

WEST*GROUP, a commercial real estate company based in McLean, Virginia, and he was recently honored as the 1998 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and "The Washington Post." Jerry Halpin deserves this recognition, not just because he changed the face of Fairfax County as a visionary businessman, but also because of his vast record of quiet and selfless community leadership.

Anyone who is familiar with Northern Virginia is also familiar with Jerry Halpin's business accomplishments, although not everyone knows the full range of this self-effacing, public-spirited citizen's contributions to our community. In 1962, Jerry and three partners purchased a 125-acre farm on the crest of a hill in western Fairfax. On that crest he built Tysons Corner, which remains to this day one of the primary commercial centers in the entire region. His WEST*GROUP properties dot the area, and he has been responsible for the development, redevelopment or construction of office, retail, residential, resort, and industrial space for WEST*GROUP affiliates aggregating more than 12 million square feet.

In the midst of this time-consuming and successful business career, however, Jerry Halpin made the time to reinvest in his community. His specific contributions to this region are far too numerous to mention, although I would like to highlight a few. Thirty-five years ago, when the Fairfax County Park Authority was unable to secure sufficient funds to purchase land for a park site, he refinanced his home to cover the purchase price and then turned the land over to the Park Authority. Today, that land constitutes Burke Lake Park, one of Fairfax County's finest public recreation areas. As he was developing the WEST*GATE and WEST*PARK Office Parks in Tysons Corner, Jerry ensured that a net gain of trees existed after construction and donated land for a school, a ball park and transit stations. He played a major role in the purchase of various structures for Wolf Trap Farm Park, one of the finest facilities in the area, and dedicated substantial time to the Park as an early Trustee, Executive Committee Co-Chairman and Finance Committee Chairman of the Wolf Trap Foundation. On a more personal scale, Jerry was also involved in the landscaping of Trinity United Methodist Church and the Churchill Road Elementary School playground, both in McLean. A common thread runs through these disparate projects. Knowing him as I do, I am convinced that Jerry undertook each, not to advance his personal ambitions, but to promote the public interest. That's why many who live in the region are familiar with Jerry's commercial work but are less familiar with his public works. That is because Jerry is not a self-promoter, and I know he did not

seek the honor that was bestowed upon him by the Federation of Citizens Associations. I am glad, however, that his selflessness has been recognized, not so much because Jerry needs awards, but because he provides the community with such a positive role model.

Despite his many years of work and service, Jerry Halpin is still going strong. He currently serves as Chairman of the Grand Teton National Park Foundation, as a Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and as a Director and Chairman of the Finance Committee for the National Capital Bicentennial Celebration. These current activities build on many in the past, such as his service with the American Horticultural Society, the American Museum of Immigration, the National Parks and Recreation Association, the Virginia Museum of Science, the Boarder Baby Project Gala, and the Medical Care for Children Partnership Awards Dinner. Jerry has also volunteered his time and leadership skills to many charitable organizations including the McLean Project for the Arts, United Community Ministries, the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, Hospice of Northern Virginia, Fairfax Hospital and Northern Virginia Community College.

Jerry's civic participation has extended to various public boards and commissions. During my term as Governor of Virginia, I appointed him to the Governor's Task Force on Science and Technology and to the Governor's Joint Study Committee to inquire into the practicality of creating a Coal Slurry Pipeline in Virginia. Jerry served as a member of the Governor's Advisory Board on Industrial Development under Governors Holton, Godwin and Dalton. He was also a member of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority and its predecessor organizations for over eight years.

Jerry Halpin has been a personal friend of mine for many years now. For over forty years, he has provided community leadership not only for Fairfax County, but to all of Northern Virginia and the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and "The Washington Post" could not have selected anyone more deserving than Jerry Halpin to be the 1998 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year. George Hartzog, the former Director of the National Park Service, has called Jerry a "treasure to mankind"—I couldn't have said it better. •

RECOGNIZING THE "STEPS AHEAD" PROGRAM IN SEATTLE, WA

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, during this past recess, I had the pleasure of presenting my Innovation in Education Awards to two excellent recipients, one of which I would like to recognize now.

One award was given to the "Steps Ahead" program from "Community for Youth." Community for Youth is a

local non-profit organization in Seattle whose Steps Ahead program provides adult mentors to youth at risk of academic or social failure. This program has been in existence for eight years and has demonstrated remarkable progress in transforming the lives of students who might otherwise fall through the cracks of our education system.

Steps Ahead's curriculum focuses on five key factors for student behavior: (1) Building a positive self-image, (2) Expressing themselves assertively rather than passively or aggressively, (3) Accepting responsibility for their behavior rather than making excuses, (4) Setting and keeping realistic goals in life and (5) Making conscious decisions to solve problems rather than reactively letting the world pass them by. These may seem like exceedingly basic principles but, this focus has reaped great rewards with the students it has reached.

The students involved in this program have, for whatever reason been labeled as "at-risk." Fortunately, through the simple concept of restoring self-respect, accountability, and confidence, the Steps Ahead program has achieved outstanding results. Steps Ahead participants have fewer dropouts and fewer expulsions from school than their peers. The Steps Ahead students also have ten percent better classroom attendance, twenty-five percent fewer grades, and fifteen percent fewer dropouts, expulsions and long term suspensions—all this is the heart of metropolitan Seattle where the scourge of dropouts rates, poor attendance, and violent behavioral problems have traditionally been some of the worst in Washington state.

Community for Youth's efforts thought the Steps Ahead program is just one piece of the puzzle of trying to improve the lives and education of troubled youth. More importantly, perhaps, Steps Ahead has accomplished these feats by teaming up with local business to provide funding and mentors and by teaming up with the Seattle School District to target school populations most in need of mentoring. This type of common-sense and community-oriented approach to solving a difficult education problem demonstrates the exact reason why I began this Innovation in Education Award program.

I think any of my colleagues would be hard pressed to prove the kind of program I am talking about here today could come from the innovation of a bureaucrat here in Washington, DC. Rather, it is the hard work of the people that look into the eyes of our children every day, the parents, the teachers, the school administrators, and the volunteers like those at Steps Ahead, who make a difference in the lives of our children.

I am pleased to have been able to recognize Steps Ahead and Community For Youth with an Innovation in Education Award. They represent the

ideals in education that deserve our support.●

TRUE AMERICAN HEROES: A SALUTE TO BOYD CLINES, LARRY ROGERS, AND MATT MOSELEY FOR THEIR BRAVERY AND COURAGE IN THE APRIL 12, 1999 DARING RESCUE OF IVERS SIMS

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and salute the heroism and bravery displayed during the brave and daring rescue of Ivers Sims by Atlanta firefighter Matt Moseley, Georgia Department of Natural Resources pilot Boyd Clines, and his navigator, Larry Rogers on April 12, 1999.

Many Americans watched this frightening drama unfold on television, and all prayed for a successful and joyous rescue. Last Monday afternoon, as members of the Atlanta City Fire Department fought a raging fire throughout the historic Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill in southeast Atlanta, Ivers Sims, a construction worker, found himself trapped on top of a swaying, 250-foot crane above the raging fire that had erupted in the mill. Boyd Clines and Larry Rogers arrived on the scene and miraculously negotiated their helicopter through the menacing wind, smoke, and fire which emanated from the cotton mill, while Atlanta firefighter, Matt Moseley, dangled from a rope near the flames—all working together to save the life of Mr. Sims.

Thanks to dedicated teamwork, amazing heroism, courage and valor in risking their own lives, these three brave men rescued Ivers Sims from above the flames, and moments later, all four safely returned to the ground. When I think of these three heroic Americans and their brave actions I am reminded of the words of Theodore Roosevelt who once said, "Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood—the virtues that made America." These three men have brought pride and honor to the State of Georgia and to the entire Nation. Boyd, Larry and Matt are true examples of the courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood that this Nation is built upon, and are indeed great Americans!

I would like to salute all Atlanta firefighters, police officers and Sheriffs deputies who diligently worked together in order to fight the massive fire that engulfed the historic cotton mill. I would also like to praise the firefighters throughout the Nation who, like Matt Moseley, put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve our communities. Mr. President, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing and honoring the heroism and bravery displayed by Boyd Clines, Larry Rogers, and Matt Moseley under the most dangerous of circumstances in saving the life of Ivers Sims.●

CONGRATULATING SCITUATE HIGH SCHOOL FOR ITS FIRST PLACE FINISH IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION" STATE COMPETITION

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, on May 1st, fifteen outstanding students from Scituate High School in Rhode Island will visit Washington to begin their competition in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program.

For those of my colleagues who are not familiar with it, the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program is among the most extensive educational programs in the country focusing on citizenship. The program was developed specifically to ensure that young people understand the history and philosophy of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition simulates a congressional hearing in which students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective on the significance of the U.S. Constitution and its place in our history. It is heartwarming to see young Rhode Islanders taking such an active and participatory interest in public affairs.

I am very proud of Philip Amylon, Matthew Bilotti, Caitlin Bouchard, Jessica Bradbury, Kathleen Burdett, Jacqueline Gallo, Christopher Granatino, Thomas Hynes, Carolyn Jacobs, Danielle Lachance, Catherine Moser, Ross Mtangi, Christopher Natalizia, Ian Noonan, and Christina Rossi for making it to the national finals. I applaud this terrific group of young men and women for their hard work and perseverance. Also, Mr. President, I want to congratulate Amy Grundt, a fine teacher who deserves so much credit for guiding the Scituate High School team to the national finals.

Congratulations to Ms. Grundt and her students for what they have already achieved, and best of luck in the final competition. These students, with the guidance of Ms. Grundt, have learned what our Nation is all about and what countless men and women have fought and died to protect. No matter what the outcome of the contest is, they have each earned the greatest prize of all: knowledge.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN HOLM OF THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to offer a tribute to an outstanding Floridian and a premier musician, Ms. Kathryn Holm, of The Florida Orches-

tra, will be recognized this evening at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as "Arts Administrator of the Year."

As we prepare to begin a new millennium, we must remember that a key indicator of the health and well-being of any society has always been its treatment of the arts. Our society is one which admires its artists, and Ms. Holm has spent her career providing a basis for our reverence of music, working with The Florida Orchestra to transform sounds into majestic expressions.

Kathryn Holm joined The Florida Orchestra as a principal harpist in 1977. Some 17 years later, she was named executive of the orchestra, which was, at the time, heavily in debt.

Combining her musical talent with her business acumen, she was able to restore fiscal solvency to The Florida Orchestra. Her effective three-stage recovery plan earned Kathryn Holm the "Jessie Ball DuPont Turnaround Award," while restoring credibility to the orchestra. Now in its fourth consecutive year without operating losses, The Florida Orchestra has boosted ticket sales, sponsorships and donations, and released its first compact disc.

Mr. President, I am honored to join the art world in applauding the leadership of Kathryn Holm on this special day.●

RECOGNIZING PEGGY O'NEILL-SKINNER FROM THE BUSH SCHOOL, SEATTLE, WA

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, during this past recess, I had the pleasure of presenting Innovation in Education Awards to two excellent recipients; the first of which I noted in a previous floor speech.

The second Innovation in Education Award went to Peggy O'Neill-Skinner, a truly remarkable science teacher at the Bush School in Seattle. Peggy has been a science teacher for 28 years and is doing outstanding work in helping her students learn the importance of biology and technology in today's world. Her years of devotion in teaching AP Biology, general biology, and numerous elective science courses have shown great dividends. In fact, at a larger education event at which this award was presented, my staff was approached by a number of attendees who had one universally similar point to share: "my child went to Bush and Peggy is a truly remarkable teacher. She is the kind of teacher that can change a student's life and is a perfect fit for this award." Such praise needs no elaboration.

Last December, Peggy was given the prestigious Siemens Award for Advance Placement, one of only 20 award winners across the country. The Siemens Award recognizes excellence AP courses for math and science. By virtue of being selected with such a small number of her peers to receive such