed SWAT team to capture them and bring them to justice. They were subsequently convicted and the story was broadcast across the nation as part of a television series of law enforcement.

In addition to his duties as a Sheriff, Bill has also been very involved with the youth of the community. He was a boxing coach and referee, as well as a baseball and basketball coach.

I would be remiss if I didn't also point out Bill's participation in the music community of the area. He plays the banjo and the guitar and he and his father played with the Wyoming Fiddlers Association. He also enjoys playing horseshoes and now that he's retired, I have no doubt that he is going to get into a lot more activities in the years to come.

Bill Brewer will long be remembered for all he has done to make his community a better place to live. For his almost forty years of service, he has made a huge difference in his neck of the woods of Wyoming. There is no way