

operation that has been especially useful in economic development and other brick and mortar activities. But she also suggests that the time has come to "take a fresh look at the U.S. role to think about supporting this cross-communal activity."

She is also blunt about looking at the trust's activities and potential, official U.S. support without blinders. "Their idea, what makes them so worthwhile," she said, "is their very careful focus on specific needs and projects. This is not some gooshy-poo, Irish sensitivity training where everybody gets in a hot tub and bonds. It's serious work. The fund has done a very good job, but I think we're now at a different place."

What she says about U.S. policy also should spark new thinking about private American support for Ireland. Given the roaring condition of the Irish Republic's economy, traditional charity and philanthropy appears to be less important than the cutting-edge activism across sectarian lines of the trust's participants.

They cannot be a substitute for the appalling failure of politicians in the North to transcend the past. But they do demonstrate how much of a difference individuals can make when they band together.

There now exist networks of community organizations that personify the broader refusal to regress, and they need all the support they can get. But they can't fill the vacuum without their so-called leaders. "It's like when you put your VCR on pause," said Mikulski. "It holds for a while, but eventually the old tape starts playing again."●

RETIREMENT OF MR. BRUCE AKERS

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Mr. Bruce Akers on the occasion of his retirement as senior vice president for Civic Affairs at KeyBank in Cleveland, OH. Bruce's accomplishments are not limited to his 40 years of service in the banking industry, but extend to the difference he has made in the lives of countless citizens. His decades of leadership and generosity have helped make Cleveland the great city it is today.

Bruce has served the public at many levels—in government, the private sector, and in civic organizations. From 1975 to 1977, he served as executive secretary to Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk. Today Bruce continues to show his dedication to civic responsibility and action in local government through his service as mayor of Pepper Pike, OH.

Bruce is also committed to a number of Cleveland's cultural, educational, charitable and civic institutions including service as chairman of the KeyFoundation, a trustee of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs and president of the Cleveland Opera. I don't believe I will ever forget Bruce's "cameo" appearance in the Cleveland Opera's rendition of Aida in 1984. He gave a tremendous performance that is still talked about to this day.

Bruce's community commitment also extends to service as a trustee of the Citizens League Research Institute, membership on the Executive, Central, and Policy Committee's of the Cuyahoga County Republican Party, membership on the Advisory Council of the

Alzheimer's Association, membership on the Cleveland Leadership Prayer Breakfast Steering Committee, and chairman of Cleveland's Promise, the local branch of America's Promise which strives to create an environment for a better future.

Bruce's belief in volunteerism was recently celebrated in "Cleveland Live," a news and information "on-line" publication serving the Cleveland community, where he shared his philosophy on volunteering. Bruce stated, "volunteering is a four-way win: a win for the organization benefitting from the volunteers' services; a win for the volunteers who gain new perspectives and feel self-fulfilled; a win for the employer because the employee-volunteer is a better-rounded employee; and a win for the community whose quality of life is improved, thanks to effective, dedicated volunteers." I could not agree more with Bruce's assessment.

In 1975, Bruce's outreach to others earned him the Big Brother of the Year Award from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland. In 1993, he received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Leadership Cleveland for his dedication to making Cleveland a better place. Bruce has supported the Salvation Army in a variety of initiatives throughout the years, and for donating his time and energy, in 1997, he received the General William Booth Award, the Salvation Army's highest award to a civilian.

Bruce's career is an inspiration to those who look to form a better future through active participation in the community. While I know Bruce Akers will enjoy his retirement with his wife Barbara, I also know that he will not cease giving of himself in service to his fellow man.

On behalf of the citizens of Cleveland and of Ohio, I would like to congratulate Bruce Akers and thank him for all he has done for his community and his State.●

THE GOOD FRIDAY PEACE ACCORDS

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, on March 17, 2000, the Irish and the Irish-at-heart around the world celebrated Saint Patrick's Day, a day to remember the spirit of comradeship, friendship, and peace the patron saint of Ireland brought to the Emerald Isle. I rise today to pay tribute to the Irish people and the forty million Irish Americans in this country—who are also celebrating Irish-American Heritage Month—and offer my thoughts on an issue close to their hearts and mine: peace in Northern Ireland.

The signing of the Good Friday Peace Accords on April 10, 1998 was an historic achievement in the quest for peace. After 32 years of conflict and bloodshed, the leaders of the principal Unionist and Nationalist parties in Northern Ireland agreed to a new governing structure for the province, one in which Catholics and Protestants

would, for the first time, share power in a new assembly and executive.

On May 22, 1998, the people of Ireland, in the North and in the South, voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Accords. Their message was clear: it was time for a new era of peace based on reconciliation, compassion, and respect.

Thanks in no small part to the tireless work of our former colleague, Senator George Mitchell, the power sharing executive finally came into existence on December 1, 1999 and the formal devolution of power from London to the people of Northern Ireland took place. It appeared that the Irish would finally be able to celebrate the true spirit of Saint Patrick's Day.

The quest for peace, however, took a step backwards when—on February 11, 2000—the British government suspended the power sharing institutions and resumed direct rule of Northern Ireland from London. The Good Friday Peace Accords is now hanging by a thread.

As I stated earlier, the people of Ireland, Protestants and Catholics, in the North and in the South, have made their feelings clear. They support the Good Friday Peace Accords. They support the power sharing institutions. They support peace and cooperation. They believe that the people of Northern Ireland should have the ability to govern their own affairs.

Representatives of all parties in Northern Ireland met last week here in Washington with British and Irish leaders in an effort to break this impasse and return home rule to Northern Ireland. I am hopeful that their efforts will prove to be successful.

I strongly support the Accords. They represent the best hope for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. I urge all parties to stick to the agreement and make it work. They have a responsibility to keep their word to the Irish people and stop Northern Ireland from slipping back to the ways of the "Hard Men": intimidation, violence, and death.

On this day, let us reflect on the turmoil the Irish have endured for so many years and commend them for their tremendous hope, persistence, and hard work. Let us remember the true spirit of Saint Patrick's Day and renew our support for the Irish people in the North and the South who desperately want, and deserve, a future of peace and prosperity.●

RETIREMENT OF JOHN CASTILLO

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize John Castillo as he retires from the Department of Defense after 47 years of service.

John Castillo and his wife, Connie, live in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. They have three children: Mike, who lives in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Lisa Marie, who lives in Reston, Virginia; and Tony, who lives in Warren, Michigan.

Mr. Castillo, originally hired in 1953, was recruited as an Inventory Management Specialist Intern for the United States Air Force in 1959, where his assignments included Inventory Manager and Weapon System Logistics Officer (WSLO), supporting the Atlas ICBM Missile Squadrons assigned to the Strategic Air Command. His subsequent assignments were with the United States Army, where he worked for the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command (USASAC) in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania for 24 years. In 1997, he received a promotion to Division Chief of the Asia, Pacific and Americas Case Management Division.

Mr. Castillo has consistently received Sustained Superior Performance awards or promotions throughout his career, and has established a reputation of outstanding service among his superiors and colleagues.

Mr. Castillo will be honored at a retirement luncheon on Thursday, March 30, 2000. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate John Castillo for his 47 years of dedicated service to the Department of Defense, and I wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.●

RECOGNITION OF DR. MICHAEL AND SHAINIE SCHUFFLER

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I take the floor today to recognize the contributions of two remarkable residents of my state, Dr. Michael and Shainie Schuffler, who have dedicated their lives to strengthening their community, fostering leadership qualities in our young people and working tirelessly to improve the health of countless people.

Michael and Shainie met during their college years in Chicago where they both shared a keen interest in medicine. In 1970, the couple moved to Seattle and have since continued to make the Seattle area a better place. After their move to Seattle, Shainie became actively involved in the Hadassah Hospital. Hadassah is a volunteer women's organization that works to strengthen a partnership with Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, and realize their potential as a dynamic force in American society. In Seattle and around the United States, Hadassah enhances the quality of American and Jewish life through its education and Zionist youth programs, promotes health awareness, and provides personal enrichment and growth for its members.

After joining Hadassah, Shainie found herself inspired by its founder, Henrietta Szold, and has worked tirelessly for the past fifteen years on specific projects at both the chapter and regional levels including the Women's Symposium and last year's Bigger Gifts dinner and has served as the President of Hadassah's Seattle Chapter.

Shainie's dedication to the Seattle community is also evident in her many other involvements such as the Council

of Women's Presidents for the Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Service, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.

I believe that one of the most important aspects of Shainie's work is her dedication to today's youth. Under her leadership as the Seattle area's Director of Admissions for the Alexander Muss High School in Israel, hundreds of local students have been given the opportunity to attend the Alexander Muss High School in Israel and has become one of the most successful youth programs in Seattle. I applaud her tireless efforts and believe that her work has directly impacted the lives of thousands of people throughout our state.

Michael has been equally dedicated to both his career as a leading doctor of Gastroenterology and as a volunteer in his community. Michael is a world authority on the pathology and clinical manifestations of neurological disorders of the intestinal tract and has been recognized by his colleagues for his many accomplishments.

Michael's work does not end, however, when he leaves the hospital. Like his wife, he has dedicated countless hours to Hadassah by serving as a visiting professor of Gastroenterology and as an Hadassah associate. He has also worked to encourage leadership qualities in our children through the Jewish Federation's Young Leadership Program, serving as its co-chair for three years.

One of his greatest loves in life is pro-Israel activism and has dedicated his time to furthering this cause through American Israel Public Affairs Committee otherwise known as AIPAC. He served as the Chairman of AIPAC from 1986 to 1994, strengthening the support of AIPAC across Washington state and furthering its reputation as the leading organization on United States-Israel relations.

Throughout their different commitments Michael and Shainie have always supported one another and recognized the importance of each other's work. Theirs is a true partnership and one that has positively impacted the people of our state. I ask my colleagues to join me as I applaud the outstanding and inspiring work of Dr. Michael and Shainie Schuffler.●

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2366. An act to provide small business certain protections from litigation excesses and to limit the product liability of nonmanufacturer product sellers.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-8199. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "April 2000 Applicable Federal Rates" (Rev. Rul. 2000-19), received March 22, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-8200. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation Z, Truth in Lending" (R-1050), received March 24, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8201. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transfer and Repurchase of Government Securities" (RIN1550-AB38), received March 24, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8202. A communication from the Acting Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Circular 97-16" (FAC 97-16), received March 24, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-8203. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Government Ethics transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemption Under 18 U.S.C. 208(b)(2)" (RIN3209-AA09), received March 14, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-8204. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Glufosinate Ammonium, Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL #6498-1), received March 24, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8205. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "Deterioration Factors for Nonroad Engines"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8206. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a report entitled "Choosing a Percentile of Acute Dietary Exposure as a Threshold of Regulatory Concern"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8207. A communication from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: Revision, NUHOMS 24-P and NUHOMS 52-B", received March 24, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8208. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas, Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds Vent Gas Control and Offset Lithographic Printing Rules" (FRL # 6567-5), received March 24, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8209. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Atlantic Striped Bass Studies—1999 Biennial Report to Congress"; to