

better comes along. No! I will not get rid of my Ford F-150 because I am a tall person and require the leg and head room. I know that comes at a price but I would rather do that than to sacrifice the comfort.

STEPHEN, *Mountain Home AFB.*

TRIBUTE TO THE POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the Polynesian Voyaging Society. For more than a quarter century, members of the Polynesian Voyaging Society have dedicated much of their lives to voyages of exploration and discovery that have retraced every major migratory route of the ancient Polynesians. These voyages are not recreational but rather journeys that illustrate the scientific prowess of the Polynesian people and the strong connection between science and culture. Their commitment to the legacy of oceanic exploration seeks to integrate traditional voyaging into quality education. The Polynesian Voyaging Society has renewed interest in maritime exploration and reawakened Native Hawaiian pride in environmental awareness and ocean stewardship.

In today's age of modern technology, much can be learned from the past. Hawaii's past and future will always be intimately tied to the ocean for recreation, commerce, and transportation. The society exemplifies the importance of raising awareness of and protecting the unique treasures Hawaii's culture offers, and serves to enlighten a new generation of young people. Its members are truly a testament to Hawaii's oceanic heritage.

PROTECTION FROM CHILD PREDATORS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I joined as a cosponsor of two bills to protect children: S. 1738, the Combating Child Exploitation Act; and S. 519, the Securing Adolescents from Exploitation-Online—SAFE—Act.

I am cosponsoring S. 1738 to signal my support for this bipartisan effort to create a nationwide network of highly trained law enforcement experts to track down and prosecute child predators who exploit children, but it is my hope that Congress would enact the modified version of this legislation that was included in bills separately introduced by the majority leader—S. 3297—and Senator COBURN—S. 3344.

Unfortunately, both bills have been held up by partisan gridlock despite widespread support on both sides of the aisle. In fact, the House version of the SAFE Act—H.R. 3791—passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 409-2 in December 2007. That is why I believe that both bills H.R. 3791 and the modified version of S. 1738 could pass by unanimous consent if they were called up and passed together.

It is time to stop playing politics, bring these bills to the Senate floor

and let the Senate approve them. Child exploitation is too important a problem to get caught up in partisan politics. I urge the majority leader to call up and pass these two bills without delay, and without either being attached to other legislation that could prevent them from becoming law.

I can't think of a more bipartisan step for the Senate to take this month than ending this impasse and passing these two worthwhile bills to protect children.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI, in cosponsoring a resolution commemorating Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week, observed October 23-31, encourages individuals, families, and communities to take a stand against alcohol, tobacco and illegal drug abuse. During this week, students all over the country pledge to live drug and alcohol free.

The tradition of Red Ribbon Week, now in its 23rd year of wearing and displaying red ribbons, started following the assassination of U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena. In an effort to honor his memory and unite in the battle against drug crime and abuse, friends, neighbors, and students from his home town of Calexico, CA, began wearing red ribbons. Shortly thereafter, the National Family Partnership took the celebration nationwide. Since then, the Red Ribbon campaign has reached millions of children, families, and communities across the country, spreading the message about the destructive effects of drugs.

In my State of Iowa, the theme for Red Ribbon Week is "Ask me, See me, Be me . . . I'm Drug Free." Schools and community groups across the State are organizing a variety of activities including pledges, contests, workshops, rallies, theatrical and musical performances. These events are all designed to educate our children on the negative effects of drugs and to promote a drug-free environment.

Research tells us that the longer children stay drug-free, the less likely they will become addicted or even try illegal drugs. This is why it is so important to maintain a coherent anti-drug message that begins early in adolescence and continues throughout the growing years. Such an effort must involve parents, communities, and young people. Red Ribbon Week provides each of us the opportunity to take a stand by helping our children make the right decisions when it comes to drugs.

In light of the growing epidemic of prescription drug and cold medicine abuse throughout the Nation, this year's Red Ribbon Week holds greater importance. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this resolution to demonstrate our commitment to raising awareness about drugs and encourage everyone to make healthy choices.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING COASTAL WINDOWS, INC.

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the owners and employees of Coastal Windows, Inc., a family owned and operated business on Oahu and one of this year's recipients of the 2008 Freedom Awards presented by the Secretary of Defense and the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Coastal Windows began their business in response to Hawaii's need for windows and doors that could endure the harsh environmental climate of the State's Sun, wind, rain, and salt air. They have been in operation for nearly 20 years and in that time have grown to an organization consisting of 62 employees. They are known for treating their employees as part of their "ohana" or family and are proud members of the community.

The manner in which they take care of their employees who also serve in our Nation's Armed Forces should inspire all of us here in Congress and across this Nation. Take for example their employee U.S. Army sergeant Mike Echiverri, who is about to be deployed for the third time as a member of the National Guard. During his absence, Coastal Windows maintains all his benefits, including health, dental, vision, and his retirement plans. He also continues to earn sick leave and vacation time, and he is given additional time off to spend with his family before and after each deployment. Coastal Windows also often sends care packages to deployed employees and maintains regular communication via e-mail. The company also extends its support to family members of deployed employees by staying in constant contact with the family members and ensuring that spouses are invited to social events.

Coastal Windows became actively involved with the Department of Defense's Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR, program after its vice president, Bob Barrett, learned of the organization's efforts to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve members and their civilian employers. Mr. Barrett became an ESGR employer outreach volunteer and works with ESGR Hawaii to educate employers about the benefits of hiring Guard and Reserve members. Coastal Windows also supports the military community by participating in activities like the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

As 1 of only 15 companies nationwide to receive this honor, I congratulate Coastal Windows, and Mr. Bob Barrett in particular, for their dedication to their workers and for their selection as a Freedom Award recipient for 2008. They have set the standard in Hawaii as an example of how the community can take care of our soldiers, sailors,

airmen, and marines and their families and make a direct contribution to the national security of the United States. I salute them for their outstanding service and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING ROBERT J. MCCARTHY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the memory of a dedicated attorney, community leader, and wonderful person, Robert "Bob" McCarthy. Bob passed away on September 4, 2004. He was 61 years old.

Born in New York City on December 31, 1946, Bob McCarthy spent his childhood in the city, where he attended Regis High School in Manhattan. Following his graduation in 1965, Bob attended Santa Clara University, where he was a Presidential honors scholar and editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. In 1969, Bob received a B.A. cum laude in political science in 1969. While attending the university, Bob met his future wife, Suzanne Bazzano, the office manager at the school newspaper. They married in 1970 and had five children.

Following a stint in Chicago, where he earned his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School, Bob and Suzanne moved to San Francisco, Suzanne's hometown. Bob pursued a career in law, working in the San Francisco office of the district attorney for 4 years, serving as chief deputy district attorney. In 1980, Bob started his own general law practice with his friend Lester Schwartz.

Throughout his career, Bob found the time to pursue his love and passion for politics. He served as general counsel for the California Democratic Party from 1983-1990, and held a number of trustee positions within the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, including National Finance co-chair. He also served as a close adviser and cochair of my own Senate campaign, and has also advised a number of other elected officials in California. Bob was also well-known for the election day lunches that he hosted every year, a tradition among Bay Area dignitaries that wasn't to be missed.

In addition to the long hours Bob put in as an attorney, Bob carved out time to give back to his community. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Woodrow Wilson Center Board of Trustees; served as a guest lecturer at Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, the University of California at Berkeley, and Peking University in Beijing, China; sat on the board of St. Mary's Hospital; was a regent of St. Ignatius College Preparatory; and was also made a member of the Knights of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by Pope John Paul II.

Bob is survived by his mother, Dorothy McCarthy; his wife, Suzanne; his sons Brendan, Matthew, Ryan, and Bobby; and daughter, Margaret. I ex-

tend my deepest sympathies to his family.

Bob McCarthy was a deeply loved community leader, both in the Bay Area and throughout the State of California, and he will be missed by all who knew him. Let us take comfort in knowing that his dedication and love for his family, friends, and community have made this world a better place to live.●

TRIBUTE TO DON BOXMEYER

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, while my city of Saint Paul was enjoying its moment in the spotlight earlier this month, we were also mourning the passing of one of our great storytellers, Don Boxmeyer. Throughout his life as a reporter, columnist and author, Don discovered and brought out the human strength and variety of Saint Paul as no one else has. That made him one of our most important citizens.

Don worked as a hard news reporter for the St. Paul Dispatch and the St. Paul Pioneer Press, and wrote a column for over two decades. Here is how he described his career in his own words:

I realized that the interesting people and places nobody ever wrote about held more fascination to me and my readers than all the governors, mayors and city council members who never seemed to be much persuaded by my opinions anyhow. I began to collect hobos and hermits, bare-knuckled brawlers and bread-baking nuns, short order cooks and hockey coaches, drake mallards named Jake, and bridge tenders, band directors, bear hunters and quiet old men who wept softly when we talked about the friends they'd left on the battlefield.

And he shared them with the rest of us with humor, respect and a love of the nobility of regular people.

In his book, "A Knack for Knowing Things," Don collected many of his best columns about Saint Paul and Minnesota. He wrote about Swede Hollow in Saint Paul, the Rondo neighborhood destroyed by the construction of I-94 and Saint Joseph's Orphanage. He wrote about Stillwater, Lake Superior and Ashby, MN, and hundreds of other places and the people who made them. If a new resident of our State or its capital city asked me to tell them what kind of place they had moved to, I would just give them a copy of that book and let them discover it for themselves.

Don Boxmeyer's life eloquently conveyed an important lesson: each of our communities has roots in the values and experiences of generations that came before and we need to capture them before they disappear. His oral history of places Minnesotans know well and events they only vaguely know about is a priceless gift to the future.

Somewhere I read about a moment of despondency in the life of Robert F. Kennedy as he mourned the death of his brother Jack. Attempting to comfort him, someone said something like, "It is tragic that he only got to serve

for 1,000 days, but that's as long as Julius Caesar served and we still remember him." Robert Kennedy replied, "Yes, but Caesar had Shakespeare to tell the story."

Saint Paul and Minnesota are much the greater because we had Don Boxmeyer to tell our stories.●

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH LONG

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, it is my great honor to recognize Principal Deborah Long of Betty Kiefer Elementary School in Rathdrum, ID. Deborah has been recognized as Idaho's 2008 recipient of the National Distinguished Principals Award. The award is given jointly by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the U.S. Department of Education. Deborah is being recognized for her exemplary leadership in her job and in her community and contributions to her profession, including professional association affiliations.

Deborah has established strong ties with parents and local businesses in Rathdrum. She has demonstrated exceptional leadership at Betty Kiefer Elementary and in the community. She promotes a goal-oriented learning environment for her students and expects great things from her students and her staff. In fact, under her leadership, Betty Kiefer Elementary is both an Idaho School of Merit and a recipient of the A+ Excellence in Education Award. In today's world, young students need and benefit from a good role model and someone who cares for them. She cares about the learning environment itself the school is decorated with floor-to-ceiling, hall-length murals that tell the story of a school focused on principles, patriotism, pride in their State and kindness to others. Deborah has gone above and beyond the call of duty in her service as principal of Betty Kiefer Elementary School, in her words, making her school "safe, secure and caring." Students in this rural Idaho school are fortunate, indeed, to have the gift of Deborah's wisdom, encouragement and expectations of moral behavior and high integrity. It says a lot about a principal when close to 100 percent of parents attend parent teacher conferences and a full 25 percent of parents volunteer at the school.

I am certain I share the sentiments of her students, their parents and her staff when I wish her congratulations and the best for continued excellence in her career.●

HONORING CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, their Web site is called frozenchosen.org. No kidding. Today I honor Congregation Beth Shalom of Anchorage, AK, an affiliate of the Union for Reform Judaism, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. It is a pillar of Alaska's small but vibrant Jewish community.