

schools for rural areas facing special challenges.

Jim Exon also worked to keep America's military strong. A veteran of the South Pacific in World War II, he never wavered in his commitment to our Armed Forces. He played a crucial role on the Armed Services Committee in the aftermath of communism's collapse. Thanks in large measure to his efforts, our military remained the mightiest in the world, even though its mission was reoriented to face the challenges of the post-Cold War world. He worked tirelessly to contain nuclear proliferation.

Jim Exon accomplished much during his three terms here in the Senate. That's not surprising given the kind of man he was. He lacked pretense. He would tell you straight out what he believed, and he listened carefully to others. And he was fair. He brought Senators together by focusing on shared interests, rather than differences.

Jim Exon was a big hearty man who loved to laugh. His deep, rolling baritone had an infectious good humor and compassion behind it that won over others. He was effective, in part, because people liked to work with him.

I will miss my good friend and colleague. His accomplishments live after him. The Nation and the people of Nebraska will long remember the standards of integrity and decency that were the hallmarks of Jim Exon's service to his country.

HONORING THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I join with President Bush and Project Hope in commending the extraordinary work of the health professionals from Massachusetts General Hospital who dropped everything and went to Indonesia in January and February to provide medical care to survivors of the tsunami disaster. I especially commend Dr. Laurence Ronan, the group leader at MGH who did so much to organize the trip.

These dedicated health professionals answered the urgent call when the disaster struck. As in the past when earthquakes devastated Armenia, and El Salvador, and Iran, they volunteered their services and skills on the USS *Mercy*, the Navy hospital ship sent to the coast of Indonesia.

Massachusetts General Hospital sent the largest health team. More than 60 doctors, nurses, and social workers each spent a month helping on cases too complex to be treated by personnel already on the ground in Indonesia. They had expertise in critical medical specialties such as neurology, burns, lung disease, kidney disease, and pediatrics, and they provided care to hundreds devastated by the tsunami.

Massachusetts is very very proud of MGH and the extraordinary health professionals being honored today. Their dedication and caring have served America and the world well.

HONORING ARTHUR A. FLETCHER

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, we should all take a moment today to honor the life and the work of Arthur Fletcher. Considered "the father of affirmative action," he advised four Presidential administrations and never missed an opportunity to advance the interests of underserved people throughout the Nation. Today, Mr. Fletcher is being laid to rest, after a distinguished life of public service.

As an affirmative action supporter, Mr. Fletcher identified with Abraham Lincoln's legacy and felt that in order to make the greatest changes he needed to work from inside the political system. He was appointed by President Nixon to be the Assistant Secretary of Wage and Labor Standards. From this position, he developed "the revised Philadelphia Plan" which became the blueprint for affirmative action plans, creating a framework for employers to use in hiring. He continued to advise three more presidents: He was the Deputy Urban Affairs Adviser for President Gerald R. Ford, an adviser to President Ronald Reagan, and the Chairman of the Civil Rights Commission between 1990 and 1993. During his service in these administrations, Mr. Fletcher never shied away from addressing the most challenging opposition as he worked to expand equality and opportunity.

Mr. Fletcher is probably best known for the phrase, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste" which he helped develop while serving as the executive director of the United Negro College Fund, however his influence was more far reaching. For example, Mr. Fletcher personally helped finance the lawsuit against the Topeka Board of Education in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case, which successfully sought to desegregate the Topeka public school system.

His interests seemed to know no bounds as he played football for the Los Angeles Rams and then became the first African American player for the Baltimore Colts. He ran for high public office, including President of the United States in 1996, always to advance the virtues of affirmative action.

As a lifetime advocate Arthur Fletcher himself was a story of affirmative action, not only working for the advancement of others but blazing a trail for others to follow of hard work and determination. His contributions to American society have benefited millions and raised the lifestyles of African Americans and all traditionally underserved people across our country. His family can take pride in the great strides that our country has made as a result of his hard work.

My deepest sympathy goes out to his three children, his many grandchildren, and of course his wife Bernyce Hassan-Fletcher. His legacy lives on in all of us who believe in the struggle for racial and gender equality and who continue to fight for equal opportunity for all. He will be greatly missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ALFRED WILLIAM EDEL

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am saddened to report the passing of one of the most innovative news personalities in South Dakota broadcasting history, Alfred William Edel.

On July 3, South Dakota and the broadcasting industry lost a veteran radio and television reporter to cancer. Al's extraordinary contributions to news media set him apart from other dedicated reporters.

Born in Buffalo, NY, in 1935, Al received his bachelor's degree from the College of Wooster, OH, in 1957, and then went on to secure his master's degree in communications from Syracuse University in 1959. Following his graduation from Syracuse, Al became a radio broadcaster and editor at WKBW in his hometown of Buffalo. Although his time at WKBW was short, it was clear from the start that his deep, booming voice would take him far.

In 1960, Al joined the Department of Defense's American Forces Network, AFN, in Frankfurt, Germany. Al worked as a news writer and anchor, relaying the news to millions of GIs and American civilians stationed throughout the continent. The local community quickly appreciated and welcomed his quick understanding of the region's issues and his innate ability to infuse humor into his insightful and succinct reports. Interestingly, Al's two sons, Scot and Tod, were both born in the U.S. Army's 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt. As a result of his success in Germany, Al was promoted to chief of AFN's London news bureau in 1961. Following his term in London, Al, his wife Lee, and their two children packed up and moved back to the U.S. in 1966. At that time, he anchored ABC Radio's newscasts that aired daily throughout our Nation.

Eager to try his hand in television, Al left ABC in 1970 to accept a position as prime-time news anchor at KSOO-TV in Sioux Falls, SD. KSOO would later become KSFY, which continues to broadcast today. As a member of KSOO-TV's team, Al and the news bureau nearly led the market with their tenacity and determination to cover all the news, even if their competitors were not interested in the story. Steve Hemmingsen, a reporter for KELO-Land News, recalls that Al and KSOO-TV went "the extra mile to cover stories that KELO didn't think of covering. General Douglas MacArthur's 'hit 'em where they ain't' philosophy of war transposed to television. [Al] helped wake [KELO] up and changed the way we do business." In addition to his ubiquitous strategy, Al's famous, deep, rumbling "Good evening," and his trademark, "Rest easy" lured viewers to his program.

Despite his success and popularity in South Dakota, Al accepted an offer in 1980 and moved to Washington as a

news writer for "Good Morning America." Subsequently, in 1982, he moved across town to become a radio anchor for the government's "Voice of America station" that broadcasts around the world via shortwave.

Al retired from "Voice of America" in 1997, having worked in the business for nearly 40 years. In 2001, he and his wife Lee moved to St. George, UT, where he lived out his remaining years.

It is an honor for me to share Al's accomplishments with my colleagues and to publicly commend the talent and commitment to broadcasting he always exhibited throughout his life. His dedication to providing the public with accurate, insightful, and original information serves as his greatest legacy, and his work continues to inspire all those who knew him. South Dakota and the broadcasting industry are far better because of Al's life, and while we miss him very much, the best way to honor his memory is to emulate the passion and enthusiasm he shared with others.●

HONORING THE COMMUNITY OF MILBANK, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Milbank, SD. I would like to take this opportunity to draw attention to and commemorate the achievements and history of this charming city that stands as an enduring tribute to the fortitude and pioneer spirit of the earliest Dakotans.

Located in Grant County in northeastern South Dakota, Milbank got its start with the help of the railroad, specifically the Milwaukee line. Prior to the establishment of Milbank, the Milwaukee Railroad only went as far west as Ortonville, MN; however, in 1880 it was extended to Milbank, a deserted section of prairie consisting of a solitary sod shanty. The railroad's arrival quickly gave rise to the town. Milbank is, in fact, named for Jeremiah Milbank, director of the Hastings division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Platted in 1880, the town was originally called the Village of Milbank Junction.

Construction of the tracks was completed in July of 1880; however, at that point, the town was still in its earliest stages. As a result, everyone in the region "who could handle a saw and hammer" was summoned to help construct buildings. Development plans were running smoothly until a blizzard struck on October 25, 1880. The blizzard lasted 3 days, impeding not only the building process, but all local business.

In hindsight, this storm turned out to be a sign of the difficult times Milbank would experience in its next few years. Due to the heavy snow storms and high drifts, rail service throughout the winter of 1880–81 was sporadic, at best. In fact, the spring proved to be more treacherous than the winter, as Milbank was hit with a se-

ries of blizzards between January and mid-April. Over a 12-week period, the tracks were so dangerous that no trains were able to reach the community. Consequently, the town nearly ran out of fuel, save for the green wood brought down from the hills.

In the fall of 1881, the county commission held an election with hopes of moving the county seat from Big Stone City to an area closer to the center of Grant County. Milbank's population had increased considerably by that time, and its residents eagerly anticipated winning the two-thirds majority necessary to capture the title. Turnout for the vote was staggeringly high with virtually every person, regardless of residency, voting. Milbank received about 1,100 votes, claiming to have passed the two-thirds threshold; however, Big Stone City disputed Milbank's declaration, asserting that Milbank was 11 votes short. A rather long and drawn out dispute erupted, ripe with claims of election fraud and mismanaged ballot counting. The dispute ensued until two of the three county commissioners declared Milbank the winner.

In addition to the difficult winter of 1880–81, four devastating fires broke out between 1884 and 1900. The Big Fire, as many call it, occurred mid-November of 1884, destroying every building on the east side of Main Street south to Third Avenue. Another of the significant fires, one of the quickest on record, took place July 30, 1895. Started by a loan company assistant hoping to profit from the catastrophe, the blaze ravaged the Grant County Court House, destroying virtually all of the records housed there, save for those locked in the fireproof safe. Despite these tragedies and hardships, Milbank's resilient residents rebounded and rebuilt, which is testimony to South Dakotans' legendary pioneer spirit.

One of Milbank's notable attractions is its historic grist mill, a celebrated relic from the town's early days. Located on the east edge of the city, the Old Holland Mill is a favorite of tourists. Its name, however, is deceiving, as many assume it is a Dutch windmill. In reality, the English-style mill was designed and built in 1882 by Henry Hollands, who himself was an Englishman. The mill was used to grind buckwheat flour and to saw wood. Due to the rapid growth of the surrounding foliage, however, after a short period of time, the wind was not strong enough to turn the giant blades, consequently requiring the attachment of a gasoline engine to supply the power necessary to operate it. An interesting and clever feature of the mill is its main drive wheel, which is constructed entirely of wood to prevent significant damage or injury. If something were to go wrong, the wooden cogs in the wheel would break, thus rendering the mill ineffectual.

Milbank is also proud of the recreational opportunities it offers. In addition to its four city parks, lighted tennis courts, swimming pool, and golf

course, Milbank is the birthplace of American Legion Baseball. While hosting the seventh annual American Legion and Auxiliary convention in July of 1925, a resolution was passed to create Junior Legion Baseball throughout the entire Nation. Not only does this program provide an excellent recreational outlet for millions athletic youth, but throughout the years it has guided many talented athletes on to play professionally.

In the twelve and a half decades since its founding, Milbank has provided its citizens with a rich and diverse atmosphere. Milbank's nearly 3,500 proud residents celebrate the town's 125th anniversary August 8–14, and it is with great honor that I share with my colleagues this community's unique past and wish them the best for a promising future.●

TRIBUTE TO JEN JEN HAZELBAKER

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow Missourians, I extend my warmest congratulations to my good friends the Hazelbakers on Jen Jen's naturalization as a U.S. citizen.

As this family is aware, the freedoms we share in this country are not to be found elsewhere in the world. To maintain these freedoms, we must exercise the responsibilities that are incumbent with these liberties.

As the English philosopher John Stuart Mill said, "The worth of a state in the long run is the worth of the individuals composing it."

Already an important figure in her community and active in this country's political process, I am confident that Jen Jen will serve her new home well and I am proud to welcome her.

We send best wishes for success in Jen Jen's future endeavors. We also wish this warm family continued success, happiness, and prosperity.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by