

Joe Limprecht brought a strong Nebraska common sense and perspective to the daunting challenges facing our Ambassador in Albania. Joe was a fifth-generation Nebraskan. His wife, Nancy is also a native-born Nebraskan.

In 1964, Joe graduated from Omaha Westside High School. His wife also attended Westside, where she graduated in 1966. Joe then went on to get his undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago. He received a doctorate in history from Berkeley. During his Foreign Service Career, he also earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School at Harvard.

Joe entered the Foreign Service in 1975, but his ties to Nebraska remained strong. He remained a member of the Nebraska Historical Society. I knew his father well. Hollis Limprecht was an institution in Omaha. He worked at the Omaha World Herald for 40 years. For 23 of those years he edited the paper's "Midlands Magazine."

Joe took an unusual path up through the ranks of the Foreign Service. From 1985 to 1988, he essentially served as West Berlin's Chief of Police under the Four Powers Agreement. His formal title was the Public Safety Advisor to the U.S. Mission in Berlin. In this role, Joe was involved in law enforcement, intelligence, and national security issues at a level rarely available to members of the Foreign Service.

He followed this posting with another unusual assignment. From 1988 to 1991, Joe was the Counselor for Narcotics Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan. This job also required strong problem-solving capabilities and a certain toughness. In recent months, Americans have gained a much greater understanding for the challenges this post had to have presented.

After 1991, Joe's career followed a more traditional route that emphasized his diplomatic and management skills. From 1993 to 1995 he served as Chief of Career Development and Training at the State Department. Prior to becoming Ambassador to Albania, he served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan.

Joe Limprecht was the complete foreign service officer. He represented our nation on the front lines, in very difficult international territory. America owes him, and his family, a debt of gratitude for their selfless service.

Joe leaves behind his wife Nancy, and two daughters, Alma Klein and Eleanor Limprecht. But he also leaves behind a record of service that stands as a model to young Americans.

I am proud to say Joe Limprecht was a fellow Nebraskan, a friend, and an outstanding American.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM S. HARTSOCK

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me today in commending William S. Hartsock for his 28 years of service on the Farmington

City Council. Originally elected to the city council in 1973, Bill has long been known for his diplomacy and commitment to community and his retirement will be celebrated on May 30.

When Bill first ran for City Council in 1971, he had to petition for permission to run because he was under 21, the voting age at the time. Though he lost his first election, he was not deterred and won 2 years later. Since that time, he has devoted countless hours to his community as an elected official, including four terms as Mayor of Farmington.

During his tenure on the City Council, Farmington has faced many of the same challenges which confront small towns and cities across the country. One of the most trying challenges is the emigration of business out of the downtown area to large malls on the fringes of Farmington. Despite this trend, he remains optimistic and has long worked to attract small business to the downtown area and enhance its appearance.

Bill has also invested a tremendous amount of time serving on local and national boards. He has been a board member of the Founders Day Festival, the Botsford Hospital Development Fund, and the Farmington YMCA. He also founded and was past president of the Farmington Area Division for the American Heart Association, and past president of the Farmington Exchange Club, and the Huron River Hunting and Fishing Club.

In these days of power politics, Bill's was concerned solely with what was best for his community. He believed that local government had the greatest impact on peoples everyday lives, and commented "All local politics are very personal." I believe that many of my Senate colleagues would concur with Bill's belief that the most enjoyable part of his job was talking to young people. He loved to travel to local schools and talk to students about government.

Bill has helped guide Farmington for nearly three decades. All of those whom he so faithfully served will miss his integrity and good humor. I know my Senate colleagues will join me in thanking William S. Hartsock for his distinguished career wish him well in the years ahead.●

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF DOBSON HIGH SCHOOL FROM MESA, AZ

● Mr. KYL. Mr. President, earlier this month, more than 1,200 students from across the United States were in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program. This program was designed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and this year's event was, yet again, testament to its success.

The 3-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United

States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

I am proud to announce that the class from Dobson High School from Mesa, AZ was selected as the national winner of this year's competition. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals and I commend them on their fine accomplishment. Through their experience, they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy, and hopefully, they have also helped to encourage other young students around the country to follow in their footsteps.

I would like to take a moment to mention the names of those students who competed for Dobson High: Dean Anderson, Nikki Best, Diana Capozzi, Adam Cronenberg, Adam Ekbohm, Ashley Emmons, Tammy Ho, Candice Howden, Chi-Chi Hsieh, Katherine Jennings, Amanda Keim, Brianne Kiley, Jimmy Martinez, Jr., Jordan Pendergrass, Ashley Rogers, Jake Seybert, Hiral Shah, Ashley Wearly, and Jeff Yost. I would also like to acknowledge their teacher, Abby Dupke, the district coordinator, Kathleen Williams, and the state coordinator, Debbie Shayo. Congratulations.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental principles of our government. These are ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values which we hold as standards, especially in our endeavor to preserve the promise of our constitutional democracy.

All of the students who participated in this program worked extremely hard, and they are all to be commended for their research and preparation. I wish all these budding constitutional experts the best of luck in their futures. They represent tomorrow's leaders of our Nation.●

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS OF WEST WARWICK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise in recognition of the students of West Warwick Senior High School for representing the State of Rhode Island in the national competition for the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. This year's national competition took place on May 4 to 6, 2002.

The We the People program and the competition is administered by the Center for Civic Education. The competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress and consists of oral presentations by high school students

before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government. These are the ideals that bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

On behalf of all Rhode Islanders, I would like to congratulate Najiya Abdul-Hakim, Janice Abueg, Peter Calci III, Kristin Capaldo, Elizabeth Champagne, Tara Cooney, Tara Czop, Paul DiMartino, Thomas Driscoll, Christopher Ellis, Tinisha Goldson, Kenneth Halpern, Sarah Johnson, Alyssa Lavallee, Robert Martin, Michael Muschiano, Lindsay Nagel, Michael Ouellette, Anthony Politelli, Michael Ryan, Kendall Silva, Sarah Smith, Corey St. Sauveur, Kate Studley, Erin Watson, Shane Wilcox, and their teacher Marc Leblanc. I would also like to acknowledge Rhode Island State Coordinator Henry Cote and District Coordinators Carlo Gamba and Michael Trofi for their dedication to this program over the years. These students truly represent the future leaders of our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY COOPER STEELE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a true hero; Deputy Cooper Steele of Kenton County, Kentucky. The Northern Kentucky Police Chiefs Association recently recognized Deputy Steele as the 2002 Outstanding Police Officer of the Year for his performance in the line of duty. Today, Court TV in conjunction with the Women's Caucus and several congressional members recognized Deputy Steele and six other heroic individuals around the Nation as a part of Court TV's "Everyday Heroes" Initiative. This is certainly a special day for Deputy Steele and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

On November 2, 2001, while on what appeared to be a routine patrol, Deputy Steele observed black smoke coming from an apartment building. Without hesitation or fear, Deputy Steele immediately stopped his patrol car in front of the building and noticed a woman on the third floor desperately screaming for help. Deputy Steele attempted to enter the apartment building but was violently driven back by the thick and suffocating smoke. With complete disregard for his own well-being, Deputy Steele heroically climbed onto a second story balcony and directed the evacuation of the four member family from the third floor balcony by handing them down one-by-one to another officer and out of harms

way. There were many other families still trapped in the burning building, but they refused to attempt a floor-to-floor transfer as the first family had done. Once again demonstrating his selfless and heroic nature, Deputy Steele refused to leave the scene, continuing to place himself in harm's way. He remained with the other tenants advising, encouraging and keeping them calm until the fire department equipment arrived to safely extricate the people from the building.

I am truly honored and humbled to be representing amazing individuals such as Deputy Cooper Steele in the United States Senate. In these trying and turbulent times, men like Deputy Steele should serve as an inspiration to us all. His heroic actions saved lives. His selfless nature shed a ray of light on a seemingly hopeless situation. I ask that my fellow colleagues join me in thanking Deputy Steele for having the instincts and the heart to do what he did. This man is a true hero and deserves our sincerest admiration.●

RECOGNITION OF OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, in 1963, President Kennedy began an important tradition of designating a time for our country to honor our older citizens for their many accomplishments and contributions to our Nation. I rise today to continue that tradition and recognize May as "Older Americans Month." Those of us who have worked diligently in the U.S. Senate to ensure that older Americans are able to live in dignity and independence during their later years, welcome this opportunity to pause and reflect on the contributions of those individuals who have played such a major role in shaping our great Nation. We honor them for their hard work and the countless sacrifices they have made throughout their lifetimes, and look forward to their continued contributions to our country's welfare.

Today's older citizens have witnessed more technological advances than any other generation in our Nation's history. Seniors today have lived through times of extreme economic depression and prosperity, times of war and peace, and have seen incredible advancements in the fields of science, medicine, transportation and communications. They have not only adapted to these changes remarkably well, but they have continued to make meaningful contributions to this country.

Recent Census figures reveal that the number of older Americans continues to grow. The population of those 85 and older grew 37 percent during the 1990s, while the Nation's overall population increased only 13 percent. Approximately 35 million people 65 and older were counted in the 2000 Census as well as 50,500 Americans who were 100 or older. Baby boomers, who represented one-third of all Americans in 1994, will enter the 65-years-and-older category

over the next 13 to 34 years, substantially increasing this segment of our population.

At the same time the number of older Americans is skyrocketing, they are in much better health and far less likely than their counterparts of previous generations to be impoverished, disabled or living in nursing homes. Older Americans are working and volunteering far beyond the traditional retirement age to give younger generations the benefit of their wisdom. In 2000, those 65 and over comprise 14 percent of the U.S. labor force.

These positive figures show that commitment to programs such as Medicare and Social Security, and investment in biomedical research and treatment are improving the quality of life for older Americans. One of our national goals must be to ensure all older Americans benefit from these improvements. In Congress, we must ensure our legislative priorities reflect the dedication that older Americans have provided to this country. This includes expanding and strengthening those programs that effectively aid older Americans, and addressing those that fall short of assisting this valuable and constantly expanding segment of our society.

By 2020, Medicare will be responsible for covering nearly 20 percent of the population. Though Medicare meets the health care needs of millions of Americans, it was created in a different time before the benefits of prescription medicines had become such an integral part of health care. Three in 5 Medicare beneficiaries lack affordable, prescription drug coverage. Although people 65 and older are 12.5 percent of the population, they fill 34 percent of all prescriptions. Today it is difficult to imagine quality healthcare coverage without including medicines that treat and prevent illnesses.

I have and will continue to fight for Medicare prescription drug coverage for all seniors. As a cosponsor of the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Act of 2001, I recognize the predicament of many older Americans as they struggle to live independently on a fixed income and afford costly prescription drugs. The huge advances in biomedical research that have led to the life saving drugs and treatment are of little use if the population that stands to benefit the most cannot afford them. It is imperative that we address the needs of the Americans who have devoted so much of their life experience and achievement to better our society. Like all Americans, they deserve access to comprehensive health care.

One of the strengths that I admire most about older generations is their devotion and concern for younger Americans. As we face the dilemma of funding Social Security and investigate proposals to privatize the program, older Americans have been the most outspoken advocates of ensuring its existence for future generations. Their determination to preserve this