

On February 13, 2003, he was deployed to Iraq. While protecting a propane-distribution center in Baghdad, he was killed by enemy fire.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Michael's goodwill and service. Although he did not live to see his dreams realized, he continued to inspire all those who knew him. Our Nation and South Dakota are far better places because of his life, and the best way to honor his life is to emulate his commitment to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my sympathies to the family of Private First Class Deuel. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

NEW HOMESTEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today with great concern. As you are aware, President Bush named June National Homeownership Month 2003. I am proud that our President has seen fit to promote an aggressive homeownership campaign, and I support this administration's efforts to see more Americans reach the American Dream of homeownership. As a member of the Finance Committee, I have had the opportunity to learn of important ways that we can make that a reality. In January I introduced the New Homestead Economic Opportunity Act, better known as the Homeownership Tax Credit. This legislation will create a single-family housing tax credit for developers who build in low income areas, and allow more Americans to reach their dreams of homeownership. It will also encourage developers of single family units to invest in low income areas and improve our communities.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has stated that one of its goals is to allow every citizen—regardless of race, creed, color, or place of birth—the opportunity to own their own home. To reach this goal, there must be affordable homes to purchase.

In his testimony before the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Arrairs earlier this month, James Rayburn, the Vice President of the National Association of Home Builders stated that the Homeownership Tax Credit proposal seeks to close the gap in homeownership rates among Americans. While 82 percent of households earning 100 percent or more of the national median income now own homes, only 53 percent of households earning less than the national median are homeowners. The homeownership rate for families earning 80 percent or less of the national median is only 40 percent to 45 percent. Homeownership for whites is 75 percent, while the ownership rate for African Americans is just below 48 percent and 48 percent for Hispanics.

We can all agree that the quality of life in distressed neighborhoods can be

improved dramatically by increasing home ownership. Existing buildings in these neighborhoods often need extensive renovation before they can provide decent owner-occupied housing. It is also difficult for renovations to occur because the costs involved exceed the prices at which the housing units could be sold. Similarly, the costs of new construction may exceed its market value. Properties sit vacant and neighborhoods remain devastated. The New Homestead Economic Opportunity Act bridges the gap between development costs and market prices and will revitalize these areas.

I would like to see every American given the opportunity to succeed at the goal of owning their own home. I am proud to be the sponsor of this legislation, and I plan to continue to work to see it become law. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the American Dream by supporting S. 198.

HONORING MAYNARD H. JACKSON, JR.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, as Atlanta's first black mayor, Maynard Jackson dedicated his career and his life to healing the racial inequalities that surrounded him and ensuring that the city of Atlanta was a thriving, inclusive community.

Working to expand Hartsfield International Airport, Maynard fought for equal treatment for minority workers and businesses. He sought to bring diversity to government as well as Atlanta's business community. Through the equality he sought for all racial groups, he was able to foster economic expansion and growth for Atlanta and greater equality for her citizens.

Working to secure the 1996 Olympics, Maynard ensured that Atlanta shined for the world and was recognized as a city that offered opportunity for everyone regardless of race or socio-economic class.

Serving as the president of the National Conference of Democratic Mayors and the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, he became a role model for young African Americans hoping to someday make their mark on this world and worked tirelessly to improve interracial relationships in the South's largest city.

His contributions and accomplishments to help our State thrive economically and to expand opportunities for minorities will be remembered for generations to come. The legacy he leaves behind is one of a greater respect for all people, greater opportunity for all people and greater hope for the world.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones left behind, and his memory will forever be with us.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, recently, I visited with Reverend Jacob

Bazzel Mull and his wife, Elizabeth, in Knoxville, TN. They host the Mull Singing Convention, a popular gospel radio program.

Reverend Mull is a legend with an interesting story to tell. He was born in 1914 in Burke County, NC, into a musical family. When he was 11 months old, he lost his eyesight after falling into an open-pit fireplace. As a child, he played in a gospel group made up of his mother, father, brothers and sisters.

He began preaching in 1939 and hasn't stopped since. In 1942, he moved to Knoxville to start his first radio program, and the rest is history. He became well-known nationwide during the 25 years he sold Chuck Wagon Gang Records on several 50,000-watt radio stations.

This year, all of his many accomplishments were recognized when he was honored by the Gospel Music Association for his "outstanding contributions to gospel music."

During our visit in April, Reverend Mull gave me 2,000 letters and a number of petitions with thousands of names on them from Americans angry over the Ninth Circuit's decision declaring the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional. Reverend Mull solicited these letters from his listeners across the country, and I was delighted to see the passion people across America have for the Pledge. It made me proud to answer all of those letters.

It is inspiring to me that every day Reverend Mull brings out the best in America. He challenges us to think, and he encourages us to be involved in issues. He also reminds us to turn to our religious faith for guidance. I ran for the U.S. Senate because I wanted to find out how to bring out the best in people in Tennessee and across this country, all day, every day.

I believe the answer to how we do that lies with the people. In August of 2002, I spent the night with Jim Coley, a Tennessee Government high school teacher, and his family. One idea that came out of that visit was the importance of putting the teaching of American history and civics back into our classrooms. From that discussion, we came up with the framework for the American History and Civics Act of 2003 that just passed the Senate.

The bill establishes summer residential academies for teachers and students to encourage the teaching and learning of American history and civics in a more inspired way than is happening today. We can't expect our students to learn what it means to be an American if we don't teach them.

I would also like to see students in every classroom across this Nation beginning each schoolday with the Pledge of Allegiance. That could be followed with a student or teacher explaining in his or her own words what it means to them to be an American.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we saw how quickly we Americans could come together as one people, united in purpose, despite our

diverse backgrounds. Although we are almost 2 years removed from that time, there is no reason this sense of unity and purpose cannot continue as part of our lives every day. Americans have a reputation for being resourceful, resilient, and having common sense. These are good qualities for helping to bring out the best in the entire Nation.

I thank Reverend Mull for his commitment to this country, for inviting me to visit with him, and for sharing American's outpouring of support in favor of the basic values and principles on which this Nation was founded. I also appreciate the opportunity to bring Reverend Mull's good work to the attention of our country.

**WELCOME BACK TO ALASKA, MR.
CONSUL GENERAL**

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, next week the people of Alaska will welcome Mr. Yossi Amrani, the Consul General of the State of Israel for the Pacific Northwest, back to our State. He will begin his trip in Fairbanks, meeting with students and members of the community at the University of Alaska, visiting with members of Congregation Or Hatzafon, which has the northernmost synagogue building in the world, and speaking to the Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. He will also visit Anchorage on this trip and I look forward to meeting with him then.

This is not Mr. Amrani's first visit to my State, but it is his first visit to Fairbanks, the "Golden Heart City." Although the Fairbanks Jewish community is small in numbers, the fundamental Jewish values of *tikkun olam*, making the world a better place; *zedakah*, charity; and *chesed*, kindness, are deeply ingrained in the Fairbanks culture, as they are in the culture of Alaska as a whole.

Like the Fairbanks Jewish community, the Alaska Jewish community is small in numbers, but large in spirit. In the late 1990s, Professor Bernard Reisman from Brandeis University visited Alaska on several occasions to learn more about our Jewish community. He concluded that in virtually all areas, the Alaska Jewish community has a higher level of identity than do American Jews generally. He found this to be true not only in places like Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau, which have functioning congregations, but also in the smaller communities, where "conveners" organize regular get togethers, especially on Jewish holidays.

Members of the Jewish community occupy a prominent role in the social, economic, cultural and political life of Alaska. A few weeks ago, I welcomed the internationally known holocaust scholar, Dr. Michael Schuldiner of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, to my office in Washington. Dr. Schuldiner discussed his work with the United States Holocaust Memorial. Another UAF scholar, Dr. Michael Krauss, has

worked closely with the Alaska congressional delegation for many years in efforts to preserve Alaska Native languages. And let us not forget the many contributions of the Gottstein family to virtually every aspect of Alaska's fabric.

This is not a new phenomenon. The beautiful municipal library in Anchorage is named for Zachary J. Loussac, a Russian Jewish immigrant, who served as Mayor of Anchorage. The Girl Scout camp in Fairbanks is named for Jessie Bloom, who along with her husband Robert, are regarded as the founding leaders of the Fairbanks Jewish community. In 1926, Jessie started the first Girl Scout troop in Alaska, while Robert was a founder of what was later to become the University of Alaska. Our striking new courthouse in Fairbanks is named for Jay Rabinowitz who served for many years on the Alaska Supreme Court.

The survival of the State of Israel is important to the people of Alaska as it is to the American Jewish community and the American people. In Washington, I stand shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues in praying for peace in the Middle East while standing firm on the principle that terrorism is morally and politically unacceptable. Terrorism will not undo Israel's future. When the Senate returns in July, it will consider comprehensive energy legislation and I am hopeful that my amendment to guarantee that Israel will have a secure source of petroleum in the event it cannot independently acquire it due to an embargo will be in the bill when it passes the Senate.

During this visit to Alaska, as on previous visits, the Consul General will encounter the vast natural beauty of our state. But he will also discover, as in previous visits, that it is the people of Alaska that make this place truly special. *Shalom*, Mr. Consul General. I hope that you will visit with Alaskans often.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the message of Consul General Yossi Amrani be printed in the RECORD.

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

MESSAGE OF CONSUL GENERAL YOSSİ AMRANI
TO THE PEOPLE OF ALASKA

The friendship and alliance between the United States and Israel have many varied faces, moral, political, economic and strategic. The partnership is on the federal and state level alike. Israeli consulates in the country, local Jewish communities together with state level administrations aim at fostering and nurturing the relationship for the benefit of both countries. In the state of Alaska, thousands of miles apart, the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest Region works with state leaders and the Jewish community to bring the two nations together in sharing the values, ideals and concerns of both people. The Consulate provides seminars and speaking engagements in different campuses, churches and temples to educate public opinion on the complexity of the situation in the Middle East and the im-

portance of the U.S. role in that region. The Consulate also promotes Israeli culture and business opportunities. Mutual values are the corner stones of the relationship and affinity between the people of Alaska and Israel. As we maintain U.S. support for Israel's existence and well being, we aspire to continue building stronger relations.

**HONORING THE LATE DAVID
BRINKLEY**

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I am honored today to talk about a pioneer for North Carolina in the field of journalism . . . the late David Brinkley. David died on June 12, at the age of 82, from complications resulting from a fall. He was laid to rest in his beloved home, Wilmington, North Carolina . . . beside his father—William Graham Brinkley and mother—Mary MacDonald West Brinkley.

David was born in Wilmington . . . He attended high school at New Hanover High School. While there . . . and after several long hours pouring over books in the Wilmington Library . . . David got an itch for journalism.

He didn't wait. He took a part-time job while still in high school, working for the Wilmington Morning Star and its afternoon edition, the Wilmington News. He said he made about \$11 a week.

But the young boy, who once made extra money by changing light bulbs and running a soft-drink stand at Wrightsville Beach's Lumina Pavillion, went on to become an icon for millions of viewers who watched him each night. He and co-anchor Chet Huntley had the highest rated news program on American television during the 1960's with "The Huntley-Brinkley Report." Many of us still remember their familiar sign-off of "Good night, Chet," "Good night, David."

David went on to host "This Week With David Brinkley," until he retired in 1996.

Mr. President, at a time when we often get news that is too short, too sensationalized and sometimes too slanted, David Brinkley was the consummate newsmen. He knew the issues, and his intelligence, quick wit and thirst for answers kept us all glued to the television.

I had the pleasure of personally knowing David Brinkley, and in addition to sharing a distinctive Southern twang, we shared a fondness for our home state. David wrote about Wilmington in his 1995 memoirs and even with all this success, all his fame, David and his wife, Susan, returned to his home in North Carolina often and supported his hometown. He was an ardent supporter of downtown Wilmington preservation. The University of North Carolina at Wilmington presented him with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree in 1974. He was added to Wilmington's Walk of Fame in 2001.

As much as David loved North Carolina—North Carolina loved him, too.