

teach American history and the Constitution to our young people.

Each day Melissa teaches eleventh and twelfth graders about the Constitution and how it is used in everyday life and how it is reflected in our society. The future of our country depends on today's students and on their knowledge and comprehension of our Constitution and government.

She not only gives her students greater understanding of our country, but she also inspires her students to achieve more through her example. By continuing her own education, Melissa is showing her students that the educational process should never end.

I applaud Melissa for her hard work and dedication to her profession and for her commitment to her students and to learning.●

SALUTE TO ALEX XUE

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Friday May 14th, MATHCOUNTS held its national competition in Washington, D.C.—the culmination of local and State competitions involving 350,000 students. It gives me great pleasure to inform my colleagues that Alex Xue, a resident of Essex Junction, VT finished second in this competition and received a \$6,000 college scholarship.

In a day and age where we are bombarded by reports of failing school systems and apathetic young people, I believe it is extremely important to recognize Alex's tremendous accomplishment. His success is a tribute not only to his own intelligence and hard work, but also to his family, his teachers and his school community.

In addition to meeting with Alex and his MATHCOUNTS teammates on the Senate steps prior to the competition, by coincidence, I was on Alex's flight back to Vermont on the Sunday following his competition. I had a chance to talk with Alex and compliment him on his tremendous achievement. He was holding the trophy he had received and when I admired it, although it was clear that he was happy with it, he was especially pleased with the college scholarship. I praised him as any Vermonter would, but I was impressed with his modesty and his pride in his family and school. This is a young man who will do remarkably well in life and we Vermonters should be proud that he is one of us.

I ask that the editorial detailing Alex's achievement, which appeared in the Burlington Free Press, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, May 19, 1999]

WHAT ALEX KNOWS

Imagine a 13-year-old boy who finished second in the nation in an athletic event.

Vermont would know exactly how to celebrate: His parents and coaches would be praised, he would be held up as a role model for other kids, his community would be proud.

Alex Xue of Essex Junction deserves the same response, for scoring second in a nationwide math contest last week.

This remarkable performance is a tribute to his school, though schools are rarely praised these days. This success requires effective instruction year upon year.

His award is an accolade that also belongs to his parents, who support his studies. Would that more parents lavished as much time on their children's academics as they do on their sports.

The high finish is also a sign that he is a smart kid, very smart, and that is worth a great deal in the life Alex and his classmates have ahead of them.

Of course, schools cannot fix their attention solely on top students, because they must serve everyone who enters their doors. But they can recognize talent and reward performance, because it motivates other students, and because it serves as a reminder of what school is for: to learn, to strive, to fail at times and gain by the experience, and to achieve.

For his knowledge of math, statistics, geometry and more, Alex receives a \$6,000 college scholarship—a fitting prize. Learning offers rewards for every student, though, not just the smartest, and education level is the clearest indicator of a person's later wages.

Won't it be fun to see what becomes of Alex and his abilities? Wouldn't it be something if society thought of every child's potential that way?●

"FRIENDS OF ROMAN LEE HRUSKA"

● Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask that the attached comments made by the Honorable Charles Thone at the memorial service for former Senator Roman Lee Hruska, be printed in the RECORD for Monday, April 26, 1999, immediately following my remarks entitled, "Tribute to U.S. Senator Roman L. Hruska."

The comments follow:

FRIENDS OF ROMAN LEE HRUSKA

Friends all:

First, let me, and all of you here today, recognize two special people, Millie and Carl Curtis. Sen. Curtis served all 22 years with Roman, and Senator Hruska always acknowledged that no U.S. Senator ever had a more caring, a better and more cooperative colleague anywhere—anytime. Thank you, Senator Curtis.

INTRODUCTIONS

It seems only fitting to also recognize all public officials present. It is from thence, that Roman sprung. He epitomized public service at its best. He lived it! He loved it! He honored it!

He would have been pleased to know that, at the outset here, all Judges, current & past, all Federal, State and County officials, current and past, are asked to stand for a brief silent recognition. I also want to especially recognize Governor Mike Johanns; Former Governor Kay Orr and Bill; Former Governor Ben Nelson, Former Governor and U.S. Senator Jim Exon and Pat; former Congressman John Y. McCollister and Nan; Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hendry; Congressman Doug Bereuter and Louise; and Congressman Lee Terry. Also, a special salute to former chair of the Lancaster County Board and the lifelong Douglas Theatre skilled business partner of Roman, Russell Brehm of Lincoln and his charming wife Louise Brehm. Also, Attorney General Don Stenberg, a former Hruska staff member.

It was the British iconoclast, George B. Shaw who once wisely opined, "No remarks from a former Governor are all that bad"—if

they are short enough. Good stuff, but, in remembering Roman, I'm inclined to want to cover everything, filibuster a bit, if you please, and exhaust both your goodwill and patience, so I'll condense best I can! He was so special to me and many of you, too.

HIS WORK ETHIC

Roman's work was always his total recreation—Oh, occasionally he would superficially fish, hunt and in later years, cheer the mighty Cornhuskers on to victory! Early on, I must concede, he would have easily accepted the specious thought that "a quarter-back was a refund on the ticket."

Many here will remember genial Dean Pohlenz, the Senator's long time and wonderful AA. He and I once seriously conspired against Roman and another very studious and important top aide to Roman, Bob Kutak. (Kutak and Harold Rock later organized Kutak-Rock, a very successful national law firm with which Roman proudly associated after leaving the Senate.) Kutak's interest and knowledge of sports made Roman look like the legendary Grantland Rice. So, Dean and I decided to reserve a table for four in the Senate Dining Room for Roman and Kutak, and then have two New York baseball stalwarts, Casey Stengel and Yogi Berra join them for lunch, ostensibly for Berra and Stengel to advise on finalizing a professional sports anti-trust bill. It didn't happen, but we figured that a recording of that awkward luncheon conversation would have gone down in history as a sports classic—of sorts.

Just a few Hruska vignettes:

DEBATE COMRADES

At Commerce High School, Roman was a star debater. His team should go down as a Hall of Famer. The team was Harry Cohen, a brilliant lawyer who was later President of the Nebraska Bar Association; Dick Robinson, another very successful lawyer, and a beloved Federal District Judge; Jerry Kutak, business tycoon, President of Guarantee Life of Hammond, Ind; and Roman. They stayed life-long friends and confidants and what a joy it was just to see the four together visiting and reminiscing.

OMAHA ROOTS

Roman loved Omaha, and he effectively promoted his town throughout his career—he was the Senate architect of its Interstate System. S.A.C. and his friend, Curtis LeMay, were also tremendous beneficiaries of his Senate Appropriation skills. Chuck Durham, Ed Owen, Morrie Jacobs, Art Storz, Don Ross, John McCollister, Peter Kiewit, Cliff and Ann Batchelder were notables as his early Omaha Betterment Co-Conspirators.

WORLD-HERALD RESPECT

He always thought the Omaha World-Herald was easily the country's best newspaper and frequently checked in with then publisher, Walt Christensen and editor, Fred Ware—and, there was also a brilliant, hard working Statehouse and Douglas County Court House Reporter named Harold Andersen, whom he respected very much. World-Herald-wise, we wonder what ever happened to Harold.

FAMILY LOVE

Family was most important to Roman. His wife and life-long partner, Victoria Kuncel Hruska was simply the best. A special wife and mother—and a political associate in a very effective low-key way—no flim-flam, no nonsense, just herself—beautiful Victoria. We last visited with able and vivacious daughter, Jana at the David City Library Dedication Ceremony. She has been suffering terribly with dreaded Lou Gehrig's disease. Her devoted husband, Charlie Pagan, is here from Maryland. Son Quentin came home several years ago and carefully cared so well for

his parents. You met the "Big Guy", eldest son, Roman Jr., earlier on this program—his wife is the former MaryAnn Behlen of Columbus. Many grandchildren, nieces and nephews are also here today. Ultimately, family was first for Roman—as it is with all of us.

THE CAMPAIGNER

Roman was never happier nor better showcased than when he was on those early day political campaigns. Ruth and I were visiting the other day about a particular stump speech he once made—with a partially eaten kolache in his left hand—on a Main Street corner at Schuyler during the Nebraska Republican caravan. It was indeed a powerful speech, spliced with Czech phrases and when he finished his remarks, the audience acknowledged him as if he were truly the "second coming." The same result happened a couple of weeks later in a Hotel Ballroom in Broken Bow where the usually very reserved Sandhills crowd gave him at least a five minute standing ovation on his inspiring message and brilliant delivery. Oh, he could be a spell-binder deluxe, given the proper occasion.

A NEAR MISS

In the late 50's, a national search was on for a new leader of the Republican Party. The conservative kingmakers didn't publicize it, of course, but the short list came down to the two U.S. Senators with safe seats, Roman Hruska and Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona. Goldwater was ultimately designated somewhat on geography, but mostly because they determined that the TV cameras showcased Goldwater better. The rest, as they say, is history.

HE HONORED THE LAW

Most importantly, Roman Hruska's entire life revolved around the law. He lived by this creed once enunciated by Patrick Henry, "Always honor the law because the law has honored you."

Roman spent his first two law years studying at the University of Chicago Law School. Then he attended the Creighton Law School from which he graduated in 1929, just before the great depression hit with all its fury. He then, in the next 20 or so years, built up a substantial law practice, and from there was appointed to the Douglas County Board. He became its energetic, successful Chairman, known for his integrity and ability. He was always a prodigious worker. Even his political adversaries conceded that he achieved a lot the old fashioned way. He earned it.

Then to Congress for most of one term, then 22 years in the U.S. Senate. In the Senate, he was Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen's right hand bower on the floor of the Senate. Dirksen—"The billion here, and a billion there guy"—called Roman his floor lawyer. Often, on major legislation, Dirksen would tell his senate colleagues if they had amendments, objections, or whatever—"Clear it with Roman." Roman became a skilled practitioner of the "art of the possible" and he closed many legislative deals for Dirksen.

EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

It was as the "Minority Leader" of the Senate Judiciary Committee for almost 20 years, that Senator Hruska formally and extraordinarily honored the law.

He worked awfully hard and most effectively, to not only give fairness but structure and design to the law so it would be more effective and easier to use by Federal Judges, the Federal Court System and lawyers.

For the improvement of the rule of law, he co-sponsored the Criminal Code Reform Act of 1975 and the Criminal Justice Codification Revision and Reform Act of '73. For you law-

yers here, this was a very substantial overhaul of the entire title 18 of the U.S. Code. His was the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978.

He, John McClelland, John Stennis, and Jim Eastland, Senior Democrat on the Committee, bonded and his working relationship with the Majority Party was always just something else, and highly unusual. For example, when he left the Senate, he had presided or co-presided over the confirmation hearings of all nine members of the U.S. Supreme Court—unprecedented in history—and that was an era of "civility" that seems to escape such modern day confirmation hearings. He was the principal architect of both the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. In 1972 and the years following, he served as Chairman of the Federal Commission on the Revision of the Federal Court Appellate System of the U.S. and I could go on; suffice it to say that for several years, no Justice Department initiative, no Federal Judgeship, no major legislation moved out of the Senate Judiciary Committee until it had received his careful scrutiny and approval. Throughout, he honored the law, and he honored the Senate as an Institution. Roman's fingerprints, literally, were all over everything processed by Judiciary during these years.

ROMAN WAS SPECIAL

Let me say in closing, that we are not here for Roman, we are here for us. We need this—he doesn't! Whatever comes to us after the moment of our earthly death is beyond our understanding.

So, we remain here alive, confused and disconcerted. Above all, let's remember this about him:

Grace was in his soul, a smile and kind word were on his lips and friendship was in his heart always.

First, last, and always, he was a gentleman.

These words are so true for Roman, and perhaps, just perhaps, they alone might be a fitting eulogy. And, as a very recent World-Herald editorial writer noted: "The standards for integrity and service that Sen. Hruska set for himself, will long stand as his most fitting memorial".

A quick postscript paraphrasing beautiful Ecclesiastes, Chapter III, "to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven . . . A time to plant, and a time to harvest, a time to be born and a time to die."

Roman, you had a long and superlative life, and we're all a little better because you cared and touched us.

In Czech—Nas Dar—Good Bye—Dear Roman . . .

RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL DAVID W. GAY

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of Senators the retirement of Major General David W. Gay, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, after a military career that has spanned more than 40 years.

The recipient of many military awards and honors, including the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Award, and the National Guard Bureau's Eagle Award, General Gay has been a valuable friend to me and all the people of Connecticut. His experience and dedication have helped make the Connecticut National Guard the exemplary organization that it is today.

General Gay's contributions to the state go far beyond his command of both the Army and Air National Guard. His record of community service equals his record of military service and his participation in such activities as the Nutmeg State Games and the Character Counts State Advisory Board demonstrate his love for the community he calls home.

Even in retirement, General Gay will continue to work for the people of Connecticut as the state's Year 2000 Coordinator. I am happy to extend my thanks to General Gay for his years of distinguished service and offer my best wishes in his retirement.●

SUPPORT FOR S. RES. 99

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the attached letter of support from the American Psychological Association be printed in the RECORD in support of S. Res. 99.

The letter follows:

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, May 10, 1999.

Hon. HARRY REID,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: On behalf of the 159,000 members and affiliates of the American Psychological Association (APA), I want to express support for your proposed Senate Resolution that would designate November 20, 1999, as "National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day."

The APA is concerned that suicide rates among young adolescents, African American males, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, and the elderly have increased dramatically in recent years. Since the 1950's, suicide rates among youth have nearly tripled. Between 1980 and 1990, the suicide rate increased by 30 percent in the 10- to 19-year-old age group. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-old American Indians and Alaskan Natives. For Americans age 65 and older, the suicide rate increased by nine percent between 1980 and 1992. Elderly Americans comprise about 13 percent of the country's population but account for about 20 percent of all suicides.

Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States—our country is in dire need of a national effort to prevent suicide. In response to that need, the Surgeon General has been working with mental health advocates to develop a National Strategy for the Prevention of Suicide and is expected to publish a final version of the coordinated strategy later this year.

Your proposed Senate resolution would serve to further the intent of S. Res. 84, which you successfully introduced in the last Congress, to recognize suicide as a national problem and declare suicide prevention as a national priority. The proposed resolution would acknowledge the trauma of those who have suffered the loss of a loved one from suicide (suicide survivors) and the support they derive from one another. Their active involvement individually and through organizations has been instrumental in efforts to reduce suicide through research, education, and treatment programs.

In closing, the APA lends its support to you and other members of Congress in securing passage of this resolution. We also look forward to learning more about the administration's initiatives at the upcoming hearing on the National Strategy for the Prevention