

LOUISIANA BUSINESS LEADER BILL RAINEY TO RETIRE

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise today to honor longtime Baton Rouge business and community leader Bill Rainey, site manager of ExxonMobil's Baton Rouge Chemical Plant. Bill is retiring at the end of this month after a 33-year Exxon career that began at the company's Baton Rouge Refinery in 1966.

Those of us in government who spent parts of our careers in Baton Rouge recognize Bill Rainey as one of the most tireless community leaders and effective problem solvers in the Louisiana capital. Bill's leadership in the community and direction of ExxonMobil's philanthropic works will be hard to replace and the company's more than 4,000 employees in Baton Rouge will miss his steady hand on the ExxonMobil rudder.

A native of Auburn, Alabama, Bill earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Auburn University in 1966 before embarking on his Exxon career. He left Baton Rouge in 1973 for a three-year stint in Exxon USA's Houston headquarters but returned to the Refinery in 1976 to accept the first of many management positions in Baton Rouge. In 1985, he became manager of the Exxon Research and Development Laboratories (ERDL) in Baton Rouge before returning to the Refinery as mechanical manager in 1988.

Like many of Exxon's top performers around the world, he was called to Valdez, Alaska in 1989 where he served as operations manager for Exxon's oil spill recovery and cleanup operations. In 1992, he was named manager of the Baton Rouge Refinery, where he served with distinction until moving up Scenic Highway to the adjacent Baton Rouge Chemical Plant as site manager in 1996.

While moving up the ranks to ExxonMobil's two top positions in Baton Rouge, Bill also moved up the ranks in almost every industry and charitable organization in which he was involved. He is a member of the board of directors and the executive committee of the Louisiana Chemical Association and has served with distinction as chairman of the board of directors of the Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance since 1996. While refinery manager he served on the board of directors of the Louisiana MidContinent Oil and Gas Association and provided outstanding leadership to that organization's initiatives and responses to various legislative proposals over the years.

One of the organizations that will miss Bill the most is the Capital Area United Way, which he served as board chair in 1996-97. ExxonMobil's annual combined corporate and employee and annuitant contribution of more than \$1 million makes it the largest United Way supporter in the state and says volumes about his leadership of that essential and worthwhile effort.

Bill also serves currently as a member of the board of directors of the

Greater Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce and the Partnership for Excellence Board of LSU's E.J. Ourso College of Business Administration and as co-chair of Community Action for Children.

Among Bill's many awards are the 1998 Alumni Recognition Award for Community Services from the LSU School of Social Work and the 1998 Volunteer CEO of the Year Award from the Volunteer Baton Rouge Corporate Volunteer Council.

Probably Bill's most notable accomplishment since arriving in Baton Rouge 33 years ago, though, was discovering his lovely wife, the former Emilie Steffek of Baton Rouge, and with her raising their three sons—Will, 29; Chase, 27; and Kyle, 25—all of whom make their homes in Baton Rouge.

I know that Bill and Emilie will continue to be active in their efforts to help others and I hope to be able to call on Bill from time to time as oil and gas or petrochemical industry issues critical to our state arise.

Bill is a frequent visitor to Washington and I know the entire Louisiana delegation joins me in wishing both him and Emilie a long and happy retirement.

CAPTAIN JERRY BURKE, EVERETT POLICE DEPARTMENT

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, throughout Washington state there are thousands of people who volunteer their free time to tutor, mentor, support our teachers and make a difference in their communities and in lives of our children. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding volunteer, Captain Jerry Burke of the Everett Police Department who has passed his love of the theater onto a group of elementary students at Madison Elementary in Everett. For his efforts, I am proud to award him with my "Innovation in Education" Awards.

Captain Burke participates in a program in which members of the Police Command Staff adopt an elementary school in the Everett School District. While it is no surprise to see a police officer donating his or her time to a local school, Captain Burke is teaching something a little out of the ordinary for a cop who used to go undercover to bust drug dealers—he teaches a drama class.

When Captain Burke first approached principal Joyce Stewart, she was intrigued by his Fine Arts Degree in Designing for the Theater and his experience teaching theater arts prior to entering law enforcement. Furthermore, she was already interested in creating a drama program to expose interested students to the fine arts. Though he had no prior experience in creating such a program, or in teaching drama to elementary school students, Captain Burke agreed to take on the challenge.

This program has been a tremendous success. Captain Burke and the school

created a drama club open to fourth and fifth graders that meets after school one day a week. The program continues to grow and approximately 35 students are now participating. The program combines lectures with creative drama games that emphasize communication, visualization, creativity, and improvisation. More importantly, the students enjoy the club and Captain Burke. Fourth grader Shawn Cook said, "Police officers are always supposed to be tough. Mr. Burke is funny and tough."

This spring's club is limited to 10 weeks since Captain Burke is attending the FBI academy in April, but he and Ms. Stewart are already considering options for spring of 2001 that would create a second creative drama class of third and fourth graders. The more experienced fifth grade students from this year's club are planning to put on the school's first ever dramatic production. Clearly, Captain Burke has made a significant contribution to the lives of these students and given them an interest that will last throughout their life.

One remarkable aspect of this program is that it demonstrates the importance of community involvement in our local schools. From this program, students will not only have an appreciation for the fine arts, but the will also have an appreciation for police officers and have a greater sense of community. I applaud the work of Captain Burke and wish his students the best of luck in producing their first play. Thank you to Captain Burke, and to all the members of the Everett Police Command staff for your contributions to local elementary schools.●

PALADIN DATA SYSTEMS SUP- PORT OF THE WEST SOUND CON- SORTIUM

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, when I travel across Washington state, one of the first topics I hear about from local businesses and high-tech companies is their need for people with high-tech skills. A Poulsbo company, Paladin Data, has taken their efforts to find skilled employees to a new level by donating its time and resources to train teachers in some of Washington state's public schools. For its commitment to working with teachers, improving student learning and expanding their skills, I am pleased to present Paladin Data with one of my "Innovation in Education" Awards.

Several years ago, seven school districts in Kitsap, Mason, and Pierce Counties developed the West Sound School-to-Career Consortium which provides approximately 14,000 students with high-tech classes. This year Paladin Data will begin its first year of a three-year project that provides high-tech training to teachers involved with the West Sound School-to-Career program. Paladin Data is also contributing \$50,000 in matching funds to a state grant of \$100,000 to provide needed curriculum materials and onsite

teacher training in either a Paladin facility in Poulso or at a designated school district site. Moreover, each school district will determine what training their teachers will receive based on the needs of their district and their students.

Paladin is giving our teachers more information and skills that they can take back to their classrooms and shows teachers what skills employers are looking for in perspective employees, giving their students a leg up on the competition. Paladin's involvement is not only improving the education of our students, but also giving them an accurate picture of what skills they need well before they enter the job market.

The Washington Software Alliance reports that over 64,000 computer-related jobs are currently unfilled in the State of Washington—all for lack of properly trained workers. I find it encouraging to see companies like Paladin Data, that are contributing to our booming economy, are taking an active role in ensuring the quality education of our children. I am proud to acknowledge Paladin Data Systems Corporation's commitment to education and I look forward to hearing about more companies making a contribution to our children's future.●

HONORING DR. WAYNE S. KNUTSON

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Wayne S. Knutson, of Vermillion, South Dakota, a distinguished member of the arts community. On December 11, 1999, the University of South Dakota renamed Theatre I of the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts in Dr. Knutson's honor. This is an honor he richly deserves.

Dr. Knutson has had a distinguished career as an educator, artist, and administrator at the University of South Dakota and in the state arts community over the past fifty years. His tenure at USD began in 1952 as Professor of Speech and Dramatic Art and Director of University Theatre. Subsequently, he has also held the positions of Professor and Chair of the Department of English (1966–1971), Dean and Professor of Fine Arts (1972–1980), Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Fine Arts (1980–1982), and Professor of English and Theatre (1982–1986). In 1987, Dr. Knutson was appointed by the South Dakota Board of Regents as the first University Distinguished Professor.

As a member of the arts community, he has also served on the Literature Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts (1975–1977) and as chairperson of both the South Dakota Arts Council (1971–1978) and the South Dakota Humanities Council (1989–1991).

Dr. Knutson's honors include a Distinguished Service Award from the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, the Governor's Award

for Distinction in the Arts, the Burlington-Northern Faculty Achievement Award, a South Dakota Arts Council Senior Fellowship for Play Direction, and an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities from the South Dakota Humanities Council.

In addition to his instrumental work as a professor and an actively involved member of the arts community, Dr. Knutson is also an accomplished author, director, and playwright. He wrote "The Dakota Descendants of Ola Rue" and "Dream Valley", as well as a number of articles on theatre for *Dramatics* magazine and a short history of the University of South Dakota. He has directed over sixty-five plays and musicals for USD, the Black Hills Playhouse, Pierre Players, Lewis and Clark Theatre, and the Group Theatre of Rapid City. He has also written ten plays and opera librettos, one of which was aired on Voice of America.

Mr. President, Dr. Knutson has a immensely enriched life in South Dakota and the honor of having Theatre I at USD renamed the "Wayne S. Knutson" is one he highly deserves. He has been an extraordinary pioneer and supporter of the arts. He is a man of great scholarship and knowledge, and will continue to shape the arts community for years to come. It is an honor for me to share the accomplishments of Dr. Wayne S. Knutson with my colleagues and to publicly commend him on his talent and commitment to the arts and education.●

HONORING BRIANNE COX AND GIRL SCOUT TROOP 290

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly commend Girl Scout Troop 290 of Yankton, South Dakota.

● The girls of Troop 290 have worked especially hard this last year, donating their time and energy to the community. Their wonderful efforts to enhance the lives of many unfortunate South Dakotans at Christmas and Thanksgiving, to assist the community's elderly, to aid impoverished people in Haiti, and to undertake many other key projects has had a very important positive impact in the world around them.

Sadly, on November 24, 1999, Brianne Cox, a member of Troop 290, was killed in a tragic accident. She was active not only in Scouts, but enjoyed soccer, softball, dance, violin, trumpet, cross country, basketball, and many other activities. This young lady had a wonderful spirit that touched everyone who knew her.

In her name, the Troop 290 scouts have undertaken a very special project. These wonderful girls want to keep Brianne's memory alive and stay close to her family. To this end, they hold a fundraiser every summer to raise money for the 'Brianne Cox Memorial Fund'. This effort, in the name of a special girl, will designate funds to other middle school students who wish to participate in the many activities

Brianne enjoyed, and who otherwise could not afford it.

Mr. President, these girls are true examples of charity and goodness. Their work to elevate the spirit of their hometown is inspiration in itself, but added to their work to keep Brianne Cox's memory alive, is truly extraordinary. I am pleased to be able to share their story with my colleagues and to be able to publicly commend their work.●

THE SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING HONORS MS. HAZEL WILSON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on March 31, 2000, the Saginaw County Commission on Aging will hold a luncheon honoring four women who have selflessly dedicated a significant amount of their time and their energy to improving the community of Saginaw, Michigan. Their tremendous efforts over the years have not only touched a great many lives, they have truly changed lives, whether by providing those in need with food and clothing, saving seniors hundreds of dollars in medical insurance payments, mentoring elementary school students, or helping people to understand and accept a culture different from their own. Thus, I rise today on behalf not only of myself, but also of the entire Saginaw County, Michigan, community, to sincerely thank Ms. Hazel Wilson, Ms. Mary Flannery, Ms. Sue Kaltenbach, and Ms. Yoko Mossner for their incredible efforts.

Ms. Hazel Wilson has been a Saginaw community leader for more than thirty years. Her charitable endeavors include working for the Family Independence Agency in the 1960s, counseling laid-off auto workers for the UAW-GM Human Resource Center in the late eighties, serving on the Board of Trustees for the Saginaw Public Schools, and also serving on the Board of Directors for the Saginaw Voluntary Action Center. For the last ten years, she has been employed by the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority as a Prevention Coordinator.

Ms. Wilson demonstrated her outstanding leadership capabilities, and indelibly left her mark on the Saginaw community, when in the early 1970s she established the Good Neighbors Mission. Ms. Wilson's original goal in establishing this organization was to provide needy families with food and clothing. But because of her dedication the Good Neighbors Mission has continually grown, to the point where today it stands as a community resource center, a hub of activity, and, I am told, a virtual clearinghouse, where people can find help fulfilling much more than just their food and clothing needs.

Aside from working as a Prevention Coordinator, Ms. Wilson is also currently a member of the Zion Baptist Church, Zeta Phi Beta sorority, the Michigan T.A.G. Workgroup, and the