

fortunate enough to have organizations like the Southern Appalachian Labor School, Fayette Environmentally Safe Housing, and Americorps volunteers to repair and remodel homes for low income families. With project partners and community support, West Virginia families may live in a safe, clean environment.

Another Americorps program, Project HEALTH [Health Education Associates Learning to Teach Health], encourages healthy diets and lifestyles while increasing public awareness on health issues. Through a learn and serve america higher education grant, Project HEALTH and Americorps volunteers have a profound impact on rural communities. As a result of their hard work, communities have reduced illnesses and injuries, increased immunizations for children, improved the diets for high risk individuals, and reduced the number of low birth weight babies.

While working class families struggle to find adequate child care and affordable health insurance, the cost of living rises. Parents must provide more than the basic needs for their families. However, with the aid of the Regional Family Resource Network and Americorps, these services become a reality. Immunizations, developmental screening, and after school services are available to families in Kanawha, Clay, and Boone counties in West Virginia. Preventive medicine, medical attention, and a safe environment for children after school are vital to raising healthy children.

To help victims of domestic violence, the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides food and shelter, legal assistance, support, and counseling. With the assistance of Americorps volunteers, there are programs in Beckley, Charleston, Elkins, Huntington, Keyser, Lewisburg, Morgantown, Sutton, Welch, Wheeling, and Williamson. Emergency hot lines, resources, and counseling services are offered by the coalition also. Educating women about the warning signals and teaching them ways to avoid violent situations can prevent abusive behavior and possibly death. In West Virginia, there are twelve shelters providing services to victims.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the volunteers and employees who dedicate their lives to public service, and I'd like to thank the community for their support and involvement in Americorps projects. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated by all. With your help, our state has been able to improve the quality of life for West Virginians and to increase the opportunities for them in the future.●

RETIREMENT OF DR. RICHARD LESHER FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

• Mr. BROWNBACH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Richard Lesher the retiring president of the

U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Lesher, who was chosen as president of the Chamber in 1975 as served the Chamber with both pride and dignity for over 21 years. His service to the business community will be remembered.

During his tenure, Dr. Lesher helped the Chamber's membership to grow to include 215,000 business members, 3,000 local chambers of commerce and 1,200 trade and professional organizations. His work on behalf of the business community in promoting common sense reforms and tax cuts has benefitted the entire country.

Dr. Lesher has served the business community with true integrity.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Dr. Lesher great success in his future endeavors. I know that he will continue to contribute his time and talent to his fellow man even in his retirement.●

SONY FEST '97

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to commend the Sony Technology Center as it celebrates 25 years of success and partnership in San Diego.

In honor of this milestone, Sony is holding a four-day gala, Sony Fest '97. Scheduled events include the grand opening of the Technology Center's newest building (nicknamed "genesis"), a keynote address by Sony Corporation President Nobuyuki Idei, business and technical symposiums, even carnival activities for children and families. Sony Fest '97 promises to be quite a party!

Sony began in San Diego by constructing a color television assembly plant in 1972, making it the first Japanese electronics company to establish television production in the United States. Sony has been going full steam ahead in San Diego ever since. Today, 25 million television picture tubes, 14 million "Made in San Diego" televisions, and almost \$500 million in capital investments later, Sony continues to explore new horizons. It now manufactures a variety of electronic products from its trademark Trinitron televisions to computer picture tubes and peripherals. In fact, Sony San Diego is currently the only U.S. manufacturer of Computer cathode ray tubes or CRTs.

Although an international company, Sony takes pride in its efforts to respond to local and national concerns. Where possible, Sony buys and sells domestically, if not locally. For example, Sony estimates that 90 percent of the materials used in its television picture tubes come from domestic sources, and that 80 percent of finished Trinitron sets manufactured in North America are sold in the U.S. Sony San Diego is also very active in the community and in the fight for more environmentally friendly business practices.

I think all in San Diego would agree: Sony is a great neighbor. For 25 years its presence has helped make San

Diego a better place to live, work and conduct business. It is a pleasure to come to the Senate today and wish all involved a very enjoyable Sony Fest '97.●

TRIBUTE TO OUTSTANDING SENATE STAFFER BYRA KITE

• Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his time, efforts and immeasurable talents to Wyoming politics. I am speaking of Byra Kite, whom I have known and respected for many years, and have had the pleasure of having as a member of my staff since I joined the Senate in 1994.

Byra is retiring, and I would like to take this time to publicly thank him for all his hard work. He has served Wyoming well, and I am not alone in saying he is one of our State's finest sons.

In 1965, Byra came to the Cowboy State from California to play football for the University of Wyoming. During that time, he was an All-Conference and All-American member of three conference champion teams, including the undefeated 1967 Cowboy team that played in the Sugar Bowl. Later this year, that team will be inducted into the University of Wyoming Hall of Fame. Following graduation he decided to stay in Wyoming. In Laramie he found his home, and his passion for politics.

He made his first foray into the national political arena in 1976 when he managed Malcolm Wallop's initial run for the Senate. Malcolm won, defeating a three term incumbent senator, and Byra began a 20 year career of helping Wyoming Republicans shape their campaigns and win elections. His tireless work, dedication and vision broke new ground in terms of modern campaigning.

In 1977 Byra began 18 years of service as Senator Wallop's State Director. During that time he helped hundreds of Wyoming folks in their dealings with the federal government. Following Malcolm's retirement, Byra joined our staff, and continued his outstanding brand of public service to Wyoming people. He, and his talents, will truly be missed.

And so, Mr. President, I am joined by Senators Wallop, Simpson, ENZI and Representative BARBARA CUBIN—all of whom have been touched by Byra's hard work and dedication—in saying not only thank you, but good luck to a trusted advisor and friend.●

TRIBUTE TO WALT DIBBLE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, for most Americans, mornings are a time of routines. People like to eat the same thing for breakfast, drink their coffee with just the right amount of cream and sugar, and duck out the door at the same time every day. Over the past 40 years, a central part of the morning routine for thousands of Connecticut

residents has been the voice of Walt Dibble reading the news over the radio. During this time of the day where so many people are rushing around, Walt Dibble's calm presence served as a soothing influence that made each morning more pleasant. Sadly, the mornings in Connecticut will never be the same, as Mr. Walt Dibble died last week at the age of 65.

A lifelong Connecticut resident, Walt Dibble was loved by all of the people in the state who listened to him. It didn't matter if they worked as a school teacher in Manchester, in the Inventory Control Division of Pratt & Whitney, or as a financial analyst in Hartford, all of Walt Dibble's listeners felt that he was a man whom they could relate to and whom they could trust.

Walt Dibble was an institution in Connecticut radio. For the past 20 years, Mr. Dibble was the voice of WTIC news in Hartford, where he was the News Director and Managing Editor. Hartford was familiar with Walt Dibble even before he came to WTIC, since he had worked for 10 years at Hartford's WDRC radio station. Before coming to Hartford, Walt had been the radio voice of the news in New Haven and Bridgeport.

Throughout his career he was always quick to pick up a microphone and hit the street to cover a breaking news story. And it was in these situations that Walt Dibble flourished. His colleagues always marveled at his ability to deliver extended live coverage of major news events without any script as a safety net. Whether it was covering the collapse of the Hartford Civic Center roof, Hurricane Gloria, or the debate over the state income tax in 1991, he always kept his cool and offered a professional news report that, in many cases, he made up as he went along.

People may have wondered why Walt Dibble always seemed more sincere than other newscasters. The reason probably stems from the fact that Walt Dibble reported the news in his own words that came from his own mind and his own heart.

Walt Dibble loved his profession, and he was a father figure for hundreds of Connecticut broadcasters. He treated the interns at the radio station with the same respect as lifelong colleagues, and he would always encourage them to embark on a career in radio. Mr. Dibble brought a similar approach to the classes he taught at the Connecticut School of Broadcasting and Southern Connecticut State University. He did not need to teach, but he did so because he wanted to pass the torch on to future broadcasters.

In this day and age where most people get their news from television, and more and more radio stations are broadcasting nationally syndicated radio shows, Walt Dibble was a throw-back to an era when the radio was the place where people went to get their local news. While it will be difficult for anyone to deliver the news with the

style and grace of Walt Dibble, I only hope that somebody will carry on his tradition of excellence in broadcasting to ensure that Connecticut residents will still be able to receive local news, on local radio stations, from local broadcasters whom they know and trust.

Walt Dibble lived a truly charmed life. He interviewed Presidents of the United States, he saw his son pitch in the World Series, and for more than 40 years he got to go to work to do a job that he loved. But in the end, it is the people of Connecticut who are charmed for having known this great man.●

CELEBRATING OLDSMOBILE'S CENTENNIAL

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to honor Oldsmobile on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. On August 20, 1997, Oldsmobile and its employees will celebrate 100 years of outstanding achievements.

Few things have become so entwined with American culture as the automobile. Since its creation, cars have fascinated us. While the ability to travel has changed drastically in the last 100 years, one tenant has remained: the desire to go further and faster.

Helping fuel this desire is Oldsmobile. This company and its workers have been central to the development of the automobile. From Ransom E. Olds' Curved Dash to today's Intrigue, Oldsmobile continues to innovate and revolutionize the industry. Every individual involved with the organization strives to create a better product. In doing so, the company has given Americans the ability to do more, to see more, and to pursue new experiences. The vision of R.E. Olds has stretched far beyond Lansing. His legacy will be forever remembered.

This celebration is especially personal for me, Mr. President. My father worked on the production line in Lansing for nearly 20 years. Oldsmobile gave my father the chance to provide for his family. During his tenure at Oldsmobile, he demonstrated to me the importance of hard work, dedication, and a pursuit of excellence; values I am proud to emulate.

Again, I extend my most heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion.●

THE ROMA RESTAURANT

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, spring has always been known as a season of rebirth, but, sadly, the Spring of 1997 saw the passing of one of the true culinary landmarks of Washington, D.C. as the Roma Restaurant closed its doors after 77 years.

In the days since the Roma closed, the local newspapers have been filled with articles and letters to the editor paying tribute to the Washington institution. All of the writers had different memories of what made the Roma so special to them. For some it was the

outdoor courtyard with the elaborate garden and grape arbor. For others it was the unique experience of dining amongst stuffed tigers, lions, and other wild game that Roma founder Frank Abbo had killed on safari. For some people it was simply the linguine with clam sauce.

But for everyone who frequented the Roma, there are fond memories of the wonderful people who worked at this restaurant and made it such an enjoyable place to spend an afternoon or an evening.

Patrons of the Roma have described members of the Abbo family, who owned and operated the Roma since it was founded in 1920, as having the biggest hearts in Washington.

While most restaurants are closed for Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Roma was always open, as the Abbos cooked countless turkeys and prepared thousands of meals over the years for unfortunate people who could not afford to buy a warm holiday meal.

The Roma was not just a business. It was more like a club where friends would meet regularly to get together and enjoy some good food and have a good time.

Whenever I dined at the Roma, it felt like going to dinner at a friend's house. In a sense, it was, since the Roma's owner, Bobby Abbo has been a friend of mine for many years. But while I know that my friendship with Bobby will persevere and I will continue to see him, I will surely miss the many friendly faces that I may no longer see now that the Roma has closed. It would be impossible for me to remember all of the people whom I befriended at the Roma. However, I would specifically like to mention Maria Amaya, Hugo Terzi, and John Squitero and thank them for the kindness that they extended toward me over the years.

In closing, I will miss the gardens, and I will miss the food. But, most important, I will miss the people that made the Roma such a special place. I wish all of them well, and I thank them for all of the wonderful memories they have provided me and so many others.●

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEVELAND-CLIFFS, INC.

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Mr. THOMAS Moore, CEO of Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. and its outstanding employees on behalf of the company's 150th anniversary. I am honored to join them in celebrating this significant milestone.

For over a century now Cleveland-Cliffs has been a leader in North American mining operations and has served as a model for other companies to emulate. It comes as no surprise that this mining company has survived in a market where competition is fierce and the work extraordinarily difficult. Since 1847 when its founders first began mining iron ore in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, the company has relied upon one