

build one of his company's key manufacturing facilities. Five decades later, the technology and family of employees at IBM Essex have come to define Northern Vermont as much as the snowy winters, short summers and Yankee ingenuity that lured Tom Watson to the Green Mountains in the first place.

The Essex Junction plant has been an integral part of IBM's global strategy since its inception. In what has to be considered an incredible "run," IBM Essex has been a worldwide leader in the development, design and manufacture of semiconductor technology for the past 50 years. That is quite an achievement in the cyclical and volatile semiconductor industry and a testament to the tens of thousands of Vermonters—and newly minted Vermonters—who have worked tirelessly to maintain this world-class status for the past five decades. That has meant adroitly adopting strategies and new manufacturing processes over the years. The plant has transformed itself from a general semiconductor manufacturing facility to a high-end specialty logic semiconductor manufacturing facility. This growth—and this change—was possible with the vision and dedication of the designers, engineers, inventors and technicians who work along the banks of the Winooski River.

IBM, its partners and clients have literally and figuratively altered the economy of Chittenden County and Vermont for generations to come. From software companies big and small, to cutting-edge nano-technology engineering firms, the businesses attracted to IBM and the companies started by former IBM employees have created high-paying jobs and a culture of innovation that are envied across the New England region.

During my 30 years representing Vermont in the United States Senate, I have worked frequently with IBM's corporate leadership, IBM's local leadership and many of the frontline employees. The federal government recognizes that IBM Essex is a national asset: a world class domestic production facility with the highest reputation for ingenuity and productivity and quality. That is why the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) invested millions in the mask house in Vermont. And that is why it made complete sense for the federal government to select Essex Junction as a "Trusted Foundry" to design and produce critical semiconductors resulting in orders as high as \$600 million over the next decade.

The innovation at IBM Essex has played an important role in helping IBM lead the nation in patent creation for more than a decade. Last year alone, 360 patents came directly from the IBM Essex Junction facility—making it one of IBM's top five patent-producing facilities. The fostering and protection of intellectual property is important not only to Vermont but to the nation. During my tenure in the Senate I have made reforms of our patent laws a high priority and I'll continue to press that cause as the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The technology sector has changed dramatically over the past five decades. That IBM Essex has successfully maintained world class leadership despite all of these changes is simply incredible. IBM Essex designs and manufactures microchips for some of the world's leading computer, communications and consumer products companies. Products and technology from IBM in Vermont have helped make computers and electronic products smaller, faster, cheaper and more reliable.

I would venture to say that Tom Watson's vision for IBM in Vermont has turned out to be a great success. On behalf of all Vermonters, I offer everyone who has made IBM Essex a success a heartfelt thank you,

for job after job, done well. Congratulations on fifty years of innovation and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE KEVIN ORR

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a special man who died in the line of duty in Utah—Uintah County Sheriff's Detective Kevin Orr. His wife Holley and their four children, Tyler, Kaylee, Jessica, and Ashlee, were in Washington, DC this week to participate in a ceremony where Detective Orr's name was added to the National Peace Officers Memorial. The Orr family had the opportunity to join with other survivors of law enforcement officers to commemorate their loved ones' lives and sacrifices.

I had the pleasure of meeting with the Orr family as they were paying respects to him through his addition to the National Peace Officers Memorial. Many from his extended family visited with me in my office, including Kevin's parents, Eugene and Claudia Orr, and Holley's parents, Glen and Dixie Hartle. Extended family members who were also visiting included Eric Hartle, Lisa Howe, Julie Luceor, Jolynn Orr, Jeffrey Orr, Larry Orr, Damon Orr, and Jason Pazour. Their loss is tragic, but their unity as a family is unbreakable.

Detective Orr sustained fatal injuries in November 2006 when he joined in a search for a missing 25-year-old woman. The helicopter he was riding in hit an unmarked power line hanging across the Green River and plummeted to the ground. Sadly, Detective Orr lost his life early the next morning as a result of the injuries he sustained in the accident.

At the time of his death, Detective Orr had worked for the Uintah Sheriff's Department for 11 years and was known for his dedication and commitment to law enforcement and the people he served. In 1999 he was named Uintah County Deputy of the Year for the example he set and the work he performed. He spent several years working with people in the Drug Court, making a difference in the lives of many who passed through the program. One young woman who had been a participant in Drug Court stated that she owed her life to Kevin. He believed in people and wanted to see them succeed and become happier, more productive citizens.

I was touched by what retired Vernal police officer Robert Roth said about Kevin. He stated: "He was the caliber of person that lived his life as an example to all of us . . . We traditionally think of gun battles or car chases, but it's about service. Some of us are willing to die for that cause and some of us have."

When I met with Kevin's family this week, I was touched by their humble, courageous spirits and their commitment to the legacy he left behind as a valiant law enforcement officer. It reminded me of a quote I have always appreciated by an unknown source that

says: "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

Mr. President, Officer Orr was willing to give it all to help others. He truly epitomized the ideals of sacrifice and service. I know that his family misses him and grieves for their loss, but I also know that they can find great peace and comfort from the example he left behind. He was a valiant, dedicated public servant and his influence will be felt by many generations.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF JAMES F. AHRENS

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the distinguished career of James F. Ahrens, who will soon retire as head of the Montana Hospital Association. Jim Ahrens has been a mainstay of Montana's health care community for over two decades, and I know that I speak for that community when I say that his presence as the head of MHA will be missed.

Jim Ahrens has served as president of MHA . . . An Association of Montana Health Care Providers, for nearly 21 years. Health care has changed a lot since the mid-1980s, in good ways and bad. Our scientists have developed remarkable new treatments. Yet, as ranks of the uninsured grow, many Americans can't take advantage of those treatments. We have prevented Medicare's trust fund from going broke. Yet the program still faces serious long-term fiscal challenges. We have enacted the most significant change Part D—in Medicare's history. Yet the new benefit has been marred by early administrative missteps.

As a key player in health care over the last two decades, I have relied on Jim to gain a better understanding of these ever-changing events. I have also come to know Jim as a close personal friend. When it comes to Jim, I don't have any 'and yet's.' I can think of no better example than that than his work on the Critical Access Hospital program.

Back in the late 1980s, a citizens' task force came up with the idea of a limited service hospital for rural and frontier areas. This new type of hospital would provide access to primary care in the most remote stretches of the country, while receiving a break from the strict regulatory requirements governing hospitals and health facilities. The Montana Legislature took the recommendations for this new type of facility and created a special licensure category.

As incoming leader of MHA, Jim's job was to bring the concept to life. Having just moved from Chicago to run the Montana Hospital Association, he hit the ground running. Jim worked with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to develop a demonstration project for this

new type of facility. He and I then worked with the Federal Department of Health and Human Services' regional office in Denver to establish a demonstration project and secure a Federal grant to fund it.

This demonstration project—the Medical Assistance Facility Project—was hugely successful and served as the model for the Critical Access Hospital Program that I authored in 1997. Today, more than 1,300 hospitals around the Nation enjoy CAH status, ensuring access to high-quality medical treatment in some of the most remote parts of our land.

I am very proud to have written that bill and to have made changes to improve the CAH program since then. I am just as proud to have worked with Jim in the process. With over 45 CAHs operating in Montana, the idea of a limited-service rural hospital has moved from concept to the mainstream. I have no doubt that the CAH Program has kept a number of Montana hospitals from closing. And when you are dealing with Montana-sized distances in health care, that can mean the difference between life and death.

Through it all, Jim has been a mainstay. Always patient and kind but always thinking ahead, his innovative style and vision have brought people together for a healthier Montana. He changed MHA . . . from a collection of hospitals to MHA . . . An Association of Montana Health Care Providers—a united group of hospitals, nursing homes, home health organizations, hospices, and physicians. He applied the same philosophy to form the Alliance for a Healthy Montana—a coalition of more than 25 health care organizations. The Alliance is now an effective and cohesive voice for health care change in Montana and came about almost solely because of Jim's efforts. Over the past 8 years, the Alliance has spearheaded three ballot initiatives, including one that reformed Montana's tobacco tax rate and two others that earmarked national tobacco settlement funds to pay for health care programs in Montana.

It makes sense that Jim would take the consensus approach that he did, working to build a coalition from a group of constituencies that weren't obvious allies. After all, Jim has spent his entire career as an executive in health care associations. He understood—and showed by example—the powerful role associations can play in representing members' needs before Congress, legislatures, regulatory agencies, and private organizations.

As I said, Jim has been a trusted adviser to me throughout the last two decades. I have come to trust his perspective, judgment, and knowledge on health issues great and small. I have also benefited from Jim's friendship. He is a gracious, compassionate, and generous person—the kind of guy people like to be around. And while the people of MHA will miss having Jim around, I know that his family and

friends look forward to seeing a bit more of this exceptional individual. Jim's transition will be complete on June 30, when he makes his retirement official. On behalf of a healthier Montana, we wish Jim Ahrens well.●

EMS WEEK

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the men and women throughout my home State of New Mexico who provide lifesaving emergency medical services, EMS, and to commemorate EMS Week.

During my time in the Senate, I have come to understand the necessity of a highly trained EMS team. Such teams provide lifesaving care to those who are in need, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

An important example of such care is provided to the people of Northern Rio Arriba County by the highly dedicated members of La Clinica EMS, which consists of:

Joseph Baca, Paramedic; Phyllis Richards, Paramedic; Wenona Garcia, EMT-1; Rose Rash, EMT-1; Sarah Johnson, EMT-1; Paul Lisco, EMT-1; J.R. Gallegos, EMT-B; James Holiday, EMT-B; Tomas Casados, EMT-B; Stella Martinez, EMT-B; Kathy Morrison, EMT-B; Dave Morrison, EMT-B; Laurel Baker, EMT-B; Ramona Hays, EMT-B; Michael Hays, EMT-B; Emery Baca, EMT-B; B.J. Samora, FR; Josie Maestas, FR; and Marty Madrid, FR.

I am proud to join the citizens of New Mexico in expressing my sincere gratitude to EMS professionals and their unwavering dedication to the community.●

NEW MEXICO PECAN GROWERS

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the pecan growers of New Mexico for being No. 1 in the Nation in pecan production. This is the first time New Mexico has claimed this title.

The recently released preliminary numbers from last year indicate that New Mexico growers produced 46 million pounds of pecans valued at \$86.1 million. This is 6 million more pounds of pecans than second-ranked Georgia and 10 million more pounds than third-ranked Texas. This is quite an achievement given the size of the pecan industry in both Georgia and Texas.

I am proud of New Mexico's pecan growers and their hard work. I am sure this will not be the last time they take this title, and I wish them luck this season.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries:

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2007.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 17, 2007.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1419. A bill to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers from price gouging, to increase the energy efficiency of products, buildings and vehicles, to promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options, and to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.