

with heart failure. With that in mind, I was pleased that S. Res. 256 passed the Senate by unanimous consent.●

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and to salute our Nation's Veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs has designated the week of February 13–19 as "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week." I take this opportunity to pay special tribute to those veterans who are currently hospitalized, especially those hospitalized in the Battle Creek, MI, VA Medical Center.

These brave people served their country in time of need. Many of them were wounded. Many of them knew others who never came home from battle. It is only right, then, that our nation help them in time of physical need.

The Battle Creek VA Medical Center provides an excellent example of how our nation can repay some of the debt it owes our brave veterans. This facility has provided quality care for up to 325 residents at a time for over 75 years. It is an important part of our system of 172 VA Medical Centers across the United States, and an important part of the Battle Creek community.

I know that a festive schedule of special events has been planned for the week long salute. Our veterans, and particularly those who are currently hospitalized, certainly deserve every tribute we can give to them. And the same goes for the dedicated men and women who care for them.

The American people will be forever indebted to our veterans and their families. Without their sacrifice, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our nation and its ideals, America would not be the beacon of freedom it is today. I ask that you and my colleagues join me in saluting the veterans at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center and each and every individual who has served with distinction in the U.S. Armed Forces. Let us say to them: We salute you and we thank you.●

HONORING MARY FORD, MAYOR OF NORTHAMPTON

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the public service of Mary Ford, who recently stepped down as the Mayor of Northampton, Massachusetts. Throughout her 8 years in office, Mayor Ford has elevated the City to one of the jewels of New England, and I join all of her friends, family, and constituents in honoring her today.

As Mayor of Northampton, Ms. Ford oversaw the improvement of the school system, conducted comprehensive infrastructure improvements, modernized city services, and restored fiscal discipline. Perhaps the largest measure of her contributions to the city rests in the fact that, in the course of man-

aging an annual budget of \$55 million dollars, she erased a \$3.2 million deficit. This financial turn-around allowed the city to entertain larger goals; the renovation and expansion of Northampton High School, the establishment of an innovative trust to preserve Section 8 assistance, and establishing Northampton as an attractive place to start new businesses.

Her leadership on the budget, which includes the general fund, schools, and enterprise funds, has been complemented by computerizing all the city office's and raising hiring standards. She set the policy priorities for all the city's administrative departments, including; housing, health and safety inspection services, planning, culture and arts, finance, as well as economic and community development. Mayor Ford orchestrated all of these elements into a cohesive, focused set of services that was delivered in an effective and efficient manner, thus improving the lives of all residents.

Due to Mary Ford's leadership, The City of Northampton is now one of the state's thriving, growing cities.

The list of her accomplishments on behalf of the city's revitalization is varied and extensive; she improved the city's emergency response capabilities by allotting \$5.5 million for a state-of-the-art firehouse, renovated one third of the city's roads, and conducted comprehensive traffic re-designing for increased safety. Her accomplishments in education include securing an investment of \$25 million for the modernization of Northampton's high school, a \$12 million middle school expansion program, and work with the entire system's faculty and staff in implementing staff recommendations, reforming curriculum, and increasing parental involvement.

She has also shared her expertise in municipal and governmental affairs with state and national organizations. From 1995–99, she was a member of the Human Development Committee in the National League of Cities, a founding member of the Regional Education Business Alliance, Chair of the Task Force on the Future of State and Local Revenue Sharing for the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and President of the Women Elected Municipal Officials organization in 1998.

Mr. President, I am proud to regard Mary Ford as a friend, colleague and partner in maintaining Massachusetts's economic prosperity and growth. She has performed an enormous task for the City and its residents, and I join with all of Northampton in thanking her for her exemplary public service and leadership.●

HONORING THE 110TH FIGHTER WING OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the proud achievements of the 110th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard. This group was re-

cently awarded the prestigious United States Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for meritorious service, an award given to only three Air National Guard fighter wings. I would like to take this opportunity to share the history of success of this unit.

The 110th Fighter Wing has served America courageously around the world. Recently, the unit conducted flight operations from Aviano Air Base, Italy, in support of Operation Joint Guard over Bosnia-Herzegovina. During this period, the unit received a grade of "Outstanding"—an honor reserved for only the elite forces in the U.S. Armed Services—for an Operational Readiness Inspection. This distinction was the first ever given to a Michigan-based unit.

Mr. President, I would also like to recognize the service of Col. Ken Heaton, USAF, the unit's commander. Under Colonel Heaton's command, the 110th Fighter Wing has continued its history of excellence with these most recent awards. In the unit's 52-year history, it has been awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award four times.

I am proud to have the opportunity to share the accomplishments of the 110th Fighter Wing on the floor of the U.S. Senate. On behalf of the State of Michigan, I congratulate Colonel Heaton and his unit on their achievements, and I look forward to hearing of this unit's laurels for years to come.●

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I would like to spend a few minutes discussing the Agricultural Cooperation Agreement that was signed by the United States and China in December in Seattle. Although the negotiations for this agreement were held at the same time as the bilateral WTO accession negotiations between our two countries, this agriculture agreement is a stand-alone arrangement. According to its own terms, it formally entered into effect when U.S. Trade Representative Barshefsky and Chinese Trade Minister Shi signed it.

This agreement deals with three categories of agriculture products—Pacific Northwest wheat, meat, and citrus. The agreement requires that sound science be used when evaluating agricultural imports into China. Specifically, the agreement ends the decade-long prohibition that China had against importing Pacific Northwest wheat. It provides for US government certification of meat packing facilities. And it eliminates unreasonable technical barriers to the export of citrus products from the United States to China.

On February 11, 52 other Senators, Democrats and Republicans alike, joined me in sending a letter to Chinese President Jiang Zemin, insisting that China needs to implement the Agricultural Cooperation Agreement immediately. We explained to President

Jiang that now is the time to buy our agricultural products. Words are fine. Agreements are fine. But what matters is the result—concrete commercial purchases. I would like to put a copy of that letter, along with a list of the 53 Senators who signed it, into the RECORD.

I am very pleased to announce that a high level Chinese agriculture delegation, including government officials, along with representatives from COFCO, the China National Cereals, Oils, and Feedstuffs Import and Export Corporation, will visit my state of Montana on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. This is a critical next step in securing the implementation of the agriculture agreement.

I will join with Montana agriculture, Montana business, and Montana economic development officials in Great Falls this week to meet this important delegation, to provide them with information about the opportunities Montana presents, and to offer them high quality and competitive agricultural products and value-added food products.

I have been working for over twenty years to expand trade and open markets overseas for Montana and American agricultural commodities, value-added agricultural products, manufactured goods, and services. Increasing exports brings benefits to our farmers, our workers, and our communities, including, of course, in the state of Montana.

China represents a market of almost unlimited potential. I have worked hard for the last ten years to expand trading relations between the United States and China. This year, I am leading the fight to grant China Permanent Normal Trade Relations status, PNTR. The full implementation of this agricultural agreement is a vital part of this effort to bring China into the WTO and to ensure that American and Montana will take advantage of the unique opportunities in China.

I look forward to the signing of purchase agreements with China in the near future for Pacific Northwest wheat. Montana and China can help each other grow. That is what international trade is all about.

February 11, 2000.

President JIANG ZEMIN,
*People's Republic of China,
Beijing, China.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to urge full implementation of the bilateral Agricultural Cooperation Agreement that Ambassador Barshefsky and Trade Minister Shi signed in April. Both sides agreed that when they initiated the Chinese version in Seattle last December that implementation would begin immediately.

We appreciate that your citrus technical team has completed its visit to the United States. We understand that actions will now be taken to make those changes necessary for American citrus products to be sold to China.

We want to stress, however, how important it is that actual sales of wheat, meat, and citrus take place as soon as possible. This would demonstrate to everyone watching our

bilateral relationship that this agreement is working. It would also provide a solid contribution to the efforts to ensure the passage of Permanent Normal Trading Relations ("PNTR") for China.

Mr. President, we are entering a new stage in the relationship between our two countries. The sale of product through the Agricultural Agreement will help immeasurably.

Yours Truly,

Max Baucus, Bob Graham, Kent Conrad, Tim Johnson, Patty Murray, Slade Gorton, Pat Roberts, Larry E. Craig, Blanche L. Lincoln, Dick Durbin, Michael B. Enzi, Tom Daschle, Trent Lott, Spencer Abraham, George V. Voinovich, Sam Brownback, Craig Thomas, Connie Mack.

Daniel Inouye, Mike Crapo, Gordon Smith, Jay Rockefeller, Joe Biden, Harry Reid, Richard Bryan, Rod Grams, Chuck Hagel, Wayne Allard, Tom Harkin, John Edwards, Rick Santorum, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, Evan Bayh, Chuck Robb, Jeff Bingaman, John Ashcroft, Bob Kerrey.

Conrad Burns, Jim Bunning, Byron L. Dorgan, Kit Bond, Chuck Grassley, Phil Gramm, Lincoln Chafee, Barbara Boxer, Charles Schumer, Ron Wyden, Paul D. Coverdell, Herb Kohl, Dianne Feinstein, Daniel K. Akaka, Orrin Hatch, Kay Bailey Hutchison.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO THUNDER CLOUD CONSTRUCTION

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly congratulate two of my constituents, Mr. Leonard Lone Hill and Mr. Warren Giago, both of Porcupine, SD. I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that Mr. Lone Hill and Mr. Giago, partners in Thunder Cloud Construction, a Porcupine-based construction company, have been honored by the Small Business Administration as winners of the 1999 Minority Small Business People of the Year for South Dakota. As my colleagues may know, Porcupine is located in Shannon County on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Highlighted by the President during his New Markets Initiative tour, Shannon County is the poorest county in the country.

Thunder Cloud Construction is working to reverse the trend of Native American poverty on the Reservation by not only hiring minority workers, but by providing on-the-job training for new, unskilled employees. The activities of the company and its two owners, result not only in participation in the development of community infrastructure and resources but also a substantial contribution to economic growth and development of the Pine Ridge Reservation. Among its achievements, Thunder Cloud has recently completed a shelter for homeless children, the Casey Family Building. Following last years devastating tornadoes, the company won a substantial contract to build foundations and basements for twenty-two units of replacement housing.

Mr. President, Leonard Lone Hill and Warren Giago of Thunder Cloud Construction richly deserve this honor. After five years in business, they have

twenty-two employees on the payroll and annual sales of \$277,500. Their work has vastly improved the economic landscape of Porcupine and the Pine Ridge Reservation, and is a great model for other aspiring businessmen to follow. They have overcome many obstacles and I look forward to all of their future successes.●

IN RECOGNITION OF MOST REVEREND MOSES B. ANDERSON, S.S.E. AUXILIARY BISHOP OF DETROIT

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable person from my home state of Michigan, Most Reverend Moses B. Anderson, S.S.E. Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit. On February 17, 2000, Bishop Anderson was honored with the Mother Theresa Duchemin Maxis Award in recognition for his many years of dedication and service within the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Serving as Michigan's first African American Catholic Bishop, Moses Anderson has ministered to the needs not only of the Catholic Community, but to the Community of Humankind, since his ordination in 1958. For the last 40 years, he has served the Catholic Church with integrity and dedication. In addition, he is the recipient of multiple honorary degrees, an enstooled Chief in Ghana, West Africa, and an internationally revered minister and scholar. Currently serving as pastor at the Church of the Precious Blood in Detroit, his homilies have the distinction of being based in songs portraying the loving relationship between God and humankind. For this reason, Anderson is known as a man of songs as well as an accomplished and beloved clergyman.

Bishop Anderson's departure from his vicariate duties makes way for new beginnings in his life. I am confident that his future endeavors will be as successful and fulfilling as the previous ones. For certain, he will remain active in his many church and community activities, but will have more time to dedicate to his favorite hobbies—music, organic gardening, cooking, and being the "good shepherd" he is known to be. I am pleased to join his colleagues and friends in offering my thanks for all he has accomplished in making his community a better place.

Mr. President, Bishop Moses B. Anderson can take pride in his long career of service and dedication to the Catholic Church. I know my colleagues join me in saluting Bishop Anderson's commitment to his community and religion, and in wishing him well in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE HAUSCHILD

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the passing of a dear friend and counselor, Mr. Wayne "Haus" Hauschild of Brookings, South Dakota.