

campaigns, as well as expanded diagnosis and treatment options.

I urge all citizens to support the search for the early detection and cure of prostate cancer and support those individuals and families who face this devastating disease.

RECOGNIZING CHARACTER COUNTS! WEEK

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the national week of CHARACTER COUNTS!, the most widely used character building framework in the United States.

In 1993, after a conference in Aspen, Colorado, CHARACTER COUNTS! was formed to educate students about universal ethical standards. With six vital pillars—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship—CHARACTER COUNTS! teaches students essential values for developing into productive citizens. This important program supplements a regular school's curriculum to educate our future generations about important decisionmaking skills. The program has been credited for increased school attendance, as well as a reduction in misbehavior.

Character education is vital to our youth, and it teaches important lessons we would all do well to embrace. I commend the CHARACTER COUNTS! organization, its instructors, and its participants for being a part of this admirable initiative.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST JUSTIN PELLERIN

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a special person, U.S. Army SPC Justin Pellerin of Concord, NH, for his service and supreme sacrifice for our Nation.

Tragically, on August 20, 2009, this courageous young soldier, only 21 years of age, gave his last full measure of devotion when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Wardak Province, Afghanistan. At the time of the incident, Specialist Pellerin was serving as an infantryman assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division based at Fort Drum, NY.

Justin joined the U.S. Army in June 2007 after graduating from Concord High School and deployed in January in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This decorated patriot is the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Service Medal, and most recently, the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Heroes from the State of New Hampshire have served our Nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill to Afghanistan. Undoubtedly, Justin has advanced that fine tradition. Daniel Webster said: "God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are al-

ways ready to guard and defend it." Justin chose to serve our Nation, guard our precious liberties, and answer the call of freedom. Our debt of gratitude will never be fully repaid to Justin or his loved ones.

The sudden death of a young person is especially difficult for family and friends. In November 1864, President Abraham Lincoln was informed by the War Department of a mother who had lost five sons in the Civil War. He wrote the mother: "I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save."

My heartfelt sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Justin's wife Chelsey; his parents Dale and Melissa, and family and friends. The death of Justin, on a battlefield far from New Hampshire, is a true loss for our State and Nation, and a grievous pain for those who knew him best and loved him most. Although he will be sorely missed by all, it is my hope that his family and friends may find some comfort in knowing that Justin's devotion, sense of duty, and selfless dedication have made the safety and liberty of each and every American more secure. May God bless SPC Justin Pellerin.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING HAWAII EDUCATORS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate two outstanding educators from my State, elementary school teachers Liane Tanigawa of Pearl Ridge Elementary School and Seanyelle Yagi of Kanewai Elementary School, for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, PAEMST.

The PAEMST, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, is the highest recognition that a mathematics or science teacher may receive. Since the program's inception in 1983, more than 3,900 educators nationwide have been recognized for their contribution to mathematics and science education. As a former educator and principal, I know firsthand of the countless hours that go into creating curricula, and it makes me proud to see outstanding teachers receive recognition for their hard work.

The dedication of Liane and Seanyelle to their field and to the children of Hawaii is undeniable. I congratulate them both for receiving this outstanding recognition, and I wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO STEWART AND MARLENE GREENEBAUM

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay special tribute to the outstanding achievements of Stewart and Marlene Greenebaum. Stewart and Marlene are lifelong residents of Baltimore and good friends of mine who have shown a deep personal commitment to Baltimore, to Maryland, and to improving our community and Nation through their commitment of time and resources.

The Greenebaums have helped to establish our community as a leader in health care. Through their efforts, they established one of our Nation's premier cancer centers. The Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center is known for translating its innovative research into better treatments. Stewart is a past chairman of the board of the University of Maryland Medical System, home to the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center. The Greenebaums also founded the Children's House at Johns Hopkins Hospital, a facility dedicated to helping the families of children who are fighting life-threatening illness.

The Greenebaums' commitment to improving health care outcomes is known nationwide. Stewart serves as the founding chair for the American Cancer Society's Cancer Resource Network, a program that provides resource navigators to major cancer centers. He is chairman emeritus and member of the Board of Advisors for the Baltimore-based Institute of Human Virology, which focuses on HIV/AIDS research, care, and treatment, and he serves on the board of Profectus Biosciences Inc. and Welldoc, a company whose products help in the management of diabetes. Stewart also is one of the five U.S. directors of the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Marlene Greenebaum is known in our community for her commitment to Judaism. She has served as president of Temple Oheb Shalom Sisterhood and is past president of Miriam Lodge, K.S.B. She was vice president of fundraising for Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and is currently on the Greenebaum Cancer Center board.

Marlene and Stewart are also committed to education. Stewart helped to found and fund a program that sends African-American students to Israel. He is the founding president of Shoshana S. Cardin Jewish High School. On October 21, the Shoshana S. Cardin School will honor Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum for all they have contributed. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the many accomplishments of Stewart and Marlene Greenebaum and for their undying commitment and dedication to helping others.

TRIBUTE TO BRAYDIN AND TORIN SONES

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize the noble efforts of

both the Sones family and the Dover Air Force Base community for their support of Karina Sones in her battle against cancer. Karina was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia when she was 4 years old. Although the doctors thought they had beaten the cancer after a round of chemotherapy in 2004, she unfortunately relapsed in 2006. I wish to commemorate the sterling efforts of her two younger brothers, her parents, and the men and women of Dover Air Force Base for encouraging and supporting Karina through this difficult time. Thankfully, she is now on the path to recovery.

When Karina relapsed, her parents were informed that a bone marrow transplant was her only option. Despite there being approximately 20 million bone marrow donations on record, there were no matches on the National Marrow Donor database for Karina. Her parents, however, remained optimistic that a solution would be found. In what can only be described as good fortune, Karina was lucky enough to be the recipient of an anonymous donation of umbilical cord stem cells that allowed her to have a second chance at life. Karina bravely endured radiation and 50 days of isolation before she could receive the transplant. Afterwards, the whole family had to work together to prevent her from getting sick. Although, Karina still suffers from graft-vs-host disease which has caused her skin to be inflamed, she remains brave and upbeat. She insists that she would like to go to Disneyland with her mother and be Cinderella.

Her two younger brothers, Braydin, age 10, and Torin, age 7, admirably refuse to be helpless as their sister battles leukemia. Karina's struggle inspired them to want to help other kids with cancer and to further support research, so they began collecting golf balls that had landed in their backyard and selling them on to golfers. Their goal was to collect \$500, and they have already exceeded that amount. They will donate all the money to the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children where Karina still receives treatment.

This story is a true example of the Air Force, the Dover community, and the Sones family all coming together to unite against a common adversary. The city of Dover and the Dover Air Force Base are known for their tight-knit relationship which is certainly demonstrated by the Dover community having won the Abeliene trophy twice—the trophy designated for the base with the most supportive community—and this story only provides further evidence for that statement.

I believe that it is a mark of Karina's character and impressive bravery that she has persevered through all of her medical setbacks. To this day, Karina refuses to rest and is working on spreading awareness about becoming a bone marrow donor because she wants other children to have the same chance at life that she had. Most children, after spending so much time in hos-

pitals, would wish to stay away from them, but Karina is not most children. She wants to become a cardiologist when she grows up.

Karina's brave story is one that we do not hear often. I wish to honor not just her courage but also the bravery and perseverance of her brothers and her parents and to wish them continued blessings in the future. I also want to emphasize the good work and support that Dover Air Force Base has offered the Sones family during such a trying and difficult time.●

TRIBUTE TO THE WHIFFENPOOFS

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, 100 years ago this winter, history was made at the old Mory's Bar on Temple Street in New Haven, CT, as Denton Fowler, James Merriam Howard, Carl Lohmann, Meade Minnigerode, and George Pomeroy formed an a cappella singing group known as the Whiffenpoofs of Yale University.

The Whiffenpoofs, as every Yalie knows, are unsurpassed in talent and tradition. They are now the oldest continuously functioning collegiate a cappella singing group in the United States.

Their history is rich and vibrant. During World War II, the brave men of the U.S. Army Air Force's Black Sheep Squadron adopted "The Whiffenpoof Song" as their theme song. And over the course of the 20th century, that famous tune has been recorded by such legendary artists as Bing Crosby, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Elvis Presley.

The Whiffenpoofs have inspired a cappella singing groups at colleges and secondary schools across America—in fact, there are now more than 1,200 such groups entertaining audiences.

But their influence is not limited by our borders. Each year, the Whiffenpoofs embark on an international tour, visiting foreign capitals and tiny villages, great palaces and humble churches, and U.S. Embassies around the world, spreading song and good will on behalf of Yale University and America's college students.

Next month, Whiffenpoofs alumni from around the world will descend upon Yale to convene with the current group in celebration of the Whiffenpoofs' centennial. It is sure to be an occasion filled with good cheer, great music, and tremendous fellowship—the trademarks of this beloved Connecticut institution.

Mr. President, I congratulate the Whiffenpoofs of Yale University on their centennial, I thank them for their many contributions to our Nation, and I look forward to another century of song and friendship.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVE AND SHELLEY BRUNE

● Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, Steve and Shelley Brune are extraordinary Nebraskans who made a commitment

to open their hearts and home to a foster child, which led to a remarkable story of love and compassion.

In September 1999, they welcomed Jonathon into their home as a foster child. In February 2001, Jonathon's biological brother, James, was also removed from the home. The Brune family recognized the importance of keeping siblings together and agreed to unite the brothers by welcoming James into their home as a second foster child.

The Brunes worked closely with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, in efforts to reunite Jonathon and James with their biological parents. When HHS determined that reunification was not in the boys' best interest, Steve and Shelley made a permanent commitment to the boys by adopting them; Jonathon on July 19, 2001 and James on January 17, 2002.

In October 2007, the biological sister of James and Jonathon, Mary Ann, was removed from the home. HHS contacted the Brune family to discuss the possibility of once again becoming foster parents. The Brunes recognized that this child needed a loving home and would benefit from being with her brothers. For a third time, they admirably opened their hearts and home, welcoming Mary Ann on July 15, 2008.

In April 2009, another sibling, Madeline Grace, was born and was also removed from the home. The Brune family showed tremendous compassion and devotion to the children of this family by agreeing to welcome Madeline Grace into their family. Steve and Shelley are currently in the process of adopting both Mary Ann and Madeline Grace.

It is with heartfelt admiration that I nominate Steve and Shelley Brune as Adoption Angels. Their capacity to love and care for these four children is an inspiration and worthy example for others to follow. My hope is that their story inspires others to consider opening their hearts and homes to the many children awaiting adoption, in need of loving families.

May God bless Shelley, Steve, Jonathon, James, Mary Ann, Madeline Grace, and all adoptive parents who give children the gift of a loving family.●

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFT WORKERS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Bricklayers and Allied Craft Workers of the South Dakota Administrative District Council Local 03 of Aberdeen, SD. October 2009 marks the month and year of this landmark anniversary. BAC is highly respected as one of the oldest highly skilled trade unions in the United States and Canada.

For the past 100 years, Local 03 has played a major role in shaping the