

and liberty who altered the course of history, a visionary, and always a kind and generous gentleman.

Bob Kriebel invented what are commonly known as super adhesives where the bond is stronger than the materials it holds together. This invention has made life better and easier for virtually every manufacturer, hobbyist and homeowner on the globe. He literally changed the way many things are put together, from engines to toys. Starting with \$100,000 from family and friends in the 1950's, he built a billion dollar multinational corporation. He created tens of thousands of well-paying jobs all over the world.

Bob was a distinguished chemist who did not forget that the scientific method has equal applicability to the political and economic sciences. He was a successful entrepreneur and investor because he understood it is better to place your assets in those countries that are pursuing relatively pro-growth economic policies, and are moving towards freedom rather than away from it. Though not a trained economist, he understood far better than many in the economics profession that low tax rates, a low level of economic regulation and government spending, sound money, and strong enforcement of property rights and civil contracts do far more to better the human condition than government transfer payments. He not only understood these things, he acted to bring them about across the globe through his energy and his financial support of politicians and institutions that were moving the world towards freedom and away from statism.

There are literally dozens of pro-democracy and pro-free market institutions that Bob Kriebel generously supported, and in many cases helped to create. For example, he was one of the key early supporters of both the Heritage Foundation and the Free Congress Foundation. In addition, he gave away millions to help individuals who were in trouble all over the world, whether it was because of personal hardship, or because some totalitarian thug was trying to suppress the liberties of the people. His wonderful family, wife Nancy, daughter Helen, and son Fred shared his values, and have been supporting his work in their own right.

When the conventional wisdom was that the Soviet empire would go on many more years, Bob Kriebel saw the rot and decided to push the demise a bit faster. In the 1980's he began financially supporting many of the dissident pro-democracy groups in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. He bought and delivered to them computers and fax machines. The US media, business, and political establishment ridiculed him. Business Week ran a derisive article entitled, "The Quixotic Quest of Robert Kriebel." Bob, of course, remained undeterred, and as usual was soon proven right, as the walls came a-tumbling down. Bob not only fought communism and helped to speed its demise, but understood that the destruction of communism was not enough. He realized that to have a safe, prosperous and free world, you have to have people in place who understand democracy and free markets. He created the Kriebel Institute and spent millions of dollars of his own money on building a network of influential people in the former communist countries and on political and economic training, to help ensure that qualified people would be available to serve in the new non-communist governments.

Almost no one in the United States had heard of Boris Yeltsin until Bob Kriebel got some of the Republican Congressional leaders to invite him for a trip to the US, which Bob helped to underwrite. Bob was one of Yeltsin's first American friends and apparently had a strong influence on him. A couple of years after the fall of communism in

Russia, Bob was attacked by some communist deputies in the Russian Duma and in the communist press, as the evil capitalist who brought down communism. Bob's response was to fly to Moscow and hold a press conference to respond to his critics. He began by explaining that as much as he was honored by their accusations, he felt that he could only take a little credit for the end of communism.

For all of his accomplishments and wealth, Bob was a modest man who sought few creature comforts. In his travels in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, he rarely stayed in the first class hotels—in those few cities where they were available—but preferred to stay in hotels that could be afforded by the locals, which most of us Americans viewed as only one step up from camping. In Washington, he drove a little Ford Festiva. After a typically hair-raising ride with him one day (Bob drove more like an eighteen-year-old than an eighty-year-old), I asked him why he did not buy a bigger and safer car. He said, "The less money I spend on myself, the more I have to give away."

Bob was a man of great physical courage and energy. The day the Russian tanks were shelling the Russian "White House," Bob was in Moscow. He walked to the Moscow river embankment down below the building so that he "could have a close look." Bob was a pilot who enjoyed flying acrobatic airplanes until he was well in his seventies. Scuba diving was another of his hobbies. On one occasion, a couple of the Novecon board members and I met him at the bar in the Radisson Hotel in Moscow. There he was sitting on the bar stool waiting for us, and after a bit, he casually informed us that he had spent the previous night in a hospital in Minsk because of illness, but there he was ready to go to work the next day in Moscow.

Bob was a rarity among businessmen; he did not try to curry favor in Washington, yet he was among the most influential of all businessmen in the Nation's Capital. The influence came, not just for his support of members of Congress who agreed with him, but because he was so principled. For example, when the US Chamber of Commerce reversed long-standing policies against socialized health care and tax increases, in a short-lived attempt to gain favor with the Clinton Administration, Bob Kriebel was among only a handful of Board members who had the courage to resign in a public protest. Within a number of months he was again proven right, as the Chamber's membership forced it back to the principled position.

Many new companies around the world owe their very existence to Bob Kriebel. He delighted in helping new entrepreneurs, particularly in newly freed economies. He understood that without a vibrant private business sector in the former communist countries, democracy would not prevail. He often talked to me about the need to build business partnerships in the transition countries. As a result, he co-founded the Novecon companies with me in our attempt to create profitable entrepreneurial partnerships in the former communist lands. His love of new technology never waned. Just a few weeks ago, I took him to Novecon Technologies' new little silicon carbide wafer plant in Herndon, Virginia, to meet with Gene Lewis, Jim LeMunyon and the Russian scientists who had developed the process. He took a great interest in Gene's explanation of the new and unique technological process. On our drive back to Washington, he had the enthusiasm of a twelve-year-old boy as he slapped the dashboard and said, "Those fellows really have something there."

Bob Kriebel never gave up the fight for freedom. Each week, until he was stricken last month, he would commute from his es-

tate in Old Lyme, Connecticut to his office and little apartment in Washington. He spent his time helping people and advising and supporting political leaders, institutions, and influential individuals to do the right thing. After a life of extraordinary accomplishment, Bob Kriebel could have easily chosen a life of quiet retirement. Instead, he remained a vigorous revolutionary for free peoples and free markets to the end.

A TRIBUTE TO THE FORT WAYNE, IN, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I think we all agree that it is helpful for us as a body to periodically turn our attention from our business here in Washington to our constituents back home. It is important that we remember what individual citizens encounter during day-to-day life, and most importantly, learn from them how they meet these challenges.

We are familiar with Habitat For Humanity and the wonderful work it has done in fulfilling housing needs internationally. I submit for the RECORD a list of some of the students and faculty from Bishop Dwenger, Northrop, Canterbury, North Side, South Side, Carroll, Paul Harding, Bishop Luers, and Snider High Schools in Fort Wayne, IN, who devoted 14 days to building homes in the Fort Wayne area during these students' spring break. For 12 hours a day, this group worked with professional contractors on this labor of love. Since 1987, the Fort Wayne Habitat for Humanity chapter has built 32 homes.

These individuals didn't assume a government program was going to address the problem, they recognized a need and worked for a solution. I am proud to represent these Hoosiers and share them with the Members of this body as an example of what the future generation looks like in Indiana.

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Dan Adams, Erica Aguirre, Ryan Aldin, Amanda Ballard, Stephanie Bianco, Gina Blum, Michelle Boicey, Joe Brownfield, Amanda Brudi, Josh Butler, Liz Christman, Audi Coonan, Angie Cutigni, Colleen Delaney, Aaron Dailey, Mary DeArmond, Erica Dray, Sarah Dumas, Natalie Florea, Jenny Furniss.

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Amber Halley, Ben Henry, Allison Higi, Stephanie Irvin, Corey Johnson, Margaret Kearney, Andria Kowal, Suzie Loeffler, Janelle Lynch, Katie Mavis, Michelle McCarthy, Molly McCarthy, Missy Mountz, Ann Nguyen, Kyle Panther, Beth Quinn, Sabra Snyder, Becky Stewart, Emily Stucky, Gina Tippmann, Sara Todoran, Victoria Truesdell, Rob Waikel, Heidi Winebrenner, Sean Luetzelschwab, Brian Veerkamp, Patrick Walz.

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STUDENTS

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Andy Blauvelt, Katie Shank, Gretchen Augsburg, Nick Klingler, David Bugert, Allie Wyss, Joshua Booker, Marie Magers, Katie Rorick, Lindsey Giant, Scott Hartman, Laura Cost, Mandy Sroufe, Carmen Butler, Katie Colone, Jeni Lebrato, Pam Smith.

Becky Kelty, Beth Newell, Jennifer Wynt, Matt Dowling, Marcus Lummier, Courtney Furrow, Monica Guerra, Erin Spireth, Rachel Sorg, Melissa Castleman, Kendra Shuler, Beverly Wedler, Kathy Blankman, Sarah Thomas, Amy Creager, Elizabeth Wright.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN ERICSSON

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention Officer Ken Ericsson. This week Mr. Ericsson is being honored by the California Highway Patrol with the 1997 Valley Community Legal Foundation's Outstanding Performance Award.

Officer Ericsson is a 19 year veteran of the force who has served his entire career in the West San Fernando Valley. Those that have had the privilege of working with Ken describe him as a dedicated, reliable, and enthusiastic officer. During his tenure as an officer he has developed a special interest in officer safety.

While off-duty Officer Ericsson has attended various officer safety courses ranging from firearm safety to officer survival training. These skills paved the way for him to become the West Valley Office's safety instructor. In that post, he has helped officers become more aware of and prepared for potential dangers.

In addition to helping fellow officers, Ken's farsightedness and safety training saved his own life in June 1996. While conducting a traffic stop on the shoulder of the Ventura Freeway, he was hit by an errant driver and thrown down the freeway's embankment. Had he not been standing in the proper position on the shoulder, as he had been trained, his injuries would have likely been fatal. Fortunately, Ken was able to return to work a short time later.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, Ken's family and friends, and the residents of the San Fernando Valley in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Officer Ken Ericsson.

DISASTER RELIEF—LITTLE ROCK, AR

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 1997

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of the tornado disaster in Arkansas, I would like to recognize the following 56 young men who gave of their personal money, time, and energy to assist with tornado relief. At the invitation of Gov. Mike Huckabee and Mayor Jim Dailey of Little Rock, AR, and their