

to Robert H. Foster of Dover, NH, publisher of the distinguished New Hampshire newspapers Foster's Daily Democrat and the Laconia Citizen, and a number of other papers, in honor of his 80th birthday which he celebrated on May 17. The newspaper is the longest continually managed and owned periodical by direct descendants of its founder with the family name in its banner.

I have known Bob for nearly 20 years. He is man of impeccable character, commitment to his community, and devotion to his family. His dedication to journalistic excellence has won him the respect of many politicians in the Granite State, no matter what philosophy or party affiliation. Robert Foster is known for his fairness, and for impressing upon his writers and editors that "integrity matters."

Robert and his wife, Terri, have been the driving force behind the success of the newspaper. Foster's Daily Democrat is rich in history dating back to the founding father of the newspaper, Joshua Lane Foster. On June 18, 1873, Joshua published the first edition of the Dover area newspaper. Robert assumed ownership of the newspaper upon the death of his father, Frederick Foster, on November 7, 1956. Robert has worked diligently to ensure that the newspaper continually maintains a standard of professionalism.

Today, as in 1873, Robert understands the importance of keeping the citizens of his community abreast of information which affects the quality of life in the Seacoast and the Lakes Region. Robert and Foster's Daily Democrat are a mainstay in the community, providing the latest news and information to their readers.

As members of the greater Dover community, Robert and Terri have been generous benefactors. Among other accolades, they have been honored as "Citizens of the Year" in Dover.

Robert, a World War II and Korean conflict veteran, has also served on the Board of Governors with the New England Newspaper Association and is a former Trustee at the University of New Hampshire.

Bob and Terri have three children: Catherine Hayward, Patrice Foster and Robert F. Foster. They are also proud grandparents of Catherine and Gregg Hayward and Samuel and Joshua Foster.

I commend Robert Foster for his numerous contributions to his community and our state. He is an exemplary leader who has gained the respect of those who know him. It is an honor and a privilege to represent him in the U.S. Senate, and I am proud to call him my friend. •

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AWARDS

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Susan Dollenmaier of Tunbridge who was chosen as the Vermont Small Business Person of the Year. She has shown ex-

traordinary innovation and vision in building a successful business in Vermont.

Ms. Dollenmaier is the president and co-founder of Anichini Inc., an importing and manufacturing company that designs, wholesales, and retails linens and textiles from Italy, India, the Far East, and Eastern Europe. Anichini also has a furniture division and a line of products for infants. A former social worker for the state of Vermont, Dollenmaier and her ex-business partner, Patrizia Anichini, launched the company about 20 years ago with only a \$600 investment. This year, sales of Anichini's linens are expected to top \$10 million. Besides its outlet store in West Lebanon, New Hampshire—a site she hopes to move to the Vermont side of the Connecticut River very soon—and a new one slated to open in Manchester, Vermont, Anichini operates retail stores in Beverly Hills and Dallas, along with a boutique in New York City. Susan makes sure that some of the cash flow from her wealthy and demanding clientele finances flex time, day care stipends, generous vacations and holidays, a profit-sharing plan and other benefits—as well as better-than-average wages—for her largely female work force of 45 employees. We are very happy Susan chose to start and maintain her business in Vermont.

I commend Susan and all of her employees for receipt of this prestigious award.

I ask that a copy of an April 15, 2001, article in the Valley News outlining Ms. Dollenmaier's achievements be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

SBA HONORS TURNBRIDGE'S ANICHINI INC.

(By Bob Piasecki)

TURNBRIDGE.—Most people drive right past the yellow farmhouse off Route 110 that contains Anichini Inc.'s offices, and that's just fine with Susan Dollenmaier.

Dollenmaier, president and co-founder of Anichini, the importer, manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer of linens and textiles for the rich and famous, prefers to keep a low profile.

That explains why there isn't a sign outside Anichini's headquarters or its warehouse farther down the road—and why there never will be, as long as Dollenmaier is running the company.

"I'm not into being a celebrity," says Dollenmaier, dressed casually in black leggings and a gray cable-knit sweater. "I just want us to get recognition because of our products."

That won't be possible for much longer because Dollenmaier was just named Vermont's Small Businessperson of the Year by the state's Small Business Administration.

Some of Dollenmaier's employees went ahead and nominated their boss for the prestigious award without telling her, and she ended up winning.

The selection put Dollenmaier in the running for being named the national Small Business Person of the Year award, which will be announced next month in Washington D.C.

The SBA singled out Dollenmaier and Anichini for "seamlessly blending economic success with socially conscious business practices."

Deborah Mathews, who has worked with Dollenmaier virtually since the day Anichini was launched, said she was willing to reduce

her salary and make other painful cuts when times were tough.

"Susan's focus on the needs of her staff and the community in which she lives and works made her an ideal recipient for this honor," added Mathews.

"Susan has a profound gift for recognizing hidden potential, and she knows how to bring it out in the open," said Kenneth Silvia, director of the SBA's office in Vermont. "It's manifest not only in her choice of Anichini's product line, but in the people who work at the company—the majority of whom are Vermonters."

A former social worker for the state of Vermont, Dollenmaier and her ex-partner, Patrizia Anichini, launched the company about 20 years ago with a paltry \$600 investment. This year, sales of Anichini's linens are expected to top \$10 million.

Besides its outlet store in the Powerhouse Mall in West Lebanon, and a new one slated to open this summer in Manchester, Vt., Anichini operates retail stores in Beverly Hills and Dallas, along with a boutique in New York City. Its regular clientele includes celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Sharon Stone and Tom Cruise.

Not bad for the daughter of an electrical salesman who grew up in Libertyville, Ill., a small agricultural town 45 miles northwest of Chicago.

Dollenmaier said she always had a thing for beautiful textiles, but doesn't quite know where that fascination came from. "That's something to figure out with a therapist," she jokes. But she suspects it probably has something to do with her grandmother, a dressmaker who also made her own quilts.

She sewed her own clothes as a teenager, and began collecting antique fabrics of all styles and types, never thinking it was ever going to turn into a business.

After graduating from Southern Illinois University, where she earned a degree in design and studied under R. Buckminster Fuller—the inventor of the geodesic dome—Dollenmaier bounced around for a while.

Her life changed in the early 1970s, when she came to south Royalton from Los Angeles to visit her sister, whose husband was attending Vermont Law School at the time, and fell in love with the area.

"It was spring. It was so green and there was so much water," Dollenmaier recalled, sitting at an enormous wooden table in Anichini's spacious conference room.

"It was so refreshing, I turned to my sister and said, 'this has got to be one of the most beautiful places in the world,' and essentially I never left after that."

She got a job as a social worker for the state of Vermont, and helped set up several programs including Meals on Wheels in Tunbridge and many of the other towns along the First Branch of the White River. At the same time, Dollenmaier continued to go to tag sales, flea markets and estate sales, collecting antique fabrics for her burgeoning collection. After she sold part of her cache in New York City, Dollenmaier decided it was time for a major life change.

"It finally dawned on me that I wanted more challenges, and that I was headed toward running some government program in Washington, D.C., if I continued to be a social worker," she says.

So she quit after seven years, and with her partner, rented a loft in Manhattan on 20th Street. "We lived there hand-to-mouth," she said buying, selling and swapping antique linens.

She remembers driving an old, unheated bread truck filled with their wares back and forth from New York and Vermont, where she also kept an apartment in Tunbridge. The duo got their first big break when Barney's, the upscale New York department

store, agreed to sell some of their material in its home furnishings store, which was just opening.

During a trip to Venice with her husband, glassblower Robin Mix, Dollenmaier got the idea of making and selling new, heirloom quality textiles, which is essentially what Anichini does today.

"In Italy I found women who were still making the same kind of textiles I was buying and selling," she says. "That's really where the seed of the business was formed."

Soon after that, Anichini caught another break when one of Italy's premier textile weavers took a chance on the fledgling company and agreed to give it \$50,000 worth of materials on consignment.

The business sold all \$50,000, and was on its way. It grossed \$100,000 in its first year, and has continued to expand and grow. Dollenmaier and Anichini eventually sold their loft in New York, and used the proceeds to buy the buildings the company still owns in Tunbridge.

The partners went their separate ways a few years ago, when Dollenmaier bought out Anichini's share in the business.

Today, Anichini has a furniture division, a line of products for infants and is widening its scope to include fabrics and designs from India, the Far East, Eastern Europe and other countries. It no longer bills itself as simply an purveyor of Italian, Dollenmaier says.

The company recently worked out an agreement with a weaver in India who is trying to keep some of the country's old techniques alive.

Dollenmaier acknowledges that the 2,000 or so women who make textiles for Anichini in India are, at least by Western standards, poor. Asked how this squares with Anichini's Ben & Jerry's-style commitment to social responsibility, Dollenmaier says she has thought deeply about this question.

"I guess I'd say they've got to be working doing something, and they are making a lot more money making stuff for us as opposed to someone else."

One thing is certain, Anichini's 60 employees in the United States are treated quite well. The company provides profit sharing, which has averaged more than 10 percent of the employee's salary over the past five years, 11 paid holidays, five weeks vacation after five years of service, and paid membership in gym.

Dollenmaier hopes to eventually move Anichini's outlet store in West Lebanon across the river to the Route 4 corridor in Vermont. Long-range, she also plans to consolidate all of Anichini's operations in a new facility in Tunbridge that will be even harder to find than its existing buildings.

Looking back on her life and how she has parlayed a hobby and passion into a highly successful business, Dollenmaier says: "I'm really doing exactly what I want. I really have very few regrets."●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL W. DAVIDSON

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to a great American, Major General Michael W. Davidson for his 32 years of meritorious service to our Nation. On June 16, 2001, Major General Davidson will retire from the service, and I know my colleagues join me in expressing our gratitude for his many contributions.

Major General Davidson began his career as an enlisted member of the Army 32 years ago. Since that begin-

ning, he served his Nation in the Active Duty Army, U.S. Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard. His diligence and commitment to the United States Army did not go unnoticed, he was eventually promoted to the rank of two-star General Officer. In this capacity, General Davidson served a three year term as the first ever Assistant to the Chief Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters.

During his tenure as Assistant to the Chief Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard Matters, Major General Davidson provided considerable insight and made lasting contributions regarding the integration of the Nation's Reserve Component forces into the planning and strategies of the United States Armed Forces. Major General Davidson's comprehensive knowledge of the Reserve Component and its capabilities as well as insightful analysis of our national security concerns were invaluable assets and set the tone for this new position. I am confident that all who follow Major General Davidson will benefit tremendously from his example.

Perhaps even more than his distinguished service, Major General Davidson is justifiably proud of his loving family. He and his wife Jo Ann have three children, twins Megan and Claire, both 22, and Brian, age 15. General Davidson and his family make their home in my hometown of Louisville, KY. Although he lives and was educated in Louisville, Major General Davidson's true allegiance is a few miles down the road in Lexington, or perhaps more specifically, Rupp Arena. Like so many others in the Bluegrass, The General is a huge supporter and fan of Kentucky Wildcat Basketball and I can hope that the next phase of his life will afford him many opportunities to enjoy the Wildcats in person.

In addition to catching as many Big Blue games as possible, Major General Davidson plans to busy himself with consultation work and teaching at the college level. Clearly, his commitment to service will endure.

Michael Davidson's time in uniform may be drawing to a close, however his record of dedicated service will continue for many years to come. On behalf of this body, I thank him for his dedication and contributions to this nation, and sincerely wish him and the entire Davidson family the very best in his retirement.●

NORTHWEST GEORGIA GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD WINNERS

● Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I am proud to announce that 53 girls from Northwest Georgia have achieved the Girl Scout Gold Award for the year 2001. The Gold Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can accomplish, and each girl has endured a rigorous process during the last three years of the Scouting program.

The many lessons learned through the Girl Scout program will serve each

girl well in the years to come. Setting and accomplishing goals, becoming effective leaders, and making a commitment to help others are among the many experiences each girl has had that set them apart from their peers. The special skills that the girls developed will be a tremendous asset to them as they finish their education and progress onto greater experiences.

Over the previous 3 years, each girl has illustrated tremendous dedication, effort, and hard work to achieve this prestigious award. However their success could not have been achieved without the support and encouragement of their family, friends, teachers, and troop leaders. On the quest for the Gold Award, each girl has endured challenges and hardships that would not have been overcome without the assistance of their community. As we recognize the achievement of these 53 girls, let us not forget to acknowledge the sacrifice that each family went through to help them reach their goal.

Below are the young ladies from the Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia who have achieved the 2001 Gold Award.

The list follows:

Anna Maria Arias, Atlanta, Georgia; Elizabeth Anne Baynes, Conyers, Georgia; Meredith Jane Bridges, Stone Mountain, Georgia; McChelle A. Brown, East Point, Georgia. Whitney Suzanne Calhoun, Stone Mountain, Georgia; Lauren Catchpole, Roswell, Georgia; Lisa Collins, Lawrenceville, Georgia; Erin E. Conboy, Roswell, Georgia; Katherine Davis, Lawrenceville, Georgia; and Amiris Duckwyler-Watson, College Park, Georgia.

Jennifer MaryAlice Ellis, Smyrna, Georgia; Valerie Jaye Elston, Alpharetta, Georgia; Catherine Anne Farrington, Lithonia, Georgia; Courtney Lashan Foster, Ellenwood, Georgia; Elizabeth K. Gilbert, Powder Springs, Georgia; Kara Renita Greene, Fairburn, Georgia; Lindsey B. Harris, Roswell, Georgia; Elizabeth Hollis, College Park, Georgia; and Amanda Katie Lillian Honea, Woodstock, Georgia.

Sharon Ashley Johnson, Stone Mountain, Georgia; Katherine Kauffman, Lilburn, Georgia; Katherine Killebrew, Marietta, Georgia; Adrienne Janiece Lee, Atlanta, Georgia; Catrina Marie Madore, Lilburn, Georgia; Laura Emily Cuvo, Lawrenceville, Georgia; Leanna Jane Dailey, Dalton, Georgia; Mairé M. Daly, Roswell, Georgia; Amanda Suzanne Mullis, Marietta, Georgia; and Mai-Lise Trinh Nguyen, Dunwoody, Georgia.

Natalie Nicole Parks, Jonesboro, Georgia; Virginia LaShea Powell, Fayetteville, Georgia; Jessica Ransom, Riverdale, Georgia; Jennifer C. Rausch, Norcross, Georgia; Charlotte Anne Grover, Lawrenceville, Georgia; Ashley Nicole Haney, Atlanta, Georgia; Farrah Leah Harden, Atlanta, Georgia; Joyce Elizabeth Reid, Conyers, Georgia; and Sarah Ellen Sattlemeyer, Stone Mountain, Georgia.