

survival by the selfless men and women who make up the Red Cross' Southeastern Connecticut Chapter. Indeed, for nine decades, the Southeastern Connecticut Chapter has provided assistance to those in need in Connecticut, across the United States and around the world—truly exemplifying the ideals of the American Red Cross—offering aid and support during periods of acute emergency and prolonged rebuilding alike.

The Red Cross itself has a long and distinguished history in the United States. In 1881, the American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton and dedicated to the basic principles of service to humanity, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. President Taft described the American Red Cross as "the only volunteer society now authorized by this government to render aid to its land and naval forces in times of war," for that was its original intent, to aid the casualties of war. As we all know, the organization's peace-time role grew rapidly, however, and at the turn of the century, new leadership brought new goals and expanded the services of the American Red Cross.

The growth of the American Red Cross was made possible by the success of regional chapters and the dedication of countless volunteers. The Red Cross was entirely staffed by volunteers until 1941, and today, volunteers still make up ninety-eight percent of all Red Cross personnel. When membership drives were initiated by the Southeastern Connecticut Chapter, residents of that area answered the call. Citizens from all walks of life—businesses, mills, farms, schools, churches and hospitals—donated their time, skill and money to the organization. Over the years, the Southeastern Chapter has been able to generate the ever-increasing support required to meet developing demands because of the sacrifice of their volunteers and the generosity of their neighbors.

Over the last 90 years, this generosity and self-sacrifice has produced a remarkable track record. Historically speaking, the Red Cross organization in Southeastern Connecticut was active even before its formal charter was granted on November 1, 1909. The founding members began organizing at the Park Congressional Church in Norwich, Connecticut in October, 1905. They played a role in the relief efforts following the eruption of Mount Vesuvius and in 1906 helped survivors of the San Francisco earthquake and fire. Back home in Connecticut, the chapter also moved rapidly to combat a growing tuberculosis epidemic in its early days.

As the world braced for war in August, 1914, the Chapter prepared for its own humanitarian campaign. The Chapter's members opened their hearts and homes to the work at hand. Preparations were carried out in homes, offices, social clubs, church societies and any other available space. The spirit of

the Red Cross in Southeastern Connecticut was truly embraced by the community as a whole. The Honor Roll Committee, the Home Service Section, the Motor Corps and the Junior Red Cross were all formed in the endeavor to relieve those affected by war.

During the latter decades of the century, the Chapter, and the Red Cross in general, made great strides in the field of blood donation. Connecticut Chapters contributed to the Blood Services of the war in Vietnam by sponsoring "Operation Helpmate" in which each Chapter supplied a mobile blood unit in Mekong, Vietnam. Relentless in their selfless devotion to humanitarianism worldwide, Southeastern Connecticut Red Cross has provided a safety net for the 20th Century.

While most of us think of the Red Cross as an international force for good, the presence of the American Red Cross in Connecticut has been important, as well. When the deadliest hurricane to ever hit New England slammed into Eastern Connecticut on September 21, 1938, the Disaster and Civil Preparedness Committee of the Southeastern Chapter responded to the emergency situation immediately, helping countless lives. And the Chapter led the effort to rebuild once the storm had passed. Had it not been for the preparedness of the Chapter in disaster situations, the damage and loss of life sustained would have been far greater.

More recently, the state's organization has created what is now hailed as a model program for preventing the spread of HIV throughout the state. This program has become highly successful, and is partly the reason why cases of new infections have dropped significantly.

Just this year, the destruction brought by hurricane Floyd was mitigated by the Southeastern Red Cross. While parts of Connecticut were so badly soaked by floods that they were declared federal disaster areas, the Southeastern Connecticut American Red Cross was assisting local hospitals and rescuing those in need.

At the turn of the millennium, the American Red Cross faces new challenges. Cultural and national conflicts, natural disasters and acts of nature have caused unimaginable human suffering in recent memory. After each calamity, however, the Red Cross and its volunteers have been there to pick up the pieces. Volunteers from Connecticut have played an active role both around the world and at home over the last 90 years and I rest easier knowing they will continue to play a vital role well into the next century.

So, it is with great pride and gratitude, Mr. President, that I stand on the floor of the Senate today to recognize the accomplishments of the Southeastern Connecticut American Red Cross over these past 90 years. I know I speak for many Connecticut residents in expressing congratulations for achieving this milestone, and best wishes in coming years for continued service to those in need.●

IMAM VEHBİ ISMAIL PROCLAMATION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and honor Imam Vehbi Ismail for his fifty years of dedicated service to the Islamic community.

The Imam has been an instrumental force in the Albanian American and Islamic communities in Michigan. Originally, from Albania he emigrated to the United States in 1949 after studying theology in Egypt. Through his spiritual leadership the Imam set himself on a path to improve the Albanian American community. One of his greatest accomplishments was the establishment of the Albanian Islamic Center where he served as the Senior Cleric.

What is truly remarkable about this extraordinary individual is his work in the areas of democratic and human rights. The Imam has been the driving force in the Michigan community, raising awareness for human rights for Albanians world wide.

The Imam has proudly served as one of the longest active Clerics in the country. His family and the Albanian American community look to him as the elder statesman and guiding spirit for their community.

Mr. President it is with sincere joy and appreciation that I honor the Imam Vehbi Ismail. He is truly an example of unselfish charity and an inspiration to many.●

JERRY DAVIS, JR., TRIBUTE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I come before my colleagues today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Jerry Davis, Jr. Jerry and I first met in the Army when we were stationed in New Jersey together before we headed to Vietnam. Jerry is a man with an extraordinary story and I am proud to be among his circle of friends.

Jerry was born on January 2, 1925 in Terry, Louisiana—a humble beginning for a sharecropper's son destined for the cover of FORTUNE Magazine (October, 1975). Jerry was a man committed to a life of service and his family, his church, his community and his country. A generous, loving and forgiving spirit, a respect for order and tradition and a legendary helping hand were the hallmarks of his life.

After graduating first in his class from the Magnolia Training School, he cut his formal education short, despite receiving a scholarship from Southern University, by enlisting in the U.S. Army. Joining the all African-American 94th Engineer Construction Battalion at the end of World War II, he began his military career as an enlisted man in Paris. Seven years later he completed Officer Training School in Fort Benning, Georgia and as a new 2nd Lieutenant was company commander in the Korean War. In 1967, he returned to combat as one of two African-American battalion commanders in Vietnam. After 26 years of distinguished

service, Lieutenant Colonel Davis retired.

From there, Jerry went on to accomplish many great things. Among them were, being Chairman of the Board of M.U.S.C.L.E.—a non-profit organization providing low income housing in Southwest Washington—and serving as a trustee for the retirement fund of the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission. In the early 1970's, Jerry founded Unified Services Inc., a successful building service management company and was Chairman of the Board and CEO of Unibar Maintenance in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Jerry was also a delegate to the 1980 White House Conference on Small Business.

While on a business trip to Portland, Oregon with a friend, he met Jean Cotton Simmons and swept her off her feet. They married and shortly after created a family whose dimensions extend miles beyond their shared hearth with a tradition of hospitality, humor and huge holiday celebrations.

Jerry fills his free time with the sounds of Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and Miles Davis, and when his wife isn't looking, it's long cigars and the Redskins. And I can't forget our shared love of Westerns, especially "Gunfight at the OK Corral." Countless people have had life defining moments with this ordinary man who produced extraordinary results, leaving behind an enduring legacy of living life to its unreasonable fullest. As Jerry and his family battle against his cancer, I applaud the courage and determination he has shown throughout his life.

As George Bernard Shaw once said, "The reasonable man adapts himself to the conditions that surround him. The unreasonable man adapts surrounding conditions to himself. Our progress depends on the unreasonable man."•

TRIBUTE TO HENRY VOGT HEUSER, SR.

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, a successful businessman, and community leader, the late Henry Heuser, Sr. I also would like to extend my condolences to his two sons, Henry, Jr. and Marshall.

Henry has made it easy for us to remember him—leaving behind an impressive list of accomplishments that most people only hope to achieve in their lifetime. Henry will be remembered for many different reasons, not least of which is his generosity to the Louisville community. Henry gave much of his time, energy and monetary resources to benefit others. Aware that he had resources which not everyone was privileged to have, he shared his wealth both of knowledge and of money with the city over his lifetime. Henry often gave to charity and community groups that needed support, including a recent \$1 million donation to the Louisville Deaf Oral School for a much-needed expansion project. He made the donation in memory of his late wife,

Edith, who volunteered for and supported the school for many years.

Henry also will be remembered as a dedicated civic leader for Louisville—Henry had a heart for the city of Louisville, and a vision for its bright future. Henry was a founder of Leadership Louisville, a group of community leaders that were committed to making a difference in the city. Henry also was very involved in the religious community of Louisville, and even led the effort to bring the Presbyterian Church's headquarters to the city several years ago. Another of the legacies Henry leaves behind is that of "The Derby Clock," as it has come to be known. Henry was an integral part of the planning and design for the clock, and I know I will think of him when I see it repaired, reassembled, and prominently displayed in our city.

Henry also will be remembered for his success in business, with the Henry Vogt Machine Company and his more recent enterprises, Unistar and Equisource. Henry's sharp mind and innate common sense clearly served him in the business world and in the community.

I am certain that the legacy of excellence that Henry Heuser, Sr. has left will continue on, and will encourage and inspire others. Hopefully it will be a comfort to the family and friends he leaves behind to know that his efforts to better the community will be felt for years to come. On behalf of myself and my colleagues, I offer my deepest condolences to Henry's loved ones, and express my gratitude for all he contributed to Jefferson County, the State of Kentucky, and to our great nation.•

PFIZER'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Pfizer, Inc. on its 150th anniversary. As one of the global leaders of the important pharmaceutical industry, Pfizer has helped to improve the health of men, women and children around the world for the last century and a half. The company employs 4,939 men and women in its Groton, CT research facility, which lies in my home state.

Pfizer is committed to helping people live better lives—not only by bringing best-in-class medicines to market, but also by working with patients and physicians to develop comprehensive disease management programs that educate people about ways to better control their illness, rather than letting their illness control them.

Pfizer's long history is full of adventure, daring risk-taking, and intrepid decision-making. Founded by German immigrant cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart in 1849, Pfizer has grown from a small chemical firm in Brooklyn, NY to a multinational corporation, which employs close to 50,000 people.

Pfizer has a long tradition of developing innovative drugs to combat a variety of illnesses. In 1944, Pfizer was

the first company to successfully mass-produce penicillin, a breakthrough that led to the company's emergence as a global leader in its industry. Since then, Pfizer has marketed dozens of effective medicines designed to fight conditions like arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, and infections. Nearly all of the major medicines marketed by Pfizer are No. 1 or No. 2 in their categories.

In addition, Pfizer provides a wide range of assistance to those in need. The desire to live a healthy life is universal. But for millions of people around the world, access to high quality health care remains out of reach. Pfizer is committed to bringing their medicines to those in need. Through Sharing the Care, a program started in 1993, Pfizer has filled more than 3.0 million prescriptions for its medicines—valued at over \$170 million—for more than one million uninsured patients in the United States. The program was cited by American Benefactor, a leading philanthropy journal, in selecting Pfizer as one of America's 25 most generous companies for 1998.

As you can see, Pfizer has made innumerable contributions to our nation and our world, and its accomplishments should be applauded as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.•

SHARED APPRECIATION AGREEMENTS

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, shared appreciation agreements have the potential to cause hundreds of farm foreclosures across the nation, and especially in my home state of Montana. Ten years ago, a large number of farmers signed these agreements. At that time they were under the impression that they would be required to pay these back at the end of ten years, at a reasonable rate of redemption.

However, that has not proved to be the case. The appraisals being conducted by the Farm Service Agency are showing increased values of ridiculous proportions. By all standards, one would expect the value to have decreased. Farm prices are the lowest they have been in years, and there does not seem to be a quick recovery forthcoming. Farmers cannot possibly be expected to pay back a value twice the amount they originally wrote down. Especially in light of the current market situation, I believe something must be done about the way these appraisals are conducted.

USDA has proposed rules and regulations but farmers need help with these agreements now. This legislation mandates these important regulations. It will exclude capital investments from the increase in appreciation and allow farmers to take out a loan at the "Homestead Rate", which is the government's cost of borrowing.

Farmers should not be penalized for attempting to better their operations. Nor can they be expected to delay capital improvements so that they will