

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MACEDONIA

• Mr. DECONCINI. Mr. President, yesterday the United States finally took the step of recognizing the independent statehood of Macedonia, and announced its intention of establishing full diplomatic relations with that country, formerly a Yugoslav Republic. As Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I have long advocated recognition. From the beginning, it deserved recognition. It did not seek the break-up of Yugoslavia, nor did it participate or encourage the use of force to keep it together. It met the criteria for recognition originally formulated by the European Community. It remains a crucial player in preventing the spread of war in the Balkans and in fostering a return of peace, stability and cooperation to this troubled region in the future.

Recognition is not an end, but a beginning. Greece needs to recognize its neighbor to the north as well, and be willing to resume a genuine dialog in which its concerns can, in fact, be addressed. Macedonia must, in turn, stand ready to participate in such a dialogue, and I note the Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov stated yesterday that his country is prepared to resume immediately the talks held under the auspices of the United Nations.

The international community should also continue the process of integrating Macedonia into European and world affairs, including by granting that country full membership in the CSCE as soon as possible. Macedonia must, in turn, remain committed to respecting the human rights of all its citizens, including those belonging to ethnic minorities, and to building democratic institutions, encouraging social tolerance and implementing economic reforms, all in accordance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents.

While we remain a long way from a peaceful, prosperous southeast Europe, Mr. President, I hope that yesterday's recognition of Macedonia by the United States is one small step toward that goal, and that our country, with its tremendous capabilities, will become more actively involved in the region. Again, let me welcome this development, and express my hope for a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between Macedonia and the United States of America.●

THE TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1994

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the reauthorization of the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 1988, or the Tech Act.

This legislation reauthorizes and builds on a visionary program of tech-

nology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities enacted in 1988 with strong bipartisan support. As the author of this bill in the House of Representatives, I believed that this legislation was important to advancing our Nation's disability policy. Working with Senator HARKIN in the Senate, we crafted a bipartisan bill that unanimously passed both the House and Senate.

At the core of the act is a competitive grant program which provides seed money to States to set up programs to assist individuals with disabilities in acquiring assistive technology devices and services. The availability of assistive technology to people with disabilities leads to greater mobility and independence in daily living. It helps make life's tasks easier. In essence, it means more freedom and greater control over one's own life.

This legislation will reauthorize the competitive grant program for another 5 years, keeping the intent of the original act, especially with respect to State flexibility. It recognizes the advances that many States have made in the first 5 years of the program. However, it also acknowledges there is still more to do, with a strong need to support ongoing systems change and advocacy activities. I am pleased that States will retain discretion over how their projects are run, wild supporting fundamental systems change and advocacy.

Many States, such as my own State of Vermont, are well on their way to consumer responsive comprehensive systems change through innovative projects. The Vermont Assistive Technology Project has made remarkable progress in expanding access to assistive technology in Vermont. It is using interactive TV to bring assistive technology demonstrations from the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont in Burlington to the remote Northeast Kingdom. It has used grant money to establish alternative funding mechanisms including a loan fund, and a statewide recycling program for finding, repairing, and distributing used assistive technology devices. It has fostered strong consumer advocacy throughout the State. Furthermore, the project has been instrumental in helping individuals with disabilities eliminate barriers to funding. In my mind, this success is directly related to the flexibility of the program.

Assistive technology has made a difference in the lives of thousands of Americans with disabilities. It has helped them to lead fuller and more productive lives, and it will continue to do so. This is a program that has shown results and should be reauthorized.

Mr. President, in closing I would like to commend Senators HARKIN and DURENBERGER, the chairman and ranking member of the Disability Policy Subcommittee, for their work in crafting a truly bipartisan bill, and for working out an earnest compromise

with our colleagues in the House. I think we have a strong piece of legislation, one which enhances the concept of a program of technology-related assistance to individuals with disabilities I saw when I introduced the original act in the House in 1988. I urge my colleagues to support it.●

SAMUEL TENENBAUM: HONORS FOR A SOUTH CAROLINA RENAISSANCE MAN

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, permit me to take a brief moment of the Senate's time to salute Samuel Tenenbaum on his selection as a 1994 recipient of South Carolina's prestigious Verner Award/Governor's Award. These honors are bestowed annually by the South Carolina Arts Commission to recognize outstanding achievements in the arts. Another winner this year is the Spoleto Festival U.S.A., Charleston's annual international arts exposition.

Mr. President, as a patron of the arts, Sam Tenenbaum is about as close as you get in South Carolina to a Medici prince—a modern-day Renaissance man who has done well in the world of business, and done good in the world of the arts. Sam is vice president of Chatham Steel in Columbia, and is active in a score of community service organizations across the State. He served on former Governor Dick Riley's arts task force and was a member of the South Carolina Arts Commission. For years, he has been a fund-raising wizard and board member for a number of arts groups, including the Columbia City Ballet and the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties. Sam has been extremely generous with both his time and his money in the cause of enriching South Carolina's cultural endowment.

Mr. President, Sam Tenenbaum is among the best and brightest in South Carolina. And he has been a terrific friend to me.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY FOR KELLY-SPRINGFIELD

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this year the Kelly-Springfield Corp., headquartered in Cumberland, MD, is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and I want to join in congratulating Kelly-Springfield and its fine employees on this important milestone. Since its founding, the company and its employees have succeeded in making Kelly-Springfield a business known throughout the world for its quality products.

Established in 1894, Kelly-Springfield is one of the oldest tire manufacturing companies in the world. Its first product was a solid rubber tire which silenced the clatter of carriage and buggy wheels.

In 1917 the company decided to consolidate its production in one plant. The Allegany County town of Cumberland was selected as the site for the new facility; however, the first tire in