

Early in her career, Mary worked in Washington, DC, with the Legal Services Corporation, an organization that provides high quality legal services to low-income people throughout the United States. She then went to work for the Child Welfare League of America, CWLA, as the director of public policy. In this role, Mary was a committed champion as she worked masterfully and persistently to seek and implement policy improvements for abused and neglected children.

Mary then took her passion and talent to the Children's Defense Fund, CDF, where she served as a powerful ally to children for 8 years. I first got to know Mary at CDF where she worked to improve the Head Start program by increasing funds dedicated to strengthening the quality of Head Start and maintaining its comprehensive approach to helping our poorest children and families. Mary was the driving force behind the Act for Better Child Care and worked overtime to help build support for the Family and Medical Leave Act.

I had the pleasure of continuing to work with Mary when she became Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation with the Health and Human Services office under Secretary Shalala. Mary was endlessly positive and always on the search for solutions. As she was always upbeat, it was a genuine pleasure to work with her. Mary seemed to wake up every day believing that it held an opportunity to make the world better for children.

She played a critically important role in the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which helped to realize the goals of safety, permanence and well-being for tens of thousands of children in the child welfare system. During the negotiation of this bill at the very end of the congressional session in 1996, Mary was the Clinton administration's lead diplomat on Capitol Hill. I was keenly interested in the passage of this legislation, and Mary worked diligently, keeping me informed every step of the way and late into the night, as was her usual style, to forge a bipartisan compromise.

While serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mary help lead the extraordinary effort to expand the child care and development block grant, CCDBG, ensuring that this bill included adequate funding for low-income families. She was also deeply involved in the dramatic expansion of the earned income tax credit, EITC, a credit that provides crucial income support to millions of low-income individuals and families. Since its inception, the EITC has been hailed as one of the most effective antipoverty policies ever created, and Mary was integral to its success.

Most recently, I had the pleasure of partnering with Mary in her capacity as director of government relations for Parents Action for Children. Together we sought to highlight the dangers of exposure to violent and explicit video

games to children. As she has been throughout her career, Mary was acutely focused on protecting children and empowering parents. I knew from working with Mary in the past that her involvement in this endeavor would not only ensure that it was done well but that working with her would be a real joy.

Any one who has had the pleasure of working with her would agree that Mary is not only consistently creative but also proactive and determined to improve the lives of our Nation's young people. Mary has always been a pleasure to work with; her wonderful sense of humor and a reassuring smile encourages everyone in her presence. After she retires, those of us fortunate enough to have known and worked closely with Mary will dearly miss her keen understanding of policy, her gentle manner and, most importantly, her deep commitment to children. Millions more whose her work she has touched—though they may never know her name—will miss the rare combination of caring and talent that Mary brought to her hard work on their behalf.

Long after her retirement, Mary will remain an inspiration for our efforts as we continue the fight for America's most vulnerable children.●

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM T. SMITH

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding leader in the field of long-term care and aging services. Dr. William T. Smith is the outgoing chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, AAHSA, and I congratulate him on what has been accomplished during his 2-year term.

AAHSA serves 2 million people every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. AAHSA provides a continuum of aging services ranging from assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities, and nursing homes to home and community based programs, and senior housing. AAHSA is committed to creating the future of aging services through high-quality people can trust.

Under Dr. Smith's chairmanship, AAHSA has taken a leadership role in changing the culture of long-term care toward providing consumer oriented services in the most appropriate settings. An important element has been the Quality First Initiative, under which AAHSA members commit to continuous quality improvement in clinical care, leadership, governance, accountability, and several other elements of quality care. Dr. Smith has overseen the appointment of an independent National Commission on Quality Long-Term Care, which will evaluate the quality of long-term care, iden-

tify factors influencing the ability to improve quality of care nationally, and make recommendations about national efforts for sustainable quality improvement.

Dr. Smith's term as chair has also seen the development of the Center for Aging Services Technology, a major new initiative bringing together researchers from universities, technology companies, facility administrators and government representatives. The center focuses on the application of technology to provide aging services more effectively and affordably and to enable older Americans to maintain maximum independence, regardless of the setting in which they live.

In addition to serving as AAHSA's chair, Dr. Smith is the president and chief executive officer of Aging in America, Inc., in Bronx, NY. Aging in America is the parent corporation of Aging in America Community Services, AIA Supportive Services, Hertlin House, Morningside at Home, and Morningside House Nursing Home, whose roots date back to the 1850s. Together, these facilities provide nursing, social services, adult day services, rehabilitation, pharmaceuticals, recreation, and pastoral care annually to over 5,000 seniors and their families. All are nonprofit, nonsectarian agencies. Aging in America is another example of the way in which the field of long-term care and aging services must both diversify and integrate to provide a seamless continuum of options to tomorrow's seniors.

Dr. Smith has been in the field of social work since 1971, with the last 27 years dedicated to the field of gerontology. He is a licensed nursing home administrator, a certified social worker, and a certified retirement housing professional. He clearly has been recognized both locally and nationally as an expert on gerontological issues.

Within the next decade, the baby boom generation will move into retirement and approach the ages at which older adults generally come to need assistance with health care, housing, and supportive services. Many baby boomers already face these issues as their parents age. Dr. Smith's years of experience and his leadership in and vision for the field of aging services will continue to serve seniors and policymakers well as we prepare for the future of aging in America. Again, I congratulate him on his many accomplishments as outgoing chair of the AAHSA.●

TRIBUTE TO MS. JEAN GRUBB

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished Hoosier and mentor of mine, Ms. Jean Grubb, on being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana High School Press Association on October 21, 2005. Ms. Grubb, an algebra teacher and publications advisor for 46 years, touched hundreds of lives with her kindness and concern for the well

being of her students. I fondly remember the time we spent working closely together on *The Shortridge Daily Echo*. While I hold those memories dear, I am only one of the many students that benefited from her wise counsel and generous nature.

After graduating from Shortridge High School in 1920, where she also served on the staff of *The Echo* as a student, Ms. Grubb went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from Indiana University and a Master of Science degree in Journalism from Northwestern University. Ms. Grubb began her teaching career in Sanborn, IN, before moving on to teach in Crawfordsville for 17 years and then finally settling at our alma mater where she taught until her retirement in 1970.

Ms. Grubb has always been an active member of the Shortridge High School alumni community. As publications advisor, Ms. Grubb organized the 50th anniversary celebration of *The Echo*. She also has worked to gather names and contact information for the Shortridge High School Alumni Association so that each of us can stay closely in touch with our friends and classmates. Following her retirement, Ms. Grubb worked with the Indiana Historical Society to compile a complete history of our alma mater.

I know that each of our fellow alumni and I are thankful for the remarkable impact Ms. Grubb has had as a member of the Shortridge community and we look forward to many more opportunities to benefit from her experience as she begins her 103rd year and continues to bring joy to those around her.

I appreciate this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Jean Grubb on this signal honor and wish her continuing good health and happiness among her many friends in the Indianapolis community.●

HONORING BILL T. TEAGUE

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Bill T. Teague upon his retirement as president and chief executive officer of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston, TX.

Mr. Teague is a State, national, and international leader in blood banking and transfusion medicine management. During his 31-year tenure, the non-profit Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center has become one of the most respected blood banking facilities in the country, currently serving more than 220 healthcare institutions in the 24-county Texas gulf coast and east Texas regions. Prior to this position, he served as director of the Community Blood Bank in St. Petersburg, FL, and director of the Travis County Medical Society Blood Bank in Austin, TX. A past president of both the South Central Association of Blood Banks and the American Association of Blood Banks, and a former treasurer of the American Blood Commission, Mr.

Teague is also active in a number of professional organizations. He has received numerous honors throughout his career and has been recognized, due to his involvement and service, as a leader in the Houston community.

Mr. Teague has dedicated both his professional career and personal time to generating blood donations and encouraging others to give the gift of life. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his accomplishments and wishing Mr. Teague well in all his future endeavors.●

DON OVERMAN: RURAL AIRPORT CHAMPION

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I am here today to honor a fellow Nebraskan, Don Overman, who has made a significant contribution to maintaining commercial airline service in rural Nebraska.

Mr. Overman is a former mayor of Scottsbluff, NE and currently serves as Chair of the Western Nebraska Regional Airport Authority Board in Scottsbluff. For nearly two decades in his various roles Mr. Overman has dedicated himself to assuring that Nebraskans are not deprived of having access to passenger airline service.

It can be hard for those who have never lived in sparsely populated areas of this country to understand just how difficult it is to provide services that people in large urban areas take for granted, such as airline service.

In large urban areas, there is never a question whether citizens will have ready access to airline service because of the economies of scale where expenses are offset by a large number of users. In lightly populated areas where there are fewer customers, the economy of scale can be nonexistent.

For instance, at the Western Nebraska Regional Airport in Scottsbluff, NE, they struggle to board 10,000 airline passengers per year. Compare that to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta, GA, which is the busiest airport in the world and boards, on average, nearly 10,000 passengers per hour. Even with 10,000 passengers per year, the Western Nebraska Regional Airport is the third busiest airport in Nebraska.

Residents of the Nebraska Panhandle who use Scottsbluff's Western Nebraska Regional Airport are taxpayers, just as certain as those who use Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson and, as such, deserve to have convenient access to an airport.

The economy of scale makes convenient access a challenge. It is a challenge that Don Overman has accepted. As Chair of the Airport Authority Board, he has worked tirelessly to increase boardings so Western Nebraska Regional Airport can be considered a primary airport and remain eligible for Federal funding. I have worked personally with him and can attest to his perseverance and dedication.

Under his leadership, Western Nebraska Regional Airport will exceed

10,000 boardings this year for the first time since 2001. This is a significant achievement which is not only important to the flying public but to economic development in lesser populated areas of Nebraska. Airports provide a vital link for business to ensure that those Nebraska communities remain competitive in attracting new opportunities.

Among other achievements of Don Overman and the Western Nebraska Regional Airport Authority Board is the construction of a new \$4.2 million terminal of which \$2.7 million was funded through the Federal Airport Improvement Program and \$1.5 million was secured through local funding. This is a new facility to replace the current terminal which dates back to World War II. As Mr. Overman has observed in the past, the first image people see when they arrive in a community is the airport. That first impression creates their feelings about the community. Thanks to Mr. Overman's hard work, that first impression will be a positive one which will help attract economic development and growth to the area.

Mr. Overman, who is often referred to fondly as Mr. Scottsbluff or Mr. Airport, will be recognized Saturday, October 29, 2005, when the new terminal is dedicated and named the "Donald E. Overman Terminal." It is a well-deserved honor for a man whose achievements in the past have earned him recognition as the Scottsbluff Star-Herald Newspaper's Citizen of the Year and Citizen of the Century in Government.

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Don Overman on this historic occasion. Thanks to him and the Western Nebraska Regional Airport Authority Board, citizens of the Nebraska Panhandle and surrounding States will have a modern new building and continued access to commercial airline service.●

RECOGNIZING GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER KIN RAISING RELATIVES' CHILDREN

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue of great importance that receives far too little attention. Across the country, more than 6 million children live in households headed by either a grandparent or another relative. About 2.5 million of these children live in homes without either parent present. Regardless of the myriad reasons children enter relative care whether it is the death of a parent, neglect, or substance abuse it is never the fault of the child. I commend grandparents and other relatives who step forward to care for these children, keeping them out of foster care while providing safe, stable homes, often at great personal and financial sacrifice.

Jackie Hope of Denver, CO, is one such grandmother. She became a second-time mother at the age of 53 when she quit her job to be a full-time parent to her newborn grandson. Jackie's