

resources at great cost to state and local law enforcement.

As our legislation moved through the Senate Judiciary Committee and Senate last year, we had the opportunity to work on specific concerns raised by South Dakota law enforcement officials and the US Marshals Service. I sincerely appreciate Senator KYL's willingness to incorporate my language into the Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act that allows state and local facilities to collect health care copayment fees when housing pre-sentencing federal prisoners.

I also worked with Senator KYL and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to include sufficient flexibility in the Kyl-Johnson bill for the Bureau of Prisons and local facilities contracting with the Marshals Service to maintain preventive-health priorities. The Kyl-Johnson bill prohibits the refusal of treatment for financial reasons or for appropriate preventive care. I am pleased this provision was included to pre-empt long term, and subsequently more costly, health problems among prisoners.

The goal of the Kyl-Johnson Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act is not about generating revenue for the Federal, State, and local prison systems. Instead, current prisoner health care copayment programs in 38 States illustrate the success in reducing the number of frivolous health visits and strain on valuable health care resources. The Kyl-Johnson bill will ensure that adequate health care is available to those prisoners who need it, without straining the budgets of taxpayers.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

• Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the inductees into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for the year 2000. Located in Akron, OH, the National Inventors Hall of Fame is America's shrine to those who have made significant contributions to our nation, and improvements to the quality of life for all mankind. As Governor of Ohio, I was proud to speak at the dedication ceremony for this magnificent facility in July of 1995, and I was pleased to have the Hall also serve as the backdrop for the Edison Innovator Awards my office presented to companies throughout the State of Ohio.

Inductees into the National Inventors Hall of Fame represent the epitome of ingenuity and inspiration, and this year's class is no exception. Inductees for the year 2000 include: Walt Disney, whose name has become synonymous with imagination and creativity; Reginald Fessenden, whose pioneering work in the area of wireless communication led to the modern radio broadcasting industry; Helen and

Alfred Free, whose work developing the "dip-and-read" urinalysis test greatly eased the lives of those suffering from diabetes; J. Franklin Hyde, whose discovery of fused silica made possible the fiber optic cable so widely used today; William Kroll, who escaped Europe before the onset of World War II, and whose work in his home laboratory resulted in a process that allows titanium and zirconium to be produced; and Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Computer and the inventor of the modern personal computer.

Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door. In modern parlance, one might say that technological advancement is the engine that drives our economy. It is the biggest contributor to increasing our standard of living here in the United States, and the best way to improve the lives of individuals the world over. This progress is essentially made possible through the protection of intellectual property that is afforded by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the main force behind the founding of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. In today's rapidly changing world, the Patent and Trademark Office is the "safe haven" that encourages men and women to accept the challenge to build the better mousetrap through the protection of creativity and what our minds can produce.

Consider the accomplishments of the 158 inventors enshrined at the Hall. Consider the contributions they have made to society: to prolonging our lives and making them more enjoyable; to reducing our workload; and to allowing us to explore new continents and the heavens themselves. It is easy to see the power of invention and the tremendous impact inventors have on all of us.

As an Ohioan, I am always struck by the ingenuity and sheer determination of two Dayton bicycle workers who dared to believe that they could defy gravity with their winged invention. Little did the Wright Brothers realize that 66 years after their historic flight, man's inquisitive nature would improve upon their invention and put another Ohioan—Neil Armstrong—on the moon.

Invention is progress, and I salute the work of America's inventors, the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and the National Inventors Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio, for their continuing efforts to improve and enrich our lives.●

A TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA SHEHEE

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to join with my colleague, Senator BREAUX, in recognizing the great civic contributions of my dear friend, Virginia Shehee. It is so appropriate that the Biomedical Research Foundation of Northwest Louisiana should be gathering to honor this amazing woman, whose vision and energy led to the creation of the Foundation and the many benefits that it has produced for

the citizens of Shreveport—Bossier and Northwest Louisiana.

I have known Virginia Shehee and come to treasure her example and her friendship in my service as a State official in Louisiana and in my first term as a U.S. Senator. To those of us who believe that Louisiana must move aggressively to be part of the knowledge-based economy, the evolution of Biomed and the opportunities it has come to represent stand as a model of civic leadership and foresight. It is the story of a community that dared to dream big dreams at a time in its history when those dreams seemed most remote.

But those dreams are coming true, and young people who once had to leave home to participate in the new economy are now finding significant career opportunities in Northwest Louisiana. Of all the community leaders who can share in the credit for this remarkable achievement, none has played a larger role than Virginia Shehee. Her grit and unyielding persistence led to millions of dollars in state and federal construction and program dollars for a Biomedical Research Institute. And her salesmanship and gentle charm have opened doors to a world of promising cooperative relationships and new corporate citizens for Shreveport.

Some years ago, not too long after the Institute opened its doors, Virginia led a blue-ribbon group of Shreveporters, some half her age, on an industry-hunting trip through the mid-Atlantic and New England. Nothing could capture the indefatigable energy of the leader of the trip more than the words of a lapel button, which someone distributed to participants after the trip: "I Survived Shehee's March!"

As the CEO of one of Louisiana's largest companies and as a leader in the insurance industry, as one of the earliest women members of the Louisiana Legislature, as a caring steward of our great state university, as a devoted wife and mother and as someone who gives utterly selflessly and endlessly to her community, Virginia Shehee has earned the love and admiration of all of us who are privileged to know her and work with her. It will be a great moment for me on the evening of Friday, November 3, when I get to be part of the evening in which the Shreveport community says, "Thanks, Virginia. Let Shehee's March continue."●

A TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL AGENT TOM LAPISH

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, during the 106th Congress, the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation lost two of its most dedicated agents to battles with cancer. Both were respected not only for their professional accomplishments, but also for the manner in which they conducted themselves outside of their work, as each contributed considerably

to the Detroit community. I rise today in honor and in memory of Special Agent Tom Lapish, one of these two men.

Special Agent Lapish entered on duty with the FBI in 1976. After a brief stay in Kansas City, he was assigned to the Detroit Field Office. In Detroit, he developed an expertise in white collar crime investigations, and was regarded as one of the Bureau's top agents in that arena. With a background in accounting, he thrived on the protracted, intricate nature of investigating complex fraud matters, and was formally commended for his investigative accomplishments on several occasions.

Not surprisingly, Special Agent Lapish was known for his attention to detail. He was also known for his high ethical standards. He stood for the ideals of the FBI motto—Fidelity, Bravery and Integrity—at all times. Even as his illness made him weak, he would contemplate going to the office to work on cases he had been assigned. In addition, he was very active within his church, helping to promote the Christian lifestyle which he believed so deeply in.

Special Agent Lapish was also an extremely gifted athlete, and his passion for soccer became legendary within the Detroit community. He served as the coach for nearly 30 soccer teams, and in this capacity mentored hundreds of young individuals. His impact on them was seen at his memorial service, which was crowded with soccer players paying final respects to their favorite coach. It can also physically be seen in the Detroit area, where a soccer field was posthumously named in his honor.

Special Agent Lapish passed away on May 18, 2000 at the age of 50. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and two sons, Matthew and Andrew.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation works hard to ensure that its agents set a strong moral example for the people they are entrusted to protect. There is no question that Special Agent Lapish was a leader in this regard. Dedicated to his Nation, his agency, his family and his faith, he was a role model in the Detroit community, and he will be deeply missed.●

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CHARLES E. THOMAS

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Charles E. Thomas, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church upon the occasion of his retirement. During his time in the ministry, Pastor Thomas has shown a great commitment to both church and community.

Under Pastor Thomas's leadership and guidance, The New Hope Baptist Church has accomplished a great deal and continues to grow. The New Hope Day Care Center has been established and the edifice of New Hope has been renovated and expanded, creating a beautiful church with seating for over 1,200. Further, numerous programs

have been implemented to enhance the lives of The New Hope members.

Pastor Thomas has also contributed much to the Newark community. He established the Minority Contractors and Craftsmans Trade Association and the New Hope Skills Center to enable individuals to pursue careers in carpentry, masonry, and machinery. In 1975, the New Hope Development Corporation was organized to build New Hope Village, a 170 family housing complex in Newark that provides affordable housing for lower income families.

For over 20 years, Pastor Thomas has dedicated himself to both his congregation and his community. His efforts have benefitted the lives of countless individuals, and he is richly deserving of our thanks and well wishes for his retirement.●

REVEREND DR. BENNIE THAYER

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise to note the recent passing of the Reverend Dr. Bennie Thayer. Dr. Thayer was an extraordinary and inspiring figure in the eyes of all who knew him, and I would like to take this opportunity to describe for the record just a few of his achievements and his many attributes.

I have found it striking that the people who are now mourning Dr. Thayer's loss come from so many different backgrounds and walks of life. Clearly this was a man who touched many people in many different ways. Dr. Thayer was an ordained minister, the Senior Pastor at the United Methodist Church of the Redeemer in Temple Hills, Maryland. He also worked tirelessly to expand the political activities and economic opportunities for African Americans, both within his community and across the nation. His funeral last Saturday literally produced an overflow crowd—testimony to the high esteem in which he was held in religious communities, in political circles, and among many others.

Reverend Thayer was also the President and the CEO of the National Association for the Self-Employed, and it was in this capacity that I had come to know him. Along with Senator JOHN BREAUX, Congressman JIM KOLBE and Congressman CHARLIE STENHOLM, I co-chaired the CSIS National Commission on Retirement Policy. In the course of our work we took testimony from all sorts of groups—seniors' groups, youth advocacy groups, employer groups, and others—and it was through the gathering this testimony that my office first established regular contact with Reverend Thayer.

Among those who worked in the area of Social Security reform, Dr. Thayer stood out for his passionate and unswerving dedication to his cause. He also stood out in every other respect as well. He was an impressive, imposing figure of a man, with a deep and sonorous voice that he used to tremendous effect. And he was always there to do

whatever was necessary to advance the work in which he so deeply believed. In the rough and tumble world of Social Security politics, it is easy to become discouraged or demoralized, but Dr. Thayer was unfazed by any setback. Regardless of the short-term fortunes, he always kept his eye on the long-term horizon, and applied all of his considerable gifts and his hard work to achieving it.

All of us who knew Dr. Thayer admired him deeply for his willingness to argue passionately for an unconventional position when he knew that he was right. What was striking about Dr. Thayer's oratorical style was that he always strove to appeal to the very best instincts in his listeners—never selfishness, never division, never despair—always hope, opportunity, advancement, responsibility, self-reliance, and giving all that one can. There's a poignant example of this in a recent speech that he gave in Nashville, Tennessee, "The Power of Small Business for Wealth Creation in the Minority Community"—when he talks about why he felt that African Americans should support reform of the Social Security system. To quote from his words:

"First, African Americans tend to start working at a younger age than whites. So we pay taxes into the system for more years than whites. And second, African-Americans also have shorter life expectancies than whites. The average African-American male currently has a life expectancy of less than the retirement age of 65! So many African-Americans will spend their entire working lives paying taxes into Social Security. But then, they won't draw out a dime in retirement benefits. Or accumulate any wealth to pass along to their children, or other heirs." This is typical of his approach; noting not what was in it for him—but what kind of legacy was being left behind.

The sad irony here is that Bennie himself died at the age of 61. When one heard Bennie speak those words, one didn't think that he was talking about himself. I think that everyone close to him assumed that he had come so far in life that he would beat the odds.

And indeed Reverend Thayer had come very far from his birthplace in Pickens County, South Carolina. He was fully 36 when he received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, 54 when he received his master's in divinity, and 58 when he received his doctorate of divinity. His biography shows the mark of a man who was always striving, always working to create the next opportunity. But when you look carefully at the opportunities that he sought, they so frequently centered on creating new hopes for others—promoting economic opportunities with the National Association of the Self-Employed, spiritual guidance through his ministry, bequeathing wealth to our children and our grandchildren through reform of the Social