

University of Alaska Land grant bill, to help the University gain the economic means to support such important endeavors. But more on that in the future, following committee review of the legislation, likely this fall.

I also want to thank and publicly recognize the work of Ronald Spatz, the executive editor and founding editor of the review for all of his efforts on its behalf. Mr. Spatz, currently professor and chair of the University of Alaska Anchorage's Department of Creative Writing and Literary Arts and director of UAA's honors program, has been a member of the faculty since 1980. A professor, who has been recognized with commendations for "Outstanding Leadership" by the University's Board of Regents and the President of the statewide system, Mr. Spatz is the former chair of the University of Alaska Statewide Assembly, president of the UAA Assembly and the vice president of the Faculty Senate. He is the winner of two university-wide teaching awards: The Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award presented by the UAA Alumni Association.

Mr. Spatz, a film maker and writer, besides editor, has produced, directed, photographed and edited a range of short subject and expressionist documentary films for children and adults. Several of the films are in national distribution; his film, "For the Love of Ben," was broadcast nationally on public television and his stories and articles have appeared in a host of publications. He has received a total of more than 35 individual and project grants for his works.

For the future, due to a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which has provided three major awards (grants) to the publication, AQR this fall will be issuing a special anthology. "Intimate Voice, Ordinary Lives: Stories of Fact and Fiction."

Mr. President, Alaska, in fact all of America, is far richer artistically because of the review's presence over the past 15 years. It truly is a window for Americans to view society in Alaska at the close of the 20th century, and a worthy stage for the serious works of all writers. I commend it and its contributors for its many achievements, and I know all members of the U.S. Senate join me in wishing it continued literary success.●

WOMEN'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

●Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Women's Business Development Center for the vital role it has played in accelerating women's business ownership and strengthening the impact that women have made on our economy.

The Women's Business Development Center is a nationally-recognized not-for-profit center devoted to providing services and programs that support and

increase women's business ownership. Founded in 1986, more than 30,000 business owners in six States, including my home State of Illinois, have benefited from the program. The services range from counseling to workshops to entrepreneurial training.

Today, thanks to efforts by organizations such as the Women's Business Development Center, there are over 7.7 million women-owned businesses in the United States, generating \$2.3 trillion in sales. Women business owners now employ one in every four U.S. company workers. There is no doubt that women in business today are playing a prominent role in stimulating economic growth both at home and abroad.

On September 12 of this year the Women's Business Development Center will celebrate its 11th anniversary. As the Center moves into its second decade of service to women business owners, I am proud to recognize its impressive achievements.●

ARMY SGT. KELLY S. YARDE

●Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Army Sgt. Kelly S. Yarde, who hails from Evansville. Sergeant Yarde, who is currently serving in Bosnia with Operation Joint Guard, was moved by the sadness he saw in the faces of Bosnia's children each time he went out on patrol. In response, he appealed to the people of his hometown and surrounding areas, asking for donations of school supplies, toys and sporting goods that he could give to these children.

Local media helped to publicize Sergeant Yarde's plea, and the community responded in magnificent fashion. Hundreds of donations have already poured in, and are continuing to arrive at collection bins set up at local businesses. Some of the gifts have already been shipped to Bosnia, and Sergeant Yarde has, on his own time, taken them to orphanages and refugee centers.

Americans are, by their nature, very generous people. The fact that we can not solve every problem in the world should not prevent us from solving at least some of them. I am pleased and proud that Sergeant Yarde had the foresight to identify a problem that he could help to solve, and had the faith in his community to ask for help in solving it. I am equally pleased that the people of Evansville and the surrounding area responded so generously to Sergeant Yarde's plea on behalf of the children of Bosnia.●

RECOGNITION OF SOUTH DAKOTA SOYBEAN GROWERS ON THE DE- VELOPMENT OF SOYGOLD

●Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important achievements of SD soybean growers in creating new uses for their agricultural products.

Freeman Coop Oil/Fertilizer in Freeman, SD, recently became the first retail marketer of petroleum to offer

SoyGold, a new lubricity additive in premium diesel fuel. SoyGold is a low blend of soybean methyl esters manufactured from 100 percent soybean oil for both on-farm and commercial use. The additive was developed with the use of check-off dollars, which allow farmers to work together to develop new uses for their products. The soybean growers have also worked to test soydiesel for mass transit bus systems, underground mining, and other innovative possibilities.

SoyGold was developed by Ag Processors, Inc. in Omaha, NE, and will be promoted and marketed throughout seven Midwestern States initially. Bill Pape, the general manager of Freeman Coop Oil/Fertilizer, is the first to offer the product to his customers. Dennis Hardy, the chairman of the South Dakota Soybean Council, worked hard to bring this new product to the market. All of these individuals, and many more, deserve credit for their efforts to make SoyGold a reality.

SoyGold is an outstanding example of the way that South Dakota's soybean farmers and their various associations can cooperate and communicate to create an exciting new product which will build demand for soybeans. Such products demonstrate the way that farmers are adapting to the changing agricultural marketplace, and I congratulate them on their foresight, their enthusiasm, and, of course, their accomplishment. Moreover, SoyGold is not only good for South Dakota farmers, but it also benefits us all by reducing harmful emissions.

Mr. President, there are few industries working as hard to create new products and new markets as agriculture. The South Dakota soybean growers whose efforts created SoyGold are to be commended, and I ask you to join me in congratulating them on their success.●

DR. EUGENE SHOEMAKER

●Mr. McCain. Mr. President, I would like to honor the passing of one of the world's most renowned scientists. Eugene Shoemaker and his wife Carolyn, both residents of Flagstaff, AZ, were involved in a tragic car accident in Central Australia on July 18, 1997. Gene was fatally injured; Carolyn survived the accident sustaining broken ribs, a broken wrist and a dislocated shoulder. They were in the field pursuing their lifelong passion of geologic studies to help understand impact craters.

"Gene" is credited with having almost single-handedly created planetary science as a discipline distinct from astronomy. He brought together and applied geologic principles to the mapping of planets, which resulted in more than three decades of discoveries about the planets and asteroids of our Solar System. He was the recipient of the 1992 National Medal of Science, the most prestigious scientific honor bestowed by the President of the United States, then George Bush.

As a resident of Flagstaff, AZ, Gene invented the Branch of Astrogeology within the U.S. Geological Survey and established the Field Center in Flagstaff in 1965. After retiring from the USGS in 1993, he joined Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff. The culmination of his work came in 1993 when Gene was recognized worldwide for discovering, with his wife Carolyn and colleague David Levy, a comet near Jupiter. Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 was broken up by tidal forces from Jupiter, and fragments collided with the planet in July 1994.

Gene and his wife, Carolyn, a planetary astronomer, were a close devout couple. Their work together was recently captured in a 1997 National Geographic documentary "Asteroids: Deadly Impact." As a unique team, they initiated the Palomar Planet-crossing Asteroid Survey in 1973, and the Palomar Asteroid and Comet Survey in 1983. They were the leading discoverers of comets in this century.

Dr. Edward Bowell, an astronomer at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, AZ, said: "Gene practically single-handedly 'invented' our knowledge of the impacts of comets and asteroids on Earth and in the solar system in general. He was a renaissance man, having one of the broadest grasps of any scientist I know, working as a geologist, training to be an astronaut, dating the surfaces of the Moon and other satellites, and helping, with his wife Carolyn, discover more interesting comets and asteroids than any other person. I am stunned to think of the store of unique knowledge that has perished with him. As a scientific colleague and friend, his guidance was unerring and will be irreplaceable."

As Senator from the State of Arizona and chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I would like to express my sorrow on the loss of this great man and scientist. His contributions to the field of science are duly noted by myself and others in the science community.●

ANNIE CAMPBELL, A 79-YEAR-OLD NURSE VOLUNTEER FOR MANNA MEAL

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to praise a citizen of West Virginia, Annie Campbell. Annie has recently received the J.C. Penney Golden Rule award for her outstanding volunteer community service.

Annie has been volunteering her time for Manna Meal for the past 20 years, and has seen it expand considerably. Even though she is nearing 80 years old, Annie pursues her service with confidence and generosity. She drives to pick up food at local businesses and hospitals and sometimes helps to serve the food to the people who come to Manna Meal. She loves to give a helping hand to those in need. She says, "You feel good to know you've done something to alleviate hunger."

Annie's life is built around helping people. She is a registered nurse at the Charleston Area Medical Center's General Division, and a leader in her church, where she is the secretary, a circle leader, on the mission committee, and on the kitchen committee. Annie is a committed woman to her community.

Manna Meal provides food for the hungry. Annie says, "A lot of people who come to Manna Meal are not food hungry, they are companionship hungry." She helps with both. She provides food and friendship for those who attend the meals. Manna Meal is run by volunteers and donations. Annie has watched Manna Meal expand from a tiny soup kitchen serving 40 to large service providing for 300.

Volunteer service is vital to West Virginia and America because it is done on a personal and natural level. It is comforting to hear that there are people who willingly dedicate their lives to helping those in need. West Virginia is extremely lucky to have Annie in the State, and I am proud to make this statement regarding her award today.

The J.C. Penney Golden Rule award had several other recipients in different categories. The other local winners included Sue Meadows, Ernest Matthew Stone, and the Volunteers of PRO-KIDS. They are now going to step up to the National Golden Rule Awards, and are eligible for a \$10,000 donation to their organization. All of these volunteers need to be congratulated for their effort and generosity, and I wish them luck in the next round of competition.●

COSPONSORSHIP OF AMENDMENT 885 TO S. 955

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my support as a cosponsor to Amendment 885 to S. 955, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. This amendment restores the \$2.1 billion earmark for assistance to Egypt.

Ever since the signing of the Camp David Accords, Egypt has been a key ally of the United States in the Middle East. The first Arab country to make peace with Israel, Egypt has been a steadfast leader and supporter of peace in the Middle East. Indeed, I feel it is safe to say that it is because Egypt signed the peace agreement with Israel in 1979 that there has not been an Arab-Israeli War since. What is more, since 1979 both Israel and Egypt have experienced significant economic growth. Peace between these two nations has brought success and prosperity that has benefitted the entire region.

The chairman of the Subcommittee has stated his reasons for not including the earmark to Egypt in the Foreign Operations bill in either the subcommittee nor committee. He believed the relationship between Egypt and the United States has suffered over the past year. Thus, the message he wished

to send to Egypt was clear disappointment with Egypt's actions and policies in connection with the stalled peace process in the Middle East.

I do not believe, however, that it is either productive or responsible to send such a message at this delicate time in the Middle East peace process. The peace process is at its most critical stage. Along with the United States, Egypt is a key player in convincing parties to that process to come back to the negotiating table. Moreover, Egypt has played a key role in securing agreements reached between Israel and Jordan and the Palestinians. It is in the best interest of the United States to keep our key allies in the Middle East engaged in a process needed to produce a just and lasting peace—a goal which will benefit America's strategic, economic and political interests.

Equally important, Egypt is a strategic ally of the United States irrespective of the peace process. We all remember how Egypt provided the leadership needed to form the American/Arab coalition that liberated Kuwait. No other country in the Arab World could have done that. Moreover, more than 35,000 Egyptian soldiers fought alongside our troops. Without access to the Suez Canal and to Egyptian airspace and facilities, supporting our troops in the Gulf would have been significantly more difficult and much more costly.

Egypt's strategic importance should not be underestimated. With the Suez Canal and its location on both the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, Egypt is the gateway to Africa, the Near East and Southwest Asia. Our strategic interests in all three regions are furthered significantly by Egypt's willing cooperation.

Egypt's cooperation with our military has a global impact. As our strategic ally, Egypt routinely cooperates with our military in providing hundreds of overflight and transit rights for U.S. military logistics aircraft supporting American forces in the region. Our naval vessels travel through the Suez Canal—a practice critical to our ability to protect U.S. vital interests in the region. Without the ability to use the Suez routinely, an advantage we now enjoy, our Navy's operating costs and personnel operating requirements would soon rise to unsustainable levels.

I agree with the Chairman of the Subcommittee that foreign aid is not an entitlement. It is my sincere hope that one day in the near future Egypt will find that U.S. aid is not necessary. Signs of this are already apparent within Egypt's booming economy and burgeoning private sector. We in the United States should encourage this path of independence, growing capitalism and economic reform. But until Egypt becomes economically self-sufficient, we should continue to live up to our promises as dictated in the Camp David Accords. Any future reduction of assistance should follow consultations