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Senate

RESTORATION AND REDEDICATION OF THE GEORGETOWN CIRCLE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I recognize the rededication of "The Circle" in Georgetown, DE scheduled for July 19. Thanks to the great efforts and hard work of the citizens of Georgetown, this historic site has been restored to its original splendor.

The Circle was established in 1791 by an act of the Delaware General Assembly. Subsequently, the town of Georgetown was laid out around the Circle. While Delawareans knew of its historic and cultural significance, it was confirmed nationally in 1973 when The Circle was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Georgetown has long been famous for Return Day, a celebration that takes place every 2 years, 2 days after the state's general election. With the campaign behind them, voters and candidate's return to the Circle to enjoy parades, listen to music, and literally "bury a hatchet." We talk a lot in my State about working together, about putting aside partisan differences to cross party lines to get things done. This celebration at the Circle embodies that effort and commitment.

Over the years, the Circle fell to a state of

disrepair. Once a place of stately honor, financial assistance was needed to return the Circle to its original state. The community of Georgetown joined together and formed a committee to oversee the repairs and maintain the historic beauty of the site. The repairs were financed through a Transportation Enhancement Grant from the Federal Highway Administration, the Delaware Department of Transportation, and members of the Delaware General Assembly from Sussex County. Together, these groups were able to provide substantial funding for renovations. The residents of Georgetown should be praised for their commitment to restoring the Circle. With their initiative and dedication, future generations will be able to enjoy its rich history.

The July 19 rededication is a celebration of the community's collective efforts. Delaware's future will be built upon its rich history. We must work hard to preserve these symbols of our past to ensure that they are not forgotten. The citizens of Georgetown worked hard to ensure that the area's unique history will be preserved long into the future.