

Home Education (FHE) in observance of Home Education Week, May 2-8, in my home State of Missouri. I join with the Missouri General Assembly in recognizing their commitment not only to excellence in education, but also to the promotion of public policy that strengthens the family.

Home educators make tremendous sacrifices to educate our nation's young people and they are making a difference. Countless studies show that parental involvement positively impacts the education of a child. Home-schooled children, in particular, benefit greatly from the individualized, one-on-one training they receive from dedicated parents and home educators. They are also afforded unique opportunities to participate in apprenticeships, and community and civic organizations. These activities serve to strengthen social skills and enrich their overall educational experience.

In today's challenging society, it is more important than ever that our young people receive a quality education if they are to succeed in the expanding global market. Home educators play a vital part in preparing children, tomorrow's workforce, to successfully compete and prosper in the adult world. I commend these dedicated parents and FHE, and wish them continued success in their endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO MARIANNE BOND WEBSTER

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the many accomplishments of Marianne Bond Webster, of Dunwoody, Georgia. By the age of 43, Marianne was a success by most yardsticks: happily married and the mother of two, tennis champion, gourmet cook, and a popular caterer. However, several events in Marianne's life sparked a midlife change which would cause her to re-examine her life and become more involved in our nation's political system. This realization spurred her to a more active role in WAND—the Women's Action for New Directions.

WAND is a national grassroots peace group emphasizing the role of women—activists, legislators and community leaders—on issues related to the federal budget, the military, violence, and nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. A nonprofit organization founded in the early 1980s, WAND has grown into a national organization headquartered in Boston, MA, with an advocacy office in Washington, DC, and a field office in Atlanta, GA, with chapters and organizational partners across the country. WAND's educational arm, WAND Education Fund, was started in 1982.

WAND's mission is to empower women to act politically to reduce violence and militarism and redirect excessive military resources to human and environmental needs.

In 1990, WiLL—the Women Legislators' Lobby, a program of WAND—was

formed. WiLL is a powerful and unique membership network of progressive women state legislators. It is the only national bipartisan network of women state legislators from all 50 states working to influence federal policies and budget priorities. One out of three women state legislators is a member.

During the 1990s, it seemed Marianne Bond Webster was everywhere, doing everything for WAND and WiLL: lobby days, media workshops, a session on nuclear waste for junior high school students, a tour of the Savannah River Site, campaigning for Congresswoman CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, arranging benefit concerts with the Indigo Girls, and leading WAND both locally and nationally.

By 1998 Marianne had made two major decisions: to serve as WAND's National president, and to run for an open seat in the Georgia legislature. Caring, smart, honest, brave, and decent, I know she would have made a tremendous difference.

But, tragically, on April 17, 1998 she jumped on her bicycle to deliver her campaign leaflets. The bag holding her literature caught in the spokes, and she flew over the handlebars, breaking her neck when she landed. Marianne never regained consciousness. She died on June 11, 1998.

Family, friends, and WAND members maintained a constant vigil by Marianne's hospital bed and joined hands with those who could not through daily e-mail updates. She touched so many with her special magic. Her spirit lives on in all of us. And her work continues through Marianne's Fund.

Her family and friends developed the idea for a fund shortly after Marianne's death. And in 1999 WAND Education Fund established Marianne's Fund with the Atlanta Women's Foundation. WiLL and the other WAND programs, which had become so central in Marianne's life, will be beneficiaries of the Fund.

Marianne believed wholeheartedly that all women, if offered support and training, would contribute significantly to the political process. She recruited women state legislators to WiLL enthusiastically, and connected WAND activists with WiLL members nationally, to forge powerful alliances. With courage and intelligence, she took on WAND's complex issues, becoming an expert on the subject of nuclear waste. Marianne toured nuclear weapons facilities and test sites. She wrote passionately about the legacy of nuclear weapons, alerting her audience to the dangers and costs of continued nuclear weapons production.

Related programs of peace, justice, and protection of the environment identified by the Webster/Bond family will also be beneficiaries of Marianne's Fund. Marianne worked to increase the women's vote, strongly supported affirmative action for women in business and the professions, donated gener-

ously to battered women and children's causes, and contributed much to other grassroots organizations.

Mr. President, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in recognizing and honoring the life of Marianne Bond Webster. Marianne was a wonderful and amazing person who positively touched the lives, and bettered the lives, of many Georgians and many Americans. Although her life was unfortunately too short, her memory and her work on behalf of our country and our political system will last forever.●

TRIBUTE TO HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH ESSA BIN SALMAN AL-KHALIFA

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to His Highness Shaikh Essa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the late Amir of the State of Bahrain. The people of Bahrain recently commemorated the 40th day of mourning for their great leader who passed away on the 6th of March. Shaikh Essa was known for his kindness and compassion and will be dearly missed by both the people of Bahrain and his friends around the world.

Shaikh Essa was a visionary leader who helped transform the Bahraini economy from an oil-based economy to an economy of trade, investment, banking, and service. These improvements led to Bahrain achieving one of the highest standards of living among the Arab countries.

Under Shaikh Essa, Bahrain strengthened its relationship with the West. In 1903, Mason Memorial, the first American hospital in the region, was established. It has since become a landmark. In 1932, when Bahrain became the first country in the southern Gulf region to discover oil, American expertise backed the exploration. This year Bahrain is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the strong friendship it has with the United States and our Navy. The Bahraini Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Mohammad Abdul Ghaffar Abdulla, continues to do a wonderful job in keeping this strong friendship alive.

My condolences go out to the people of Bahrain and Shaikh Essa's family. I wish to extend my warmest regards to His Highness Shaikh Hamad Bin Essa Al-Khalifa, who has succeeded his father as the new Amir of Bahrain. I am certain he will follow his father's path and continue to keep allied relations between Bahrain and the United States.

Mr. President, I ask that the Amir's tribute to his father be printed in the RECORD.

The tribute follows.

SPEECH OF HIS HIGHNESS SHAIKH HAMAD BIN ESSA AL-KHALIFA, AMIR OF THE STATE OF BAHRAIN

In The Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Our Dear People, Peace, And God Blessings Be Upon You

God most high said "among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God, of them some have completed their vow, and some still wait, but they have never changed their determination in the least." Trust said God almighty.

At this historical circumstances, we share with you the great tragic of the sad demise and great loss of our father, the leader.

At the same time we are all united with prospect of confidence to shoulder the responsibility of continuing the pursuance of the path and the course he laid down through his sagacity, devotion and tolerance.

In line with this, we need to meet the demands and changes of the future, in a world rife with volatility, by means of Bahrain's potentialities comprising the ability to develop and revitalize since the start of process of modern progress and development.

For that, Bahrain has been leading the drive among brotherly states and closely working with them in this vital region, of the Arab nation and the whole world.

The Respected Citizens, with the loss of our father, late Shaikh Essa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, we have lost an Amir who was a caring beloved leader, a close friend to every individual of his people and a great man whom the whole world loved and respected.

His human legacy shall remain the guide of this nation and over next generations, reflecting the true image of Bahrain in devotion, tolerance and civilization.

Prevailed by this great tragic loss, and satisfied by the creed of God almighty, we pray that his mercy and blessing bestow our beloved who granted his country, people and nation all the goodness of action which shall remain the guide we follow in the nation and which will be preserved as a path we pursue enabling us to shoulder and assume the tremendous responsibility, we all are charged with for the sake of the pride, prosperity of Bahrain and for the future of the generations.

The great late beloved left for us a well-developed, flourished and secured nation and he turned Bahrain into an oasis of civilization, prosperity and a landmark of knowledge and progress in an Arabian Gulf and the pan Arab nation.

We ought to carry the standard, should the responsibility and continue the drive to serve this nation which is characterized by good nature and manner of the people, and by the competence and the civilized standard of the sons of this country.

Our dear people, Our great late man shall be recorded by history for his leading role, high status and great decency.

From this rich testimony, having great respect for the great late father, and at this adieu position with a forward look towards future, we recall that Essa Bin Salman was for us and his people in Bahrain, the man of national independence, of the constitution and consultation and the man who accomplished the state of institutions, law and order.

He was the man of development, pan-progress and national economy.

He was the man of Gulf unity and Arab solidarity in most difficult situations and circumstances.

He was the man of peace and international cooperation and genuine friendship among the peoples of the world.

All these guiding features shall remain before us while we pursue national path, our Gulf unity and our Arab solidarity and in all domains of our regional approach with the neighbors and our global cooperation.

We shall remain the solid course at various levels, with all of you in the drive of the national work, with the brothers in the Gulf and the Arab world and with every sincere friend of Bahrain, in this region and in the whole world.

With the blessings of God almighty, we shall adhere to the track forged by the great late, we shall share love, brace and cooperation with all who seek goodness for Bahrain, inside and outside, and we shall protect and safeguard Bahrain against any harm through the determination and sacrifices.

As we pay tribute to the great late man and accolade his achievements, we ought to applaud with gratitude and for the sake of truth and history, the leading role of his brother and his right hand our uncle His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Prime Minister, who and since the beginning till the last minute, spared no effort in serving the nation, developing the country, leading the government through his deep vision, sagacity and hard work resulting in the fruits of wisdom, experience and well organized systems.

He was and shall remain a source of richness and a source of vision and inspiration to face the tasks of national work and future challenges.

Every thanks and appreciation are extended to His Highness for the honorable and leading stances he played for the sake of this nation and at all stages of development. We have the confidence that through gifted traits of deep perception and solid resolve, His Highness will continue the path of devotion we expect from him and from the generation of the fathers who accompanied him in quest for development and progress.

On other respect, witnessing this historical turning point, we call on and urge the young generation of Bahrain to shoulder their responsibilities and prepare for their tasks, starting from our Crown Prince His Highness Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, whom we wish every success in discharging his new constitutional mission.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the unanimity and the support we gained from the members of the ruling family, led by our uncle His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa and our uncle His Highness Shaikh Mohammed Bin Salman Al-Khalifa who commended his appointing as the Crown Prince in accordance with the constitution.

Our dear people, It would be necessary to express to all of you every gratitude over the cohesion and sincere loyalty you have demonstrated at this historical situation, representing your sustained allegiance which reflects true unity between the people and their leadership in this cherished country.

I would like to say it clearly that as a son of Essa and as an adherent to the duty, I shall raise the standard of his path which does not differentiate between the people of the single nation, regardless of their beliefs and origin, and which only consider the honesty of national association, and which consider the true citizenship which seeks every goodness for Bahrain and her people.

On the Gulf, Arab and Islamic domains, we are pleased to express, on your behalf, the deep appreciation for the sentiments of heartfelt condolences and over the stances of sincere support we received from all brothers, leaders and people in the Gulf and Arab states, affirming the reality of unity which binds us all and to whom our late great leader was one of its prominent figures.

We are also in the position to convey appreciation and thanks to the Islamic countries which embraced us with truly sincere feelings, and to all friendly states of the world with whom we share the keenness for a stable, secure and prosperous international community.

To conclude, witnessing this historical point, and as we consider our assessment of all the institutions, the Consultative Council and various bodies of Bahrain national community for their constructive contribution,

we have the pleasure to extend a message of applaud to those who safeguarded the soil of this nation and protected the achievements, and to express, on your behalf, every encouragement and support to the personnel of Bahrain Defense Force, who are shouldering the tremendous responsibilities in protecting the country, safeguarding its territories and securing the security and tranquility of citizens and residents.

This is achieved by means of joining forces with exerted efforts of security forces, police and the national guard.

At this moment, we recall the saying of our great late leader who addressed the personnel of Bahrain Defense Force and said "our solid belief of Bahrain Defense Force is an integral part of the forces of Gulf Cooperation Council providing with further confidence and determination to achieve the security and stability of our region. You have presented a true example in accomplishing the mission of honor and duty."

Such belief will remain our solid conviction at all times and circumstances.

Our dear people, We pledge to remain with you at every step and stage of our national work, for we are strong through the support of God almighty and your backing.

Cohesion and unity will continue to exist between us for the sake of Bahrain image and pride and for the sake of her prosperity.

We shall present before you our views and perspective on the future of the national action, and it would be our concern to perceive your expectations and aspirations for the goodness of Bahrain based on the formula of cohesion between the leadership and the citizen.

We are greatly confident that our Bahraini civilized society is blessed with many potentials of real progress upon which we can build in the path of political, administrative and economic development.

Such path we highly believe in and consider it as a source of richness for our traditions of consultation, and as a pattern for governmental development and for accomplishing the comprehensive progress and diversifying of the national economy in the interest of the people of this nation and every piece of this soil.

Finally, we have but to pray for God almighty to bestow our great loss and our leader with the mercy and rest him unto the heaven.

We are consoled by the fact that we shall remain adherent to his spirit and keep his path, to protect the soil of this nation, by every means of determination, dedication and resolve.

And say work righteousness, soon will God observe your work and his Apostle and the believers. Peace and God's blessings be upon you.●

HONORS FOR STAN AND IRIS OVSHINSKY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this weekend, two very special people, Stan and Iris Ovshinsky, will be honored by the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Jewish heritage and Yiddish culture, and to pursuing social and economic justice.

The organization's selection of Stan and Iris is most fitting. Their work on behalf of social causes and their love of Yiddish culture has been a constant part of their lives. But what makes Stan and Iris so special is that theirs is also a great love story. Stan and Iris met, fell very much in love, married