

has served my office and the people of Colorado for 14 years, and she has done so with grace and conviction. She will be leaving my office in January 2005.

Carol began her career working out of my Fort Collins Congressional office, and later, the Senate offices in Greeley and Loveland. As Area Director, she managed the office and provided dedicated service on a variety of issues, including housing and healthcare. Carol was instrumental in establishing the Fall River Visitor Center at Rocky Mountain National Park, the acquisition of Cherokee Park by the Forest Service, and many other smaller projects that have greatly benefitted our public lands and will lead to greater enjoyment by the public. She was passionate about historic preservation and worked tirelessly on behalf of many worthwhile interests, including the historic Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in Southern Colorado. Her presence on Team Allard will be missed and I know the Northern Colorado community will miss her as well. Carol was a hard working and earnest friend and employee.

My wife, Joan, joins me in thanking her for dedication and loyalty. We both wish her and her husband Jack the best in their future endeavors.●

HONORING WALTER THAYER, JR., MD, OF RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the retirement of an extraordinary Rhode Islander, Dr. Walter Thayer.

Walter Thayer was born in East Providence in 1929—back when there were farms in what is now an urban area. He graduated from Providence College and left for Tufts University Medical School in 1950. He returned to Rhode Island in 1965 to become the first Director of the Gastroenterology Division of Brown Medical School and Rhode Island Hospital after having worked at the National Institutes of Health, Georgetown, and Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Thayer's professional qualifications are outstanding. He served for 30 years as the Chief of Gastroenterology at Brown University and affiliated hospitals, and has been a professor at Brown since 1972; he was the Head of Gastroenterology at Rhode Island Hospital from 1965 to 1994 and continued as a practicing physician until this year. He has been presented with the Distinguished Clinician Award by the American Gastroenterology Association, the Humanitarian of the Year Award by both the Rhode Island and New England Chapters of the Crohns Colitis Foundation of America, and the W.W. Keene Award for Contribution to Brown Medical School. Walter has presented at the Quadrennial Lecture on Crohns Disease at the Third World Congress in Copenhagen, and served as the chairman of the NIH-NFIC Sponsored Symposium on Infectious Agents in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases and as the

Governor for Rhode Island to the American College of Gastroenterology.

One of the great ironies is that Walter, who became such a fixture at Brown Medical School and trained and mentored so many fine physicians there, so desired to attend Brown University and was not admitted. Indeed, his experience in the world outside of Brown and the Ivy League was one of the factors that made him such a valuable bridge between town and gown between patient care and academic research.

This bridging between patient care and academic research is a key facet of Dr. Thayer's career. His true caring and empathy for his patients informed his extensive research. That research, where Walter sought to understand the causes of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and find effective treatments to these and other debilitating gastrointestinal illnesses, has been remarkable and extensive, and has garnered Walter national and international renown.

To honor Dr. Thayer's service to the health and academic communities in Rhode Island, many of those whom Walter has affected, including mentors, colleagues, students and patients, gathered on October 7 to wish him well in his life in retirement, and to thank him for his service, dedication, caring, and friendship. At that time, one colleague said that Walter had earned the highest respect a doctor could earn—his colleagues would refer their family members to him. He was described as the father of gastroenterology in Rhode Island, someone who is a masterful teacher and had great love for his patients. Dr. Jose Behar said that Walter's patients trusted him so completely that when Dr. Behar would treat one of them, perhaps when Walter was on vacation, they would invariably ask him "Do you think Dr. Thayer would agree with you?" Dr. Behar said that as an accomplished doctor having his treatments questioned so bluntly was a little off-putting, but he came to realize that it did not stem from a lack of confidence in him as much as the patients remarkable level of trust, respect and belief in Walter.

To only speak of his professional life, however, is to miss a great deal about Walter. He is someone who is constantly curious, as is demonstrated by the fact that even now, well beyond the age of 70, he finds himself back in school pursuing an associate's degree in wildflower ecology. He has a great love of books, and is often found in his favorite chair, his glasses perched on his nose, a great book open in his hands. He is extremely active—he has run triathlons, marathons, and he spends many winter hours cross-country skiing. And he is a loving husband, father, and friend.

He sincerely cares about issues far from the realm of medicine, important social issues, and tries to address them in a real and admirable fashion. For example, as his children were growing up,

he did not want them to only have knowledge of the city, so one summer he took his kids to an Amish farm and they all worked on that farm. He did not want his children to grow up isolated from questions of race, and made many efforts to bring them into close contact with families and children of different races and ethnicities.

Now, even though Dr. Thayer is officially retired, he continues his long volunteer service at the Veterans Affairs hospital and in his teaching at Brown University. He is looking forward to the opening of the new infectious bowel disease research laboratory that will open at Rhode Island Hospital—which will be named "The Walter R. Thayer Inflammatory Bowel Disease Laboratory." What a fitting honor that this new, state-of-the-art research laboratory will be named for him.

Walter leaves behind a remarkable legacy. I know my colleagues join me in saluting him on his well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO HELEN CHAMBERS HUNT

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of one of Alabama's finest First Ladies, Helen Chambers Hunt, the wife of former Gov. Guy Hunt. Miss Helen, as she was known, was a gracious and caring woman, who carried out her duties as First Lady with charm and compassion, and she will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

I was honored to get to personally know this wonderful lady. Governor Hunt told me once of a lady who had seen Mrs. Hunt walk across the stage. The lady said to him, "I can tell she is a fine lady and you must be a fine person too." It was true. Her very countenance and carriage projected an aura of faith, compassion and humility. The Governor was so very proud of her and so were the people of Alabama. In all her gifts and graces she represented the highest of Alabama values.

Miss Helen grew up in the Birdsong community in Cullman County. She met Guy Hunt, the future Governor of Alabama, during high school, when they started dating. They met at church and their first date was to a drive-in movie. They were married in 1950, when Helen was only 16 years old and Guy was 17. The Hunts were blessed with four wonderful children—Pam, Sherrie, Keith and Lynn.

Miss Helen enjoyed cooking and sewing and also spending time with her husband at their Holly Pond home. She stood with him through two terms as Cullman County Probate Judge as well as his tenure as Governor from 1987–1993. Although she did not seek the spotlight, as First Lady she embraced a campaign to reduce littering along Alabama highways that resulted in the creation of the highly successful Adopt-a-Mile Program. She also was a wonderful hostess at the Governor's Mansion, organizing numerous dinners,

barbeques, and other social events. The Retirement Systems of Alabama recognized Miss Helen's service by naming a daycare center in Montgomery the RSA Helen Hunt Learning Center. She also devoted a great deal of her time to helping disabled children—a passion that grew from the fact that Pam, the Hunt's eldest daughter, was a special-needs child.

Not only was Helen Hunt the wife of a Baptist minister, but she was a devoted Christian and her life was a witness to her faith. She will be remembered by all the people of Alabama who loved her dearly as a warm and gracious First Lady, and a devoted and loving wife.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORT LEWIS COLLEGE CYCLING

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I recognize the commendable performance of the Fort Lewis College Cycling Team. On the treacherous slopes of Seven Springs Resort in Pennsylvania the Nation's best cyclists to determine who was the best. When the dust settled at the bottom of the track the Fort Lewis College Skyhawks stood victorious, clinching the National Collegiate Cycling Association, NCCA, Mountain Bike Championship.

Fort Lewis College has a distinguished history of athletic excellence. This impressive win was the sixth time in the sport's eleven year history that the Skyhawks have brought the championship trophy back to Durango, CO.

In addition to the impressive overall team achievement there were several individual athletes that stood out; Susan Grandjean, Leana Gerrard, Matt Shriver, and Paul Smith all delivered championship performances. Fort Lewis College's victory would not have been possible without the leadership of the team's coach, Rick Crawford.

I would like to share my congratulations with the entire Fort Lewis College Community. Congratulations to all Fort Lewis College Skyhawks, congratulations to President Brad Bartel, congratulations to the Board of Trustees of Fort Lewis College, and especially congratulations to the members of Fort Lewis College Cycling, students and fans. You have made all Coloradans proud.●

THERE'S PLENTY FOR A FREE PRESS TO REPORT

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I recently authored a column that appeared in The State newspaper in Columbia. In it, I offer my thoughts on the media's shoddy coverage of the budget deficit and Social Security, U.S. trade policy, and the War in Iraq. I ask that it be printed in the RECORD. The article follows.

[From The State, Dec. 8, 2004.]

THERE'S PLENTY FOR A FREE PRESS TO REPORT

(By Ernest F. Hollings)

In the beginning, Thomas Jefferson observed that if he had to choose "between a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government," he would choose the latter. He envisioned the press would report the truth to the American people, keeping the Congress honest. The government wouldn't stay free long without a free press.

Today the press—the media, now—has joined the political fray, and the watchdog has become the attack dog. As a result, Mark Twain's admonition has become the creed of both Congress and the media: The truth is so precious a commodity it should be used sparingly.

Take Social Security. Both the Greenspan Commission and the Budget Act forbade using Social Security monies for any programs other than Social Security. But the government continues to spend Social Security surpluses on everything but Social Security. Then—presto!—the Congress and the media contend that Social Security is broke and needs fixing. Social Security is not broke; it's the government that's broke.

One fix is political: Privatize Social Security to get the young vote. The other choice, raising the retirement age or taxes, merely means more money for programs other than Social Security. Moreover, Congress has made it a federal crime for a private company to pay the company debt with its pension fund. Yet the government constantly pays its debt with Social Security and other pension funds. The Congress and the media then cite a false deficit of \$413 billion for fiscal year 2004 while the true deficit, according to the Congressional Budget Office, is \$593 billion.

Take trade. The second bill to pass the Congress on July 4, 1789, was a tariff bill—protectionism. We financed the government and built this economic giant, the United States, with protectionism. But after World War II, we took up the chant of "free trade," treating trade as aid to defeat communism with capitalism in the Cold War. Now after 50 years of draining our industrial strength, it's time to rebuild. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall regulate foreign commerce. To open markets we must control access to ours—practice protectionism. But the media acts as if protecting the economy was unconstitutional.

Worst of all is the media's refusal to report the truth on Iraq. Saddam Hussein was no part of 9/11, had no weapons of mass destruction and was no threat to our national security. We invaded Iraq to implement a plan to democratize the Mideast for Israel.

In 1996, Richard Perle, Douglas Feith and David Wurmser submitted a plan to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a "Clean Break" from Arafat and to institute democracy in the Mideast by bombing Lebanon, invading Syria and replacing Saddam with a Hashemite ruler favorable to Israel. Rejected by Prime Minister Netanyahu, Perle and company joined Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz, Donald Rumsfeld, Scooter Libby, Stephen Cambone et. al. in the "Project for the New American Century."

They pressured Congress in the 1990s for a change of regime in Iraq, and when George W. Bush was elected president in 2000 "Clean Break" hit paydirt. Cheney became vice president; Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz and Feith took the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 positions in defense; Libby headed Cheney's staff; Cambone became Rumsfeld's right-hand man; and Perle, the architect of "Clean Break," was made chairman of the Defense Policy Board.

Upon winning the presidency and before his inauguration, President Bush sought a briefing on Iraq from President Clinton's secretary of Defense, William Cohen. After the inauguration, Paul O'Neill, the new secretary of the Treasury, tells of going to the first meeting of the Security Council prepared to discuss the impending recession, but the discussion was mostly on Iraq.

When I served in World War II 60 years ago, we liberated Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, but they have yet to opt for democracy. We liberated Kuwait in the Gulf War, but it has yet to opt for democracy. But by 9/11 the president, intent on democratizing the Mideast, was asking Rumsfeld for a plan to invade Iraq. Bush was so determined to invade he disregarded his father's admonition in *A World Transformed*: "We should not march into Baghdad. . . . To occupy Iraq would instantly shatter our coalition, turning the whole Arab world against us . . . condemning (young soldiers) to fight in what would be an unwinnable urban guerrilla war."

If the media had reported the truth to the American people, we would have rejected "Clean Break" like Prime Minister Netanyahu. If the media had kept Congress honest, we would not be sending GIs to a war that most believe is a mistake and the top command says we can't win.●

OBRA S. KERNODLE III

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to reflect on the loss of my good friend, Obra Kernodle. Obra recently suffered a fatal heart attack while in Cancun, Mexico, celebrating his daughter's wedding. The Kernodle family has suffered a tremendous loss, and I offer them my condolences and deepest sympathy in this difficult time.

I was introduced to Obra during my 2000 Senate campaign. He was a bright, resourceful and wonderful person, and I remained in contact with him ever since.

Using his bipartisan negotiating skills to render change, Obra became one of Philadelphia's most influential African American leaders. As a politically active Philadelphia lawyer who most recently served as general counsel to the Philadelphia Parking Authority, Obra actively served his community. Obra was also a member of the Pennsylvania Convention Center board.

His kind disposition and generous heart attracted people from both sides of the aisle, and he will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with the Kernodle family during the days and months ahead.●

REMEMBERING OUR POW/MIAS

● Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as a veteran who served in Korea, I have, throughout my congressional career, vigorously sought to ensure that our men and women in uniform who were listed as POW/MIA are not forgotten. I have also worked hard to promote a better understanding and appreciation of these brave men and women's extraordinary service and sacrifice by the American public.

Underscoring this commitment, I was proud to have authored a number of