

the scientific experiments he was scheduled to complete, including experiments on materials which may be used in future spacecraft, and tests on how living in space affected his immune system. He also brought his experiences home to Earth by posting letters to his son, John, on NASA's World Wide Web page, as well as by participating in the *Mir* international amateur Radio experiment. Using this new technology, Jerry linked up with a fifth grade class in Charlevoix, MI. In one of his messages to his son, Jerry explained one facet of life in space: "When running on the treadmill, we sweat. From our skin, the moisture evaporates in order to cool our bodies (By the way—those doggies you are so fascinated with use their tongues, panting, to 'sweat' and regulate their temperature). The sweat evaporates into the air. This water, along with all the other humidity in the air is condensed on cold coils (just like the outside of your cold bottle getting wet on a hot, humid day) and collected. Biocide is added, the condensate boiled, and we use it to drink or rehydrate our freeze-dried foods. Delicious.

We have all felt the joy which comes with returning home from a long trip, but there are few people alive who truly know the feeling Jerry Linenger will have after returning from 5 months orbiting the Earth. Jerry's wife, Kathryn, and young son, John, eagerly anticipate his return for many reasons, not the least of which is the fact that Kathryn is due to give birth to their second child in early June. It appears that Jerry will make it home in time.

I would like to express my deepest admiration for the accomplishments of Jerry Linenger. We can all benefit from his example of courage, perseverance and professionalism. Jerry has said that upon his return to Earth, he hopes to spend time with his family and dreams of "going up to Northern Michigan and finding an old timer that knows how to fish and doesn't like talking a lot . . . just sitting down by the stream and breathing fresh air in and the fresh water." I, for one, hope he gets that chance. I know my colleagues join me in welcoming Jerry Linenger back to Earth, and in congratulating him on a mission heroically accomplished.

REGARDING THE DEDICATION OF THE JACK SWIGERT MEMORIAL

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I take this opportunity to call my colleagues' attention to a historic event which occurred today in Statuary Hall, just down the hall from this chamber—the unveiling of Colorado's statue of Jack Swigert. I commend and applaud the efforts of all those Coloradans who helped to bring the Jack Swigert statue to Washington and Statuary Hall.

The inclusion of this statue would not be possible without the efforts of

many Coloradans, who I would like to thank for their tireless efforts.

Among the individuals who worked on this project, the members of the Jack Swigert Memorial Commission should be mentioned for their dedication. Holly Coors, Marleen Fish, Don Friedman, Dennis Gallagher, Virginia Swigert, and Carl Williams all worked tirelessly under the chairmanship of Hal Shroyer. Has has spent 10 years on this project, and I am happy that he can see his goal achieved today.

The Arapahoe County Republican Men's Club also stands out for its large contribution. Members lobbied the State legislature and donated substantial amounts of time and money in an effort to commission the statue.

Of equal importance to the effort was Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 11229. It was commissioned solely for the purpose of persuading the State legislature to create the statue of Mr. Swigert and put the initiative on the ballot. Mr. Swigert was a lifelong member of VFW Post No. 1, which is the oldest VFW in the Nation founded after the Spanish-American War.

Due to the dedicated efforts of these individuals and the many others involved in this project, Jack Swigert will be remembered and honored as a true American hero with this statue we dedicate to him today. And, his statue will represent Colorado with honor and distinction here in the U.S. Capitol for generations to come.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

OUTSTANDING NM SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor New Mexico's outstanding small businesses and small business advocates as selected by the U.S. Small Business Administration. I will not be able to attend the awards luncheon but I do want to recognize the significant accomplishments of these New Mexican entrepreneurs.

NEW MEXICO SMALL BUSINESS PERSONS OF THE YEAR

The top SBA award this year goes to Mary Jean and Andrew Christiansen, owners of Elite Laundry Co. in Gallup, NM, who were selected as New Mexico Small Business Persons of the Year. The Christensen's are among the 53 top small businesses owners in the Nation who will be honored by the SBA in Washington, DC, later this year.

The Christiansens have created more than 70 jobs in a region of New Mexico that has one of the highest poverty rates in the nation. This family owned small business is also providing profit-sharing and retirement benefits, in a state where 71 percent of private sector employees have no pensions.

1997 EXPORTER OF THE YEAR

New Mexico recently received word from the Commerce Department that it has seen a 112 percent growth in exports, including a remarkable 256-per-

cent increase in trade with Asia. These achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and savvy of business-owners such as Kimberly de Castro, the 1997 New Mexico Exporter of the Year.

Ms. de Castro is the owner of Wildflower International Ltd., in Santa Fe, which provides brokering services to foreign buyers. Based on buyers' initial inquiries, Wildflower International researches the marketplace and provides buyers with options that meet their requirements. The trade company currently exports to China, Israel, Italy and Egypt and is actively negotiating sales in Taiwan and several other Asian countries.

1997 ADVOCATE AWARD WINNERS

Small business owners and entrepreneurs need champions who believe in what they're doing and give them advice, encouragement and assistance.

Michael G. Murphy, the assistant business editor for the Albuquerque Journal, is the 1997 New Mexico Media Advocate of the Year and also the 1997 Region VI Media Advocate of the Year. Previously the editor of the Albuquerque Business Times, Mr. Murphy has reported on issues and initiatives that have been informative and useful to the small business community as well as governmental officials.

The New Mexico Women in Business Advocate of the Year is Jennifer A. Craig, regional manager of the Women's Economic Self Sufficiency Team Office in Las Cruces. WESST Corp. is a nonprofit business and technical assistance organization that focuses on women and minority entrepreneurs. Since the Las Cruces office opened in 1995, more than 250 women have received assistance and more than 50 have started or developed their own businesses.

Teresa O. Molina, a vice president of 1st New Mexico Bank in Deming, has been selected as the New Mexico Financial Services Advocate. Ms. Molina is active in SBA lending and through her efforts, 1st New Mexico Bank awarded the first SBA 504 loan in my home State.

The 1997 New Mexico Minority Small Business Advocate is Anna Muller, the owner of NEDA Business Consultants in Albuquerque. Ms. Muller was a national leader in the effort to preserve and improve the SBA 8(a) Minority Enterprise Development program.

1997 SUBCONTRACTOR AND CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

Dennis A. Reasner, president of Albuquerque's Darco Products, Inc., is the 1997 Region VI Subcontractor of the Year. Armando De La Paz, president and CEO of Vista Technologies, Inc., in Albuquerque is the 1997 Region VI Prime Contractor of the Year.

Small businesses are the engine of New Mexico's—and the Nation's—economic growth. I commend these small business owners and advocates for their desire and commitment to create new jobs and new economic opportunities in

New Mexico. We must raise the standard of living in my State and one concrete way to accomplish this is by fostering the development of small businesses that provide good wages and good benefits for their employees.

ARLINGTON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in early March of this year I received a letter from Charles R. Mariott, of Louisville, Tennessee, in which he enclosed a stirring poem, written by his wife Ruth and dedicated to Arlington Cemetery. The poem shows great talent and I want to bring it to the attention of my colleagues and to the audience of listeners throughout the country as we approach the Memorial Day weekend. It is a poem that exudes a spirit of patriotism which, I believe, will inspire all freedom loving Americans everywhere.

ARLINGTON (By Ruth Mariott) FIRST CANTO

I saw his name engraved in granite
in the shadow of the ivy covered oak—
a long time tenant in that sacred grove
The wind moves now and then through barren branches
A bird alights sometimes, as if by chance,
it chirps—and then flies on
All else is mute . . .
The marble tomb nearby where night and day
the sentries stand with steadfast vigilance
it bears no name.
During the changing of the guards—
at preset daytime hours—
upon command the sentries spring to life
and to action.
They walk with slow, precisely measured steps
clicking their heels at certain intervals
toeing the line invisible
across expanse of marbled ground
presenting arms and slapping rifle
Flawless in execution and procedures
flawless in bearing and attire
one is the perfect mirror of the other
down to the last detail: just so, no more, no less
Their buckles shine. The honor badge is gleaming
They are the heroes of the Old Guard Regiment
Instant obedience and discipline
thus manifest, are but reflections
of inner core of strength, esprit and gallantry
submerging self for Cause and Greater Good,
(attained by very few)
The changing of the guard has been accomplished
The last command has been obeyed
The guard on duty now enters his station
stands at attention once again over the tomb
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

SECOND CANTO

The people come from far, here to these hallowed hills to witness and be cast in ceremony. They stand in silence and they stare with awe,
They think their solemn thoughts with somber eyes,
Transported by the mesmerizing ritual
into the Presence of a Greater Truth and Order
and brushed by gentle wings of Destiny,

they seem to hear faint echoes stirring from the vault of sky and time
evoking visions in their souls and puzzling memories of what? from where?

Thus paying tribute to the One Unknown
(and with him to the many like him
whose burial mounds and crosses are stretching far below The Tomb)
they sense that he who sacrificed his life
decades ago—nay centuries—was now exalted.
(and with him all the many like him)
exalting Gallantry and Loyalty, Honor and Valor.

Spectators in this Shifting scene on patriotic stage the people leave reluctantly, the Nation's Shrine still pondering.
They wander down the soddy path
They speak in muffled tones, shuffling their feet before they exit slowly through the Outer Arch.

THIRD CANTO

I saw his name engraved in granite
enlaced with ivy from the nearby tree
I plucked a sprig of living ivy
and took it home with me
Planted in a pot of earth
upon my window sill
the climbing vine has taken root
and it is greening still
Your body may be buried
you may be long since gone
but cherished memories of you
and your name live on.
I stepped out of my cabin door
and looked up at the sky
I saw a golden eagle soar
I heard the eagle cry.
The eagle soared into the sun and soon was lost from view
The spirit of the Unknown One and you.

FOURTH CANTO

Down through the corridor of Time
the eagle sounds its piercing cry
keening over all the fields
where the fallen warriors lie.
Their tattered uniforms and bones
have mouldered in their narrow grave
White crosses bear a name and date
so young—and all so brave.
Through countless wars in global spots
they fought in air, on land and sea
They paid the price, They gave their life
so others could be free.
They fought chaotic battles
to victory or defeat
and now they lie in long, long rows
orderly and neat . . .
A bugle in the sunset's glow
is sounding Taps from far away
Soon now the winds of night will blow
And tomorrow is another day.

EPILOGUE

The Stars and Stripes wave on the ridge
High above Arlington Bridge
in between are stretched the grounds
with all its heroes earthen mounds.
From up on high the spirits chide
Forever shall our flag abide
in Freedom—Honor—Valor!

RURAL HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I introduced S. 817, legislation designed to maintain rural communities' access to hospital care.

Today many rural Americans live in fear that they may lose access to local and regional hospital care. In these rural areas, where serious accidents,

often related to farm equipment, are a constant threat. Access to an emergency care hospital within 35 miles can mean the difference between life and death. The ability to be referred to a major regional hospital for more specialized care can be of like importance. Congress must recognize the special needs of rural America and work to meet them. This bill is a step in the right direction.

The Rural Health Care Protection Act of 1997 focuses on providing support to Sole Community Hospitals and Rural Referral Centers. Sole Community Hospitals [SCH's] are hospitals located at least 35 miles from other hospitals and are often the sole source of emergency care or inpatient services in their areas. There are currently 728 SCH's in 46 States. There are 11 in my home State of Iowa. Rural Referral Centers [RRC's] are relatively large and specialized rural hospitals which receive referrals from community hospitals throughout a region. There are currently 142 RRC's in 39 states, including five in Iowa.

This legislation contains four proposals designed to help keep these care centers operating. First, the act would give SCH's the option of choosing an updated fiscal year 1994-95 base year for Medicare funding instead of the outdated base years which they must currently use. Second, the act would permanently grandfather as an RRC any hospital that has previously qualified as an RRC. Third, the act would exempt the RRC's from the statewide rural wage index threshold for geographic reclassification. Finally, the bill would allow rural hospitals that meet the reclassification criteria to be reclassified as urban hospitals for purposes of disproportionate share hospital [DSH] payment adjustments.

This bill would help ensure that rural Americans maintain access to these essential care centers. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in support of this measure.

MEASURE RETURNED TO CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate Concurrent Resolution 27 be placed back on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF PUBLICATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 90 submitted earlier today by Senators BYRD, COVERDELL and CLELAND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.