

ALLAN W. MCWILLIAMS

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to recognize Mr. Allan W. McWilliams of Berryville, VA, who has served on the town council for 24 years. Mr. McWilliams served as ward representative from 1982 until 1991 and assumed his current role as the town's recorder in 1991.

Mr. McWilliams, who is affectionately known as "Bugs," has made numerous contributions as one of the town's leaders. During his tenure on the town council, Mr. McWilliams has worked to promote fiscal responsibility, lower taxes and responsible planned growth. He has overseen the development of a professional community police force and has helped to implement a long-range capital planning project. As a resident of Berryville for more than 50 years and an owner of a business in downtown Berryville for the past 27 years, Mr. McWilliams is truly committed to the growth and success of this town.

Mr. McWilliams, who is married to Barbara and is the father to Jeffery and Michelle, has brought an innovative spirit and common-sense, principled leadership to the Town of Berryville. I am grateful for his service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and am pleased to join his colleagues, friends and family members in honoring him upon his retirement.●

CONGRATULATING GERRY FISCHBACH

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Gerald D. Fischbach for his service as the Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences and Dean of the Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences at Columbia University in New York. Gerry Fischbach is a highly respected neuroscientist and educator. I have known Dean Fischbach since 1998 when he served as Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NINDS, at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, during the Clinton administration.

As executive vice president and dean, Gerry Fischbach was charged with running the Columbia University Medical Center, CUMC, in northern Manhattan. The CUMC comprises the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Nursing, the College of Dental Medicine, and the Mailman School of Public Health. Dean Fischbach worked tirelessly to advance the Medical Center's three primary missions, providing high quality patient care, conducting innovative biomedical research, and educating generations of doctors, scientists, nurses, dentists, and public health professionals.

Gerry Fischbach is a native of Mount Vernon, New York and graduated from Colgate University. After graduating from Cornell Medical School in New York City, he completed his internship

at the University of Washington Hospital in Seattle. In 1966, he began his lifelong dedication to research and education at the NIH. Before coming to Columbia, Dean Fischbach held Chairmanships at both Harvard University and Washington University in St. Louis, and was Director of the NINDS at NIH.

Throughout his career, Dean Fischbach has studied the formation and maintenance of synapses, the junctions between nerve cells and their targets through which information is transferred. His work has focused on the neuromuscular junction, where he pioneered using cultured neurons and muscle cells to characterize the biochemical, cellular, and electrophysiological mechanisms underlying the development and function of this junction. Beginning in the 1970s, Dean Fischbach began to study the mechanism by which motor neurons regulate the number of acetylcholine receptors on muscle cells. In 1993, this work culminated with the purification and cloning of the acetylcholine receptor-inducing activity, ARIA, protein, which stimulates skeletal muscle cells to synthesize acetylcholine receptors. Dean Fischbach's work was key in demonstrating that synaptic development relies on biochemical mechanisms.

While at Columbia, Dean Fischbach initiated and implemented a strategic planning process and oversaw the completion and dedication of the new Irving Cancer Research Center. No stranger to Congress from his days at NINDS, he has been active in the effort to expand eligibility for federal funding for stem cell research, and has lectured, written, and testified before Congress numerous times on the subject. During his tenure, he created the Columbia Center for Neuroscience Initiatives and the CUMC Stem Cell Consortium, both to promote better understanding of the human brain and develop treatments for diseases that affect millions of Americans.

New York is blessed with an abundance of top research institutions and teaching hospitals, New York's jewels, as my predecessor Senator Moynihan used to call them, and there is no doubt that Columbia's medical center is one of the finest in the country. Columbia receives more NIH funding than any other New York institution, and two out of the past five Nobel Prize winners for Physiology and Medicine have been Columbia faculty. I have become very familiar with the outstanding clinical care provided by CUMC and the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Craig Smith, the surgeon who operated on my husband, is a Columbia faculty member.

My colleagues may have noticed that the one word I have not used in my remarks is "retire." Although Gerry Fischbach may be stepping down from his current position, he is not retiring. He will remain an active CUMC faculty member and researcher. He also will

serve as the Scientific Advisor for the Simons Foundation, a New York-based foundation dedicated to advancing the basic and clinical frontiers of autism research.

There will be more time to spend with his wife Ruth, a noted bioethicist, their children and grandchildren at their home in Wood's Hole, and I suspect there may be a few more rounds of golf in his future. Gerry Fischbach will continue to do what he has devoted his life to: expanding, creating, and disseminating knowledge of the brain and working on developing means to treat disease. He will also continue to be active on health and science policy issues like stem cell research and it would not surprise me, once absolved from the day-to-day responsibilities of Dean, if he is not more visible on Capitol Hill.

Dean Fischbach is leaving Columbia University Medical Center in good hands. Dr. Lee Goldman will assume the executive vice president and dean position in late June. A distinguished cardiologist, Dr. Goldman comes to Columbia from the University of California San Francisco where he is Chair of the Department of Medicine. I want to welcome Dr. Goldman to New York and look forward to working with him.

I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing this great New Yorker, Dr. Gerald D. Fischbach. Congratulations Gerry and best to you and Ruth.●

ANNUAL NEW JERSEY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL SERVICE

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I commemorate the 21st annual New Jersey Law Enforcement Memorial Service held this week in Ocean Grove, NJ. This ceremony, which is hosted by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, NJSACP, honors the sacrifice made by law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty. Its participants represent the entire New Jersey law enforcement community, including State and local police agencies as well as prosecutors and federal agents based in New Jersey.

Events such as the New Jersey Law Enforcement Memorial Service and last week's commemoration of National Police Week are the least we can do to express our gratitude to the brave men and women who risk their lives every day in service to our communities, States, and Nation. Our Nation lost 155 law enforcement officers in 2005. Their ultimate sacrifice and the important work they did every day must never be forgotten.

I am proud that my State of New Jersey honors these heroes in the oldest statewide law enforcement memorial service in the country, and I ask that the Senate join me in commending the NJSACP for hosting this important event.●