

I have been fortunate to get to know Dick personally through his involvement with the Democratic Party. He has been a local and State delegate for Middletown's Democratic Town Committee, and he has also served on Middletown's Democratic Nominating Committee.

Despite the broad range of Dick Thompson's community service, the driving force behind all of his activities has been his concern for children. As someone who was orphaned at the age of 5, and who lived in an orphanage from ages 5 to 18, Dick is keenly aware of the needs of children and the positive impact that the surrounding community can have on a child's life. Dick sits on Middletown's Youth Services Commission, and he has taken a very active role in the lives of children through his service as a Deacon in his church. Dick has been a mentor for many children, and he has helped to instill these young people with a strong set of values that they will carry for a lifetime.

As Dick approaches his retirement, I am certain that he would consider his commitment to his family to be his greatest accomplishment. Dick has been happily married to his wife Betty for more than 30 years, and together they have raised two wonderful children. Following in the family tradition, their daughter, Claudette Renee, worked as an educator of children and adults. She worked for Head Start programs in both Boston and Atlanta, and she currently serves as a technical director for an international corporation in Maryland. Their son, Richard, graduated from law school in 1994, and he is working as an attorney in the Washington, D.C. area. There is no greater source of pride for a parent than to see his children succeed, and Dick should be pleased to know that his pride in his children is exceeded only by their admiration for their father.

Again, I want to congratulate Dick Thompson on his retirement, and I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.●

BROOKE COUNTY'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of a historical milestone in my state of West Virginia. In 1797, Brooke County, named after Gov. Robert Brooke of Virginia, was officially born. I take this opportunity to congratulate Brooke County on its bicentennial celebration.

Brooke County, located in the northern Panhandle of West Virginia, was created from part of Ohio County. The first session of the Brooke County court took place in the home of William Sharpe on May 23, 1797. Since that day, the residents of Brooke County have played a vital role in the development of West Virginia and the Nation. Its residents fought to protect our Nation in the War of 1812 and to keep it intact in the Civil War. They founded

Brooke Academy, the first educational institution on the Ohio River, south of Pittsburgh and west of the Alleghenies. However, they are not only sound in body and mind, but also in their souls, as the Christian Church, the Disciples of Christ, and the Church of Christ all have their early roots in 19th century Brooke County.

From the Duval Glass House, the first glasshouse in West Virginia, to the delicious Grimes golden apples, the residents of Brooke County have been steeped in a tradition of innovation. Their accomplishments are numerous and far-reaching. Part of the highly industrialized Ohio Valley, Brooke County has seen its innovation at work, as their industries have grown from early paper bag and marble manufacturers to a variety of steel industries including the most modern steel coating mill in the world.

On behalf of all citizens from the Mountain State, I would like to once again commend Brooke County on its 200th birthday and ask that my distinguished colleagues join with me in recognizing its rich history of accomplishments and innovation.

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, several weeks ago the ABC News "20/20" program aired a piece entitled "Your Tax Dollars at Work," a report about an airport construction project in northwest Arkansas. The report focused on allegations that the new airport was unnecessary and a waste of Federal tax dollars. As chairman of the Commerce Committee, I believed it was incumbent on me to followup on these allegations. I consequently requested that the General Accounting Office [GAO] review the project to ensure that the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA] followed the agency's established process to allocate discretionary airport funds to this project.

I want to state at the outset that the GAO has said that nothing illegal has taken place with respect to the project. In its review, however, shortcomings were discovered with the FAA's grant decisionmaking process that need to be addressed. The FAA's decision to provide grants for the new Northwest Arkansas Federal Government does not always do the best job in managing the taxpayers' money. In this case, the FAA could have better managed the airport grant program. The FAA decided to fund this airport, although the circumstances on which it made its decision changed. When this new airport is built and ready for use in 1998, the Federal Government's share will be \$70 million, almost two-thirds of the airport's total cost. It remains to be seen, however, if the airport will have an airline to serve it and if passengers will use it.

The FAA must ensure that the limited Federal funds available for developing the Nation's airports go to the most deserving projects. Maintaining and improving the Nation's airport system requires continual capital investment and the FAA provides Federal

grants to help with that development. As with other Federal programs, the airport grant program has taken its share of cuts as we work toward balancing the budget. This situation makes it even more important that the FAA does the best possible job in managing the program's approximately \$1.5 billion in funds.

From the beginning, there were problems with the FAA's decisionmaking process in awarding grants to NWARA. The FAA went outside its priority system, and relied in part on its subjective assessment in awarding the airport \$70 million over the 12-year period from 1991 through 2002. The FAA made its decision in 1990 and did not reconsider its position, although the circumstances on which the decision was based changed in the immediate following years. In making its decision, the FAA assumed that a nearby airport, Drake Field in Fayetteville, AR, would close and that all air service would move to NWARA. Drake Field, however, remains open and improvements to this airport have been made. The airlines are happy with the airport. Rather than closing, it appears that Drake Field will compete with NWARA. These airports are less than 30 miles apart. The FAA also said airlines were behind the construction of NWARA. To this day, however, no airlines have made a firm commitment to use this new airport.

The FAA also decided to provide grants to NWARA under a rarely used special mechanism called a letter of intent. This mechanism allows the FAA to schedule grant payments in future years beyond the program's authorization period. Of the tens of thousands of grants the FAA has awarded, only about 50 letters of intent have been issued and only two—one of which went to NWARA—have been issued in the last 4 years. The Congress established letters of intent only to fund projects that significantly enhance the capacity of the national airport system. The FAA, however, awarded the letter of intent to NWARA without having defined what constitutes a significant capacity enhancement for small airports like NWARA. The agency also used a cost-benefit analysis to justify the letter of intent, analysis that was not redone even though it was not clear that certain assumptions the agency made would hold, such as the closing of Drake Field.

The sloppiness of the FAA's decisionmaking process on this project has been disappointing, although legal. The GAO and other observers agree that it would be a waste of investments already made to withhold Federal funding now. NWARA has received about 40 percent of its total \$70 million in grant funding, and construction of the airport is under way. The airport's runways will be completed by the end of 1997 and its terminal soon thereafter.

Nevertheless, the review of this project has been a valuable exercise. We must be certain that scarce Federal

resources are allocated to their highest and best uses. The FAA must be able to demonstrate compelling reasons for using subjective assessments to place projects on the priority list for Federal funding. The GAO will soon report to the FAA on how it can tighten up its grant award process, and better adhere to the criteria that the agency has laid out for itself. In the meantime, the Commerce Committee will continue to oversee the FAA's management of its grant program.●

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, since 1963 when President Kennedy began this important tradition, May has been designated "Older Americans Month," a time set aside each year for our country to honor senior citizens for their many accomplishments and contributions to our Nation.

Those of us who have worked diligently in the U.S. Senate to ensure that older Americans are able to live in dignity and independence during their retirement years, look forward to this opportunity to pause and reflect on the contributions of those individuals who have played such a major role in the shaping of our great Nation. We honor them for their hard work and the countless sacrifices they have made throughout their lifetimes, and look forward to their continued contributions to our country's welfare.

Today's senior citizens have witnessed more technological advances than any other generation in our Nation's history. Seniors today have lived through economic depressions and recessions, times of war and peace, and incredible advancements in the fields of science, medicine, transportation and communications. It is imperative that we address the needs of these Americans who have devoted so much of their life experience and achievement to the betterment of our society. The celebration of Older Americans Month provides us with the opportunity to highlight the importance of reauthorizing the Older Americans Act. As a vigorous and consistent supporter of measures to benefit senior citizens, I am pleased to be a past cosponsor and strong supporter of this important legislation. First enacted in 1965, the Older Americans Act has evolved from its original mandate to promote independent living among those older citizens with the greatest social and economic need into today's dynamic network of community and home-based services so critical to many of our Nation's seniors.

The need for such legislation becomes especially apparent in light of current demographic trends. Senior citizens today comprise more than 12 percent of the country's population. Baby boomers, who represented one-third of all Americans in 1994, will enter the 65-years-and-older category over the next 13-34 years, substantially increasing this segment of our popu-

lation. In my own State of Maryland, more than 768,400 individuals are over the age of 60, representing 15 percent of Maryland's total population. By the year 2020, that percentage is expected to increase to just over 23 percent. These demographic transformations pose significant challenges and opportunities and the Older Americans Act provides an excellent framework from which to address these challenges as we move into the next century. It is not enough to just honor our senior citizens. We must continue to enact meaningful legislation which will help meet the needs of this valuable and constantly expanding segment of our society.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Caregiving: Compassion in Action." In my view, it is most appropriate that—as the percentage of the population over age 65 continues to grow—we take this opportunity to focus on how we, as a society, will care for our seniors. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us all to be prepared to both understand and address the needs of our seniors as they become an increasingly larger segment of American society. Many of us are already addressing this serious need. The Administration on Aging estimates that each day, as many as five million senior citizens in the United States are recipients of care from more than 22 million informal caregivers. As programs such as Medicare and Medicaid continue to feel the pressures of the current Federal budget process, the noble and compassionate work of these dedicated individuals is particularly critical.

Mr. President, I have always believed strongly in the potential of this significant and growing population to contribute to the development of policies that effect all Americans. Our Nation's seniors are an ever-growing resource that deserves our attention, our gratitude, and our heart-felt respect. As observance of Older American Month comes to a close, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate in implementing public policies which affirm the contributions of older Americans to our society and ensure that they continue to thrive with dignity.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO WHEAT MONTANA FARMS AND BAKERY ON MONTANA SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Dean Folkvord of Wheat Montana Farms and Bakery of Three Forks on winning the Small Business Person of the Year Award. It is a real pleasure to recognize Dean and his family for his dedication and hard work.

There is a fierce competition in Montana for Small Business Person of the Year since 98 percent of our businesses are classified as small, and that makes Dean's accomplishments special. I was amazed when I learned of it, but Wheat

Montana mills more wheat in a year than is grown in Montana. It takes a truly successful operation to handle that much wheat.

Mr. President, I am proud to say we have many small business success stories like Wheat Montana, and many folks like Dean keeping our economy growing and putting Montanans to work. There were two close runners-up for this award this year, and many other small businesses were awarded in other categories. Together, they are the engine that keeps Montana running.

Congratulations again to Dean Folkvord and the Wheat Montana family, and to Montana's entire small business community for all you do.●

HONORING THE MANITOWOC WORLD WAR II SUBMARINE EFFORT

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, recently, the distinguished Senior Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. KOHL] and I, along with our colleague from the House of Representatives, Representative THOMAS PETRI, wrote to the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable John H. Dalton, indicating our strong support for the proposal to name the third *Seawolf* class submarine the *Manitowoc*, recognizing the unique contribution by the city of Manitowoc, WI, to the development of U.S. submarine superiority in World War II.

The Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co. produced 28 submarines during World War II—roughly ten percent of America's submarine fleet during that war. The 25 Manitowoc-built submarines in the Pacific theater sank 132 enemy ships.

Prior to World War II, the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co. had never produced submarines. As America entered the war, and the Nation committed its resources and energies to the effort, this shipbuilding company took on the task of retooling, retraining its employees, and restructuring its facilities to produce high-quality submarines at a wartime pace. They completed production of the submarines 19 months ahead of schedule and \$1.8 million under budget. In all, some 7,000 people were employed at the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co. at the height of World War II production, many working numerous nonstop shifts. Many also came from other cities and towns and the Manitowoc community opened up its arms to support these workers, giving them a home-away from home, which helped to maintain the morale of these essential workers in the war effort.

I am pleased to note that the Wisconsin State Senate has just passed a measure urging the Navy to name the new submarine the *Manitowoc*. Naming the new sub the *Manitowoc* would honor those who served on the Manitowoc-built subs, those individuals who worked 24 hours a day to build them, and the city which extended its support to the Herculean production effort. It would be a fitting tribute.●