

MONTANA RAIL LINK

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today an award ceremony for one of the nation's best and brightest short line railroads, was held to honor Montana Rail Link's safety record. Montana Rail Link, commonly referred to as MRL, offers essential and competitive freight service to a large number of customers along Montana's Southern rail line from Billings to Sandpoint, Idaho.

MRL was honored today by being awarded the E.H. Hariman Memorial award. This award is specifically designated to recognize railroad safety improvement. Working on the railroad is not like having a desk job. It's not a job for the timid—it's a job where hard work and plenty of sweat are part of everyday tasks.

Each year, it is tragically inevitable that railroad employees are involved in accidents which can result in serious injury or even death. With the reception of this award, it is very apparent that MRL places a significant value on the safety of their employees. As a Montanan, I am relieved to see that a Montana railroad is the recipient of this award. Montana railroads have a long and colorful history in the establishment of our state. And I have friends that work on the railroad.

Montanans are very dependent on this rail transportation. We are dependent on this competitive alternative. As many are aware, I have introduced legislation that will help to assure the nation's shippers of competitive rail access. It is my intent to not only create free-market competition in the rail industry, I would also like to improve service of the nation's Class 1 railroads.

I've heard from many Montanans about the importance of rail car availability and affordability. The nation's rail system is dominated by four large behemoths of railroads. In Montana, those railroads are the target of much criticism based on their pricing and contractual practices.

It is the short lines that help to balance out the public's perception of railroads. In Montana, MRL has been hailed as a very reliable transportation alternative. MRL has also been hailed with this award today.

You've all heard me make a reference to Montana's vast distances—from corner to corner, the distance from Alzada to Yaak, Montana is equivalent to the distance from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, Illinois. I'm sure my colleagues will agree with me, especially when you consider the variance in terrain we are faced with in our state. Pulling a train over multiple mountain passes in the dead of winter can be a daunting task.

In Montana, we value good, honest, quality service. MRL is very much an example of what is best about Montana.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL BERRIE and DR. ROBERT A. SCOTT

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Russell Berrie and Dr. Robert A. Scott, two of New Jersey's leaders in business and education, on the occasion of their third annual "Making A Difference Awards" program.

Mr. President, Russ and Robert have made tremendous philanthropic and humanitarian contributions to my state of New Jersey. In 1997, they joined together through the Russell Berrie Foundation to create the "Making A Difference Awards," which honor unsung heroes of New Jersey for acts of unusual heroism, extraordinary community service or lifetime achievement.

Much like the award recipients, Russ Berrie has devoted a lifetime to helping others. Thirty-six years ago, he founded RUSS Berrie and Company, Incorporated, which develops and distributes more than 6,000 gift products to retailers worldwide. Its diverse range of products include stuffed animals, baby gifts, picture frames, candles, figurines, and home decor gifts. Russ' company, headquartered in Oakland, NJ, grosses annual sales of \$270 million and has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since 1984.

Recently, Fortune Magazine named Russ one of its "Forty Most Generous Americans," and Russ has been recognized by many organizations for his strong commitment to education, health care and interreligious affairs. Russ' Foundation promotes his values, passions, and ideas through investment in innovative ideas and by supporting individuals who make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Robert also has made a positive impact on the world around him. He currently is the president of Ramapo College, New Jersey's leading liberal arts school, serving over 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from over 20 states and 50 nations. Thanks to Robert, the college has named its soon-to-open center for performing and visual arts after Russ and his wife, Angelica. What an honor!

Mr. President, I am pleased today to honor my good friends Russ and Robert for their work in honoring the unsung heroes of New Jersey. We are indebted to them for their service. I am happy to join them in honoring this year's three winners of the "Making A Difference Award"—Beverly Turner, of Irvington, who lives with muscular dystrophy, for devoting her time caring for children with special needs. James C. Joiner, founder of the Rescuing Inner City Kids (RISK), for dedicating his time, skill, and spirit to working with inner-city children to instill in them the desire to better themselves and the people around them. Finally, Frederick "Freddie" Hoffman, of River Edge, for dedicating the last ten years of his life to raising money for the Leukemia Foundation. I also would like to recognize the 14 finalists: Douglas A.

Berrian, Mr. and Mrs. William Clutter, Sister June Favata, Kathleen Garcia, Adam and Blair Hornstine, Sylvia Jackson, Jeff Macaulay, Jim McCloskey, Eddie Mulrow, Thomas O'Leary, Barry Lee Petty, Michael Ricciardone, Richard J. Ward, and Dr. and Mrs. Robert Zufall.

Mr. President, I congratulate all of the honorees for unselfishly giving of themselves. They have proven to their family, to their friends, and to their communities that this honor is well-deserved.●

ADMIRAL BUD NANCE

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Admiral Bud Nance, chief of staff of the Foreign Relations Committee, who passed away last week after many years of devoted service to the country he loved.

As a former member of the Foreign Relations Committee, and someone who had the privilege of knowing and working with Bud, I can honestly say I have not met a finer person. A man deeply devoted to the ideals for which this country stands, he conducted himself with honor and integrity in all that he did. And he had an uncommon humility and kindness that will be remembered by all those fortunate to have met him.

With 41 years in the Navy, service under both the Nixon and Reagan Administrations, and a direct role in SALT II talks, Bud had already achieved a lifetime of accomplishments even before he was urged by his longtime friend, Senator HELMS, to assume the role of chief of staff at the Foreign Relations Committee. As with everything else he did, Bud flourished in that position, bringing his invaluable years of experience and knowledge to the Senate. He was a sure and steady hand at the helm of the Committee, and his remarkable spirit has left an indelible mark on all of us.

Theodore Roosevelt once said that "the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena—whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood . . . a leader who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause . . ." Admiral Bud Nance was just such a man, and today our thoughts are with his wife, Mary, and Bud's entire family as they mourn the passing of their beloved husband, father, and grandfather. We are also thinking of Senator HELMS at this saddest of times, as he grieves for the loss of one of his oldest and dearest friends.

Again, I want express my profound sadness on the loss of this great American, who was a patriot in life and whose legacy will never be forgotten by a grateful nation.●

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jewish

Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary on May 23, 1999.

The Jewish Community Council brings together more than 200 Jewish community organizations under one umbrella, enabling the community to act in a unified way on issues of shared interest and concern. The Council's activities include building partnerships between people of different faiths and ethnic backgrounds, working to strengthen Metropolitan Detroit's Jewish community, and providing information to state and federal legislators about important issues.

The people of Metropolitan Detroit have always been able to count on the Jewish Community Council for assistance. The Council administers an annual food drive conducted by a broad-based coalition of community organizations, provides volunteers to an interfaith effort to revitalize economically distressed areas of the City of Detroit, and has fought to restore food stamps for legal immigrants.

One of the Council's most impressive achievements is its continuing effort to build bridges between people of different backgrounds. Some of the programs sponsored by the Council include the Detroit/Israel Student Exchange and Seeds of Peace program. The Detroit/Israel Student Exchange sends Detroit Public School students to Israel, and the students subsequently host Israeli teens at their homes in Detroit. Seeds of Peace is an innovative program which works to achieve lasting peace in the Middle East by bringing together Arab and Israeli teenagers at a summer camp in Maine with daily conflict-resolution sessions led by professional American, Arab and Israeli facilitators. The Council also works with other ethnic communities to welcome new immigrants to Michigan and to provide swearing-in ceremonies for new American citizens.

As I travel across America and too often see people disconnected from each other, I am more and more certain that the strong sense of community in the Jewish community is a pillar of our strength and an essential path to our well-being. The Jewish community comes together to educate our young, house our seniors, take care of immigrants, and provide culture and recreation. I watched this sense of community with wonder when I was a boy and I see it with great pride as a man. This deeply felt sense of community—of being part of something larger than our individual selves—is a vital part of who we are.

The Jewish Community Council serves as the "public face" of this extraordinary community and I know my colleagues will join me in offering congratulations on its 60th anniversary, and in wishing the Council continued success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO ANDY MARTEL OF MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Andy Martel for leading the fight to save Catholic Medical Center in Manchester. His efforts have been inspirational and steadfast.

Andy was highly active in the preservation of Catholic Medical Center. There were plans to eliminate this important landmark in Manchester. The Center was having a difficult time preserving itself. Andy took it upon himself to save this acute-care hospital. He has tirelessly sought quality health care for the people of New Hampshire.

His efforts included organizing concerned citizens, raising funds, and heightening awareness about the plans to close the hospital. He became overwhelmingly cheerful and dedicated to the battle. The largest reason for the hospital's preservation was Andy's efforts.

Andy has been a valued member of the Manchester community for many years. He has volunteered in many political campaigns, been active in his church, and served in public office himself. He served as a State Representative in Ward 9 of Manchester. He has been committed to grassroots style representation and has been an asset to the legislation of New Hampshire.

As a fellow Catholic, I thank him for his dedication to our church. As a citizen of New Hampshire, I thank him for his public service and volunteerism. As a Senator, I thank him for all he has done to make New Hampshire a better State.

Once again, I commend Andy for his work on the Catholic Medical Center and for all his efforts. I wish him the best of luck in the future. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

TRIBUTE TO MEG GREENFIELD

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, Washington recently lost something altogether too precious—a sharp intellect that put policy above politics and sound reasoning above political posturing. When Meg Greenfield passed away last week, the Nation lost a thoughtful and honest voice that cut through the tangle of Washington rhetoric, telling us what mattered, what didn't, and what was sometimes downright ridiculous about politics in the nation's capitol.

From her position as a masterful editor of the Post's editorial and opinion pages to her role as an unfailingly insightful columnist for Newsweek, Meg Greenfield offered us her keen mind, her sharp wit, and her knack for giving readers the straight story.

That kind of talent is rare, and more than that it is essential in a world where facts too often exist only to bolster a partisan argument, and where truth is a question of spin. Meg Greenfield helped us see past the spin to the

story, and for that we are deeply grateful. She will be sorely missed.●

HONORING THE WESTPORT VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, for twenty years, the Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Service has been a lifeline for thousands of people in need of emergency medical assistance in the state of Connecticut. Since 1979, the WVEMS has provided the residents of Westport and the surrounding communities with caring and professional medical services, and it gives me great pleasure to congratulate them on their 20th anniversary.

A division of the Westport Police Department, the WVEMS was created to respond to the increasing number of calls for emergency assistance in the area. This group of 140 dedicated volunteers serve as EMT's, crew chiefs, and support personnel who, in the last year alone, contributed over 23,000 hours of patient care. Their expertise and experience have helped thousands of people by providing medical training, safety coverage at town and athletic events, and offering public courses in areas such as first aid, CPR, blood pressure clinics, and safe driving classes.

It is remarkable to note that while providing efficient, quality care to the residents of Westport, the WVEMS relies solely on private donations and fundraising to purchase its equipment, supplies, emergency vehicles, uniforms, and protective clothing. Volunteers have taken on this additional responsibility and the extra hours to ensure that their services remain available to anyone in need. They have made reliable emergency medical response a standard in many communities and have proven that emergency care is a vital component of the safety of our cities and towns.

The ongoing success of the Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Service is most evident in the nearly two dozen new students that receive training by the group's own personnel each year. Working in conjunction with area hospitals and local physicians, the WVEMS and its volunteers have earned the highest marks in state examinations while also having members serving on state and regional EMS councils. Moreover, volunteers have found their work so fulfilling that many have gone on to further their medical training and education as a full-time career.

What truly sets the Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Service apart is the level of commitment and concern its members have shown for people in need. In situations that can often be emotional, chaotic, and dangerous, these men and women put the welfare of others first in order to calm fears and provide lifesaving care. Members are on standby twenty-four hours a day and, in many cases, are the first ones on the scene of an accident. It is