

by little, the community's economic base is reborn.

Today, there are over 8,378 small businesses that are HUBZone certified, and the Government has procured approximately \$1.7 billion in HUBZone contracting this year. The SBA reports that in fiscal year 2001, each dollar spent on the program yielded a return of \$288 in contract awards and as a result, the program helped to create 12,782 jobs in the U.S., approximately 8,974 of which were located in distressed areas.

Based on fiscal year 2001 procurement statistics, HUBZone firms increased employment 33 percent to 50 percent as a result of contract awards. Nearly 50 percent of HUBZone firms increased capital expenditures as a result of receiving contracts in fiscal year 2001. As our economy struggles during these difficult times, this vital program will continue to bring jobs to our Nation's inner cities, poor rural counties, and Indian reservations.

I urge Congress to support the HUBZone Program in its current form along with the new amendments provided in the Senate's version of the SBA Reauthorization Act of 2003. Any additional changes not supported by the full Senate Committee on Small Business could seriously undermine the original intent of the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the small business community. I encourage my colleagues to support Senator SNOWE and S. 1375, the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003.

FINDING THE CONNECTION

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, it has been nearly 2 years since terrorists attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. As our Nation prepares to honor the memory of those who were lost on that tragic day, I would like to submit for the RECORD a piece that I read in yesterday's Cleveland Plain Dealer that was written by Christy Ferer, whose husband, Neil Levin, perished in the World Trade Center. I was deeply moved by her words, which serve to remind us of the reason behind our ongoing efforts to promote the virtues of freedom and democracy as our men and women in uniform remain on the front lines in the fight against terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the world. We owe them our deepest gratitude.

I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Plain Dealer, Sept. 8, 2003]

FINDING THE CONNECTION

(By Christy Ferer)

When I told friends that I was making a pilgrimage to Iraq to thank the U.S. troops, their reactions were underwhelming at best.

Some were blunt: "Why are you going there?"

They couldn't understand why it was important for me, a Sept. 11 widow, to express my support for the men and women stationed today in the Persian Gulf.

The reason seemed clear, as far as I was concerned. I was going not to embrace the war, but to embrace the warriors.

I didn't intend to use the emotional capital generated by my connection to Sept. 11, 2001, to defend the U.S. presence in the Gulf. And I am certainly aware there is no proof yet that Saddam Hussein was linked to those terrorist attacks.

But I wanted to go to Iraq because I am the daughter of a World War II veteran who was decorated with a Purple Heart, and because I am the widow of a man who lost his life in what some feel was the opening salvo of World War III.

I wanted, needed, to honor my father and my husband, their service and sacrifice, by standing before those who were now making sacrifices and serving our country.

But my friends' reactions were so politely negative that I began to doubt my role in the first USO/Tribeca Institute tour into newly occupied Iraq. Besides, with Robert DeNiro, Wayne Newton and Rebecca and John Stamos, who needed me? I'm hardly a celebrity.

Did U.S. soldiers really want to hear about my husband, Neil Levin, who went to work as director of the Port Authority of New York on Sept. 11 and never came home?

How would they relate to the two other bereaved people traveling with me—Ginny Bauer, a N.J. homemaker and mother of three who lost her husband, David, and former Marine Jon Vigiano, who lost his only sons, Jon, a firefighter, and Joe, a policeman?

As we were choppered over the bleached deserts, I wondered if I'd feel like a street hawker, passing out Port Authority pins and baseball caps as I said "Thank you" to the troops. Would a hug from me compare to hugs from a Victoria's Secret model, or the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders?

The first "meet and greet" made me weep. My own daughters are old enough to be soldiers. Here were their peers—18-years-olds, armed with M-16s and saddlebags of water in the 120-degree heat. The soldiers swarmed around the stars for photos and autographs. Then it was announced that a trio of Sept. 11 family members was also in the tent.

It was as if an emotional dam had burst.

Some wanted to touch us, as if they needed a physical connection to our sorrow, and living proof of one reason they were there. One mother of two from Montana told me she'd signed up because of Sept. 11, and dozens of others said the same. One young man showed me his metal bracelet engraved with the name of victim he'd never known and that awful date none of us will ever forget.

At every encounter with the troops, there was a surge of reservists—firefighters and cops, including many who had worked in the rubble of Ground Zero—who had come to exchange a hometown hug. Their glassy eyes still didn't allow anyone to penetrate to the place where their trauma is lodged, the trauma that comes with devastation unimaginable to those who didn't witness it. It's there in me, too. I forced my way downtown on that terrible morning, convinced I could find Neil beneath the rubble.

I was not prepared for the soldiers who showed us the World Trade Center memorabilia they'd carried with them into the streets of Baghdad. Others had been holding in stories of personal Sept. 11 tragedies that had made them enlist.

To those men and women, it didn't seem to matter that Saddam's regime had not produced the murderers of Sept. 11. What they made clear to me was their belief that des-

potic rulers like Saddam fuel the volatile anti-American sentiment that breeds such terrorism: They feel they are in Iraq to stabilize the Gulf region, and thus to protect U.S. soil.

At Saddam Hussein International Airport, where Kid Rock gave an impromptu concert in a steamy hangar, Capt. Jorge Vargas from the Bronx tapped me on the back. He'd enlisted in the Army after some of his wife's best friends were lost at the World Trade Center. When he saw the piece of recovered metal from the Towers that I had been showing to a group of soldiers, he grasped for it as if it were a grail.

Then he handed it to Kid Rock, who passed the precious metal through the 5,000 troops in the audience. They lunged at the opportunity to touch the steel that symbolized what so many of them felt was the purpose of their mission. Looking into that sea of khaki gave me chills, even in the blistering heat.

When I got to the microphone, I told the soldiers we hadn't made the journey to hear condolences, but to thank them and to say that the families of Sept. 11 think of them every day. The crowd interrupted me with chants of "U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" Many cried.

What happened next left me with no doubt as to why I had come.

There I was on stage, quaking before thousands of troops because I was to present a small piece of the World Trade Center steel to Gen. Tommy Franks. As I handed him the icy gray block, his eyes welled up.

I was stunned when the proud four-star general was unable to hold back the tears, which streamed down his face as he stood at center stage before his troops. The men and women in khaki fell silent.

And he turned from the spotlight to regain his composure, I put my arms around him and tried to comfort both of us with an embrace.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHESTERFIELD SMITH

● Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of an extraordinary Floridian who was also an American treasure—Chesterfield Harvey Smith.

On Wednesday, July 16, 2003, we lost this resounding voice of conscience to cardiopulmonary complications at Doctor's Hospital in Coral Gables, FL. He was 85.

Chesterfield Smith often called himself a "country lawyer," but he was a pillar of this Nation's legal community. After graduating from the University of Florida's law school in 1948, he joined a law firm that he led through mergers and acquisitions to become one of the country's largest, Holland & Knight. He served as president of the Florida Bar Association in 1964, and then became president of the American Bar Association in 1973.

While ABA president, Mr. Smith condemned President Richard Nixon following the firings of an attorney general and others in the so-called "Saturday Night Massacre" during the Watergate scandal. Mr. Smith's comment—"no man is above the law"—has been described as a turning point in public

opinion. Smith urged that an independent special prosecutor be employed to investigate the President.

"The justice system was being torn down by Nixon's actions," Mr. Smith recalled in an interview with *The Associated Press* in 1999.

Mr. Smith challenged members of the legal profession to provide quality, affordable legal services for all persons in need, insisting that law firms fill in where government funding came short. Always a visionary, he proposed testing of lawyers to weed out incompetents and was an early advocate of equal rights for women and minorities. Among his many honors, in 1969, the Florida State Chamber of Commerce named Chesterfield Smith the first "Distinguished Floridian of the Year," and he was subsequently honored as a "Great Floridian" by Governor Lawton Chiles and the Florida Cabinet.

In 2002, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg presented Mr. Smith with an award in recognition of his lifelong commitment to pro bono service.

Born in the small town of Arcadia in southwest Florida, Chesterfield served from 1934 to 1938 with the Florida National Guard. He joined the Army in 1940, prior to Pearl Harbor, where he quickly achieved the rank of Technical Sergeant and was recommended for Officer Candidate School. After attending OCS and being commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer, he served during World War II combat as the Commander of B Battery with the 390th Field Artillery Battalion, 94th Infantry Division, that participated in the Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe Campaigns. His bravery in these campaigns resulted in his being awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He was also awarded the American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Service Medal, European Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars and the World War II Victory Medal.

Chesterfield was discharged from the Army, having attained the rank of Captain, in December 1945. He served 6 more years in the Army Reserve, retiring in 1951 with the rank of Major.

After the war, he returned to Florida and graduated from law school at the University of Florida. He joined the firm of Holland, Bevis & McRae in Bartow and quickly made partner. Later, under Smith's leadership, the firm merged with the Tampa firm Knight, Jones, Whitaker and Germany in 1968, and the new firm became Holland & Knight. Smith served as the firm's managing partner for 18 years. Today, Holland & Knight is our nation's eighth largest firm and sets the standard for public service.

In short, this son of Florida bravely served his Nation as a member of the armed services and as a civilian. He truly was worthy of what was his most cherished title: "Citizen Smith."

I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing heartfelt condolences to Ches-

terfield's widow, Jacqueline Allee Smith of Coral Gables, FL and in expressing our appreciation for this great man's lasting legacy. ●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-3964. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapefruit and Oranges (Texas and States Other Than Florida, California, and Arizona); Grade Standards" (Doc. No. FV-00-304) received on August 11, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3965. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States Standards for Grades of Pistachio Nuts in the Shell and United States Standards for Grades of Shelled Pistachios" (Doc. No. FV-98-304) received on September 2, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3966. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rates" (Doc. No. FV030-916-4 IFR) received on September 2, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3967. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate and Defined Fiscal Period" (Doc. No. FV03-958-1 FR) received on September 2, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3968. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Revision of Handling Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches" (Doc. No. FV03-916-2 IFR-A) received on September 2, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3969. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change in Minimum Quality and Handling Standards for Domestic and Imported Peanuts Marketed in the United States" (Doc. No. FV03-996-2 IFR) received on September 2, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3970. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Upper Midwest Marketing Area—Final Order" (Doc. No. DA-01-03) received on September 2, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3971. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Central Marketing Area—Technical Amendment" (Doc. No. DA-03-09) received on

September 2, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3972. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Classical Swine Fever Status of Mexican States of Baja California, Baja California Sur, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa" (Doc. No. 01-074-2) received on August 13, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3973. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diflubenzuron; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL#7323-1) received on September 2, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3974. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dried Prunes Produced in California; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Doc. No. FV03-993-4 IFR) received on August 11, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3975. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dried Prunes Produced in California; Temporary Suspension of the Mandatory Outgoing Prune Inspection and Quality Requirements, and Modification of the Undersized Prune Disposition Requirements Under the Marketing Order; and Suspension of the Prune Import Regulation" (Doc. No. FV03-993-3 IFR) received on August 11, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3976. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Kiwifruit Grown in California; Relaxation of Pack Requirements" (Doc. No. FV03-920-1 FR) received on August 11, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3977. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Reduction in Additional Storage Payments Regarding Reserve Raisins Intended for Use as Cattle Feed" (Doc. No. FV03-989-7 IFR) received on August 11, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3978. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced from Grapes Grown in California; Revision of Varietal Types" (Doc. No. FV03-989-6 IFR) received on August 11, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3979. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disqualification for Crop Insurance Fraud" (RIN0560-AG70) received on August 11, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3980. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2003 Agricultural Assistance Act—Crop Disaster Program and Livestock Assistance Program" (RIN0560-AG95) received on August 11, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.