

course of his career and will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and an incredible leader.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Gene E. Brooks in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate. May God be with all who mourn his passing, as I know He is with Gene.●

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 440th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon. Shakespeare's name is undoubtedly the most recognized in English literature. Every one of us has spent time exploring the Elizabethan society and language through Shakespeare's dramas, poems, and sonnets. I remember with great enthusiasm the times I read Shakespeare or watched one of his plays. Who among us does not have their favorite line from one of Shakespeare's many works? Mine, which all of us in this chamber should pause to consider from time to time, comes from "Hamlet Prince of Denmark": "This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

His plays abound with all of the human emotions: love, jealousy, hatred, joy, envy, and are filled with the eternal themes of loyalty, betrayal, friendship, and revenge. He wrote of family strife, of the best laid plans gone awry, of tender love and bitter feuds. His themes transcend culture, nationality, and ethnicity. They are universal; and to this day are repeated time and time again throughout the world. From the American retelling of "Romeo and Juliet" in "West Side Story" to the Japanese adaptation of "King Lear" in "Ran," Shakespeare's cultural influence is virtually limitless. Was William Shakespeare a visionary? Or was he simply a keen observer, chronicling human relationships that have essentially remained unchanged in the four centuries since he lived?

We, in Oregon, are very fortunate to have the renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival which has been presenting its namesake's works, as well as other classic and contemporary plays, for nearly 40 years. Some 380,000 people—Oregonians and audiences from various parts of the country and the world—visit Ashland each year to attend these repertory performances. From the very first productions of "The Merchant of Venice" and "Twelfth Night" to this year's "The Comedy of Errors," "King Lear," "Henry VI," and "Much Ado About Nothing," the Oregon Shakespeare Festival has brought Shakespeare's magic and great wit to life.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL AARON "BURLEY" BURLESON

● Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator INHOFE and myself, I wish to honor and pay respect to a

great Oklahoman, COL (Ret) Aaron "Burley" Burleson. Currently, he is the director of Military Development of the Altus Chamber of Commerce, Altus, OK. He has served the State of Oklahoma and the United States for many years.

Mr. Burleson was born in Lawton, OK, and graduated from Lawton High School. While attending Cameron College in Lawton, he was mobilized for active duty with the 45th Infantry Division in 1940. After completing pilot training in 1944 at Pampa Army Airfield, TX, Burley Burleson received his commission as a second lieutenant. Over the next 30 years he would serve his country around the globe.

He served as special air missions officer in the Office of the Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon. During this assignment, Burley worked directly with the White House, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Senate and the House of Representatives. His main assignment was to provide airlift for both United States and foreign dignitaries.

In 1970, he transferred to Altus Air Force Base, OK, where he served as Vice Commander of the 443rd Military Airlift Wing and later as base commander in 1973.

Retiring as a colonel from the Air Force in 1974, he immediately became the executive director of the "Committee of 100," a special part of the Altus Chamber of Commerce. The main purpose of the committee was to strengthen and promote economic development of Altus and Jackson County, OK. After serving as the head of the organization from 1975 to 1984, Burley became the community's liaison between the men and women of Altus and the personnel assigned to Altus Air Force Base.

Burley's leadership brought about tremendous support for Altus AFB. Working with Air Force personnel and congressional Members, he was able to help secure needed funding and resources for the base. Some examples include new housing, runway easements, a parallel assault runway, a corrosion control facility and a drop zone. In 1982, a tornado struck Altus AFB and caused severe damage. Under Burley's leadership, critical funding was obtained to repair the damages. These projects helped Altus Air Force Base become rated as the best base in the Air Force a few years ago.

Burley has received numerous awards and citations through the years for his many achievements. Recently, Air Education Training Command singled Burley out for one of four, first time, "Pioneer Awards" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force. He was also heavily involved with the Air Force Association, at the national and the State levels, as well as numerous civic and charitable organizations in Altus.

Burley Burleson, unfortunately, suffered a stroke in November of 2002 and is currently recovering. JIM INHOFE and

I are proud to call him a friend and appreciate his dedicated service to our great country. His positive contributions to countless friends, all Oklahomans, and the U.S. Air Force are greatly appreciated.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SCHOPP

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today in the Senate to honor 15 year-old Michael Schopp, from Creve Coeur, MO. In a ceremony honoring his achievement on May 2, 2004, Mr. Schopp will receive the Eagle Scout Award, which is the highest advancement rank a young man may earn in scouting.

To earn his Eagle Award, Mr. Schopp designed, planned and supervised the construction and landscaping of a planter and two dugout benches for the Ballwin Athletic Association baseball fields where he played ball for several years.

Mr. Schopp began his scouting experience as a Cub Scout in elementary school and has been a member of Troop 631, sponsored by St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Ballwin, MO, since March 2000. Mr. Schopp's dedication to the values of scouting and his leadership ability are demonstrated in his many scouting activities over the years: he has served his boy scout troop as Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader, and is currently one of the leaders of his troop as a member of the Executive Patrol and as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Mr. Schopp participated in the Junior Leader Training Camp and also attended three Boy Scout High Adventure Camps: Northern Tier in Ely, MN; Sea Base in Florida; and OKPIK Winter Camp in Northern Minnesota.

The rank of Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance since it was first awarded in 1912 and its rigorous standards have been maintained over the years. That rigor is demonstrated in the fact that only 4 percent of young men across America who join the boy scouts earn this prestigious award. Mr. Schopp will be in good company as there are leaders in every walk of life who have endeavored to earn this coveted award. Indeed, many Eagle Scouts have gone on in life to excel in professional athletics, business, space exploration, entertainment, scientific discovery and public service in government. President Gerald Ford is an Eagle Scout as well as two of my distinguished colleagues in this chamber, Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama and Senator RICHARD LUGAR of Indiana.

The people of Creve Coeur, MO are fortunate to have Mr. Schopp living and growing in their community. I congratulate Mr. Schopp for his success in earning his Eagle Scout Award. But also, I congratulate all of his peers, members of his troop, coaches, teachers, and parents for all the support and encouragement they have given that has helped Mr. Schopp reach his goals.

I know that all of my colleagues in the Senate will join me in offering congratulations to Mr. Schopp on a job well done and to extend best wishes for all of his future endeavors.●

HONORING LT. COL. MARC SUKOLSKY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to honor Lt. Col. Marc Sukolsky, a long time Idaho resident, upon his retirement from 24 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. Mark has served his country well, in peacetime and in war. Idaho is proud to be represented by such a dedicated soldier.

Marc Sukolsky received his master's degree in music pedagogy and then taught at Idaho State University. After 4 years of teaching, Marc began his extensive military leadership career in logistics in the Ninth Air Force and 363rd Fighter Wing. Exhibiting strong leadership early in his career, Marc was chosen as a senior logistics and resource inspector to develop future military base locations in Southwest Asia. In this position his inherent abilities as a negotiator and diplomat became well known. As his expertise grew, so did his influence. Mark's advice was solicited by the most senior officials including the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In 1993, while stationed at the U.S. Embassy in the Netherlands, Marc played an important role in organizing logistical agreements between the U.S. and the Netherlands. This involved organizing troop and equipment movement both within the Netherlands and throughout Europe. As a military representative for the U.S. Secretary of State, Marc was also able to negotiate with foreign officials for permanent troop positions in Europe.

In the mid 1990's, he was called to assist NATO Allied Forces during the crisis in the Balkans. He drafted and implemented strategies for all logistical arrangements between the U.S. and Allied forces. In addition, he provided guidance and training for those nations seeking NATO membership.

His abilities to plan and execute defense, economic, and trade policy were tested and proven, when as a Commander he led the deployment of over 1.5 million pounds of equipment and 3,400 personnel to sensitive areas including the Persian Gulf. He managed to save the government over \$19 million with new budgetary and finance programs. Leading the quality assurance of flying wing he recorded over 28,000 sorties and over 49,000 hours of flawless flying. In this position he was the principal advisor to the U.S. Ambassador of U.S. European Command on all armament matters. While serving in this capacity, he negotiated over \$135 million in arms sales in 2002. He also contracted an \$800 million aircraft development deal with the Netherlands.

In all of this, the role of his wife Ellen should not be understated. During 25 years of marriage, she has made

tremendous sacrifices during Marc's time in the military. Together, they have spent 11 years overseas, relocated eleven times, and even spent 2 years apart during two 2-year separations.

I would like to honor Lt. Col. Marc Sukolsky and Ellen Sukolsky for their selfless service and sacrifice for their country. It is especially appropriate during this time of conflict to recognize a couple who have done so much for the freedom and stability of their country and the world. I wish both of them the best as they approach this new chapter of life together.●

LAURA JOSS

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to Laura Joss, superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and Hampton National Historic Site, NHS. Laura has recently been appointed superintendent of Arches National Park in southern Utah and I wish her and her family the best of luck with this new assignment and thank her for the outstanding job she did in managing and enhancing Fort McHenry and Hampton NHS since coming to Maryland in 2000.

Over the past 4 years, I have had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Laura Joss in efforts to protect and restore the historical resources of Fort McHenry and Hampton NHS and to develop a Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail to help educate our citizens about a pivotal, but sadly neglected period in our Nation's history. In every instance, Laura proved herself to be a skillful and highly effective leader. Under her direction, Fort McHenry's seawalls and many historic structures have been restored, plans have been advanced to develop a new visitors center to accommodate the increasing number of visitors to the fort, many preservation projects have been undertaken at Hampton and a new general management plan for this historic site has been completed. Laura and her dedicated staff have frequently gone beyond the call of duty, offering to assist with the recovery efforts from the recent water taxi accident in Baltimore's Harbor and the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and volunteering with the National Flag Day Foundation, Historic Towson Inc, and the Baltimore City Heritage Area, to name only a few examples.

Laura's dedication to the stewardship of the National Park System has earned her the respect of everyone with whom she has worked. During her 14-year career in the National Park Service, she has protected and improved some of our Nation's most precious natural and cultural treasures. Beginning as a volunteer at Mesa Verde National Park, she quickly advanced to serve in a number of national park units throughout the country, including Yellowstone National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, and Glen Can-

yon National Recreation. Through her accomplishments she has set a high bar for all those to follow in her path, and the visitors to these national parks will benefit from her efforts for years to come. I greatly value the assistance Laura provided to me and my staff. I extend my personal congratulations and thanks for her many years of hard work and dedication to the principal conservation mission of the National Park Service and join with her friends and coworkers in wishing her, her husband Stuart Meehan, and her daughters Lindsay and Elizabeth, well with this new assignment and relocation.●

IN HONOR OF BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD L. URSONE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding American soldier, BG Richard L. Ursone. General Ursone, a native of Stamford, CT, is retiring June 30, 2004 after 33 years of distinguished service in the United States Army Medical Service Corps.

General Ursone played a critical role in shaping and successfully executing the mission of the United States Army Medical Department. When brave men and women across our country commit to serving our country in the Armed Forces, our country also makes a commitment to them. And part of that commitment is to provide them with world-class medical care, both on and off the field of battle. Throughout his career, General Ursone has made invaluable contributions to the health and well-being of soldiers in the United States Army. Over the past three decades, General Ursone has served in a series of demanding assignments around the globe and in leadership positions of increasing responsibility.

Of particular note was General Ursone's service in combat during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. From 1990 to 1991, General Ursone, then a Lieutenant Colonel, served as commander of the 47th Medical Logistics Battalion. He successfully deployed and led his soldiers in supporting the war effort and the entire U.S. Army Central Command Theater of Operations with the delivery and replenishment of needed medications and medical supplies.

From 1994 to 1996, then-Colonel Ursone served as the commander of the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Center, Europe in Pirmasens, Germany. Through his leadership, he reengineered the center's business practices to ensure that our soldiers stationed in Europe and their families received medical supplies and medications quickly and efficiently. His hard work and many accomplishments were recognized with the prestigious Vice President Gore's Hammer Award.

In 2000, he was promoted to brigadier general. As a general officer he served in multiple senior positions and was also appointed as the fourteenth chief of the Army Medical Service Corps.