

the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Johnathon.●

#### RETIREMENT OF DARRELL KERBY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, good mayors are those who leave the communities, citizens, and environment of the towns they have led in better condition than when they were first elected. An exceptional mayor is one who imparts a vision of what the community could be and works with the members of his or her community and outside interests to achieve that vision. There are examples of this across my State of Idaho, and the outgoing mayor of Bonners Ferry, Darrell Kerby, is one such remarkable example.

Darrell is retiring from public service after serving the citizens of Bonners Ferry for over 20 years, first on the city council and most recently as mayor. He is known to city employees and the public as a man of outstanding character, courtesy, kindness, and confidence. His leadership has been marked by a penchant for conviction tempered in small-town graciousness. He was at the helm in 2003 when Bonners Ferry was selected as Idaho's Most Friendly Town by travelers and tourists. He was instrumental in the revitalization of downtown Bonners Ferry through the construction of the tunnel connecting the downtown business area to the Kootenai River Inn. He promoted the construction of the International Gateway Visitors Center, improved parking in the downtown business district, secured improvements to and expansion of the city water system that included obtaining a critical Federal grant, led improvements to the city powerplant, and fueled positive city growth.

Darrell's participation in the community extends beyond his mayoral office. He has served or serves on the Boundary Regional Health Center Board of Directors, the Idaho Board of Health & Welfare, the Association of Idaho Cities, the Idaho Energy Resources Authority, the Boundary County Economic Development Committee, and the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative Committee, a collaborative effort that I have been pleased to work with him on over the years. Speaking of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative, Darrell has been instrumental in keeping my staff informed and involved as the stakeholders involved work to collaboratively manage the natural resources of the Kootenai Valley and begin restoration work on the Myrtle Creek Watershed after the devastating fire in 2003.

Darrell received the Harold Hurst Award in 2007 for exemplary performance by a city official and has contributed in an outstanding manner to the

accomplishments of the Association of Idaho Cities.

I wish Darrell well in his retirement and thank him for his exemplary years of public service. The residents of Bonners Ferry and Boundary County, as well as the State of Idaho, have gained immeasurably from Darrell's efforts and dedication.●

#### RETIREMENT OF MARK SMITH

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a very special Iowan and a truly exceptional labor leader, Mark Smith. Mark retired earlier this month after serving 28 years in leadership roles in the Iowa Federation of Labor. He served as secretary-treasurer from 1974 until 1997, and as president from 1997 until his retirement. Throughout, he has remained a member of the American Federation of Teachers, Local 716.

Prior to coming to the Iowa Federation of Labor, Mark spent 5 years as an instructor at the University of Iowa's Labor Center, where he taught up-and-coming union leaders about labor law, labor history, communication, leadership, economics, and public policy. Mark may have left the classroom, but he never stopped being a teacher and mentor. He has always believed strongly that to achieve real successes for working families and to advance a progressive public policy agenda, it is critical to train people to organize and advocate for themselves.

Throughout his distinguished tenure as IFL president, Mark was respected for his keen intelligence and his direct, honest, feisty style of doing business. He understood the political system, and how to get things done. He didn't believe in top-down political engagement; he believed in organizing and empowering people at the grass roots to fight for a brighter future—and to win.

Mark is a proud progressive, with a passion for economic and social justice. He is also a passionate believer in bringing people together in collective action, whether in the political arena, at the bargaining table, or in the community. He has devoted his life to building stronger unions because he believes that they are an ideal vehicle for effecting positive change for ordinary people.

For many years, I have counted on Mark for his friendship, counsel, and support—and that will not change. But his retirement is a tremendous loss for working families and for the labor movement in Iowa. In the Bible, it says that "if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?" For more than a decade as president of the Iowa Federation of Labor, there has been nothing uncertain about Mark Smith's trumpet. He has been a great labor leader, and a strong, unwavering voice for progressive change. I wish him a long and happy retirement with his family, including wife Marty, daughter Chris-

tine, sons Michael and Erich, and grandson Isaiah.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DENNIS SWANSON

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I wish a happy 70th birthday to Mr. Dennis Swanson, a kind and generous man who has been one of the leading innovators in television broadcasting over the last 30 years.

Mr. Swanson, who currently serves as president of stations operations at FOX Television Stations, Inc., has been called a "mastermind" of the broadcast industry. It is high praise, and very well deserved. With keen foresight, tremendous business acumen, and a willingness to take chances, Swanson has improved the fortunes of every station he has worked for. Most importantly, he did this not by offering viewers programs that appealed to the lowest common denominator, but instead he developed creative, high-quality programming that appealed to the needs of the stations' communities.

In 1976, Swanson was hired as executive producer of KABC, Los Angeles' ABC affiliate. At that time, the station had never finished higher than third in local news ratings, and Swanson saw that the station needed to do something to offer its viewers a new perspective. In 1977, with the debate over Proposition 13 raging throughout California, Swanson invited the measure's author, Howard Jarvis, to come on the 5 p.m. newscast and debate the measure's opponents every day for a month. In addition, Swanson worked hard to improve the quality of the station's reporting. These efforts paid off when in 1978 he was awarded the George Foster Peabody Award, the most prestigious award in broadcasting, for KABC's reporting on the Los Angeles Police Department. KABC became the No. 1 station in the region, and Swanson was promoted to station manager in 1981.

In 1983, Swanson was asked to take over WLS-TV, an ABC owned and operated station in Chicago with low ratings. It is here that Swanson made perhaps the best broadcasting decision of his career and one that reveals his strong character. Impressed by her audition, Swanson offered a morning show to a woman from Baltimore with a unique name. As Swanson recalled years later, Oprah Winfrey wasn't sure she was ready for such a job. She was concerned that her color and appearance would prevent her from winning over viewers. Swanson would have none of that, "I'm not in the color business," he told her. He assured her that he didn't want her to change her appearance, but to simply "be the person I saw audition."

As we all know, the decision to hire Oprah was an unqualified success, rocketing WLS to the top of the Chicago market and eventually reaping billions in revenues for ABC. It also launched the career of one of the most influential and inspirational figures in America today.

In 1986, Swanson moved to New York to take the helm at ABC Sports. During his tenure, ABC's top sports program, "Monday Night Football," became one of America's top-rated primetime programs, consistently ranking in the top-10 highest rated shows. He also pulled one of the most remarkable developments in sports programming history when he convinced the International Olympic Committee to stagger its winter and summer games so the Olympics would occur every other year. This decision has been credited with keeping the public interested in the games and promoting the Olympics' message of sportsmanship and friendly competition. Additionally, Swanson was integral in the development of the Bowl Championship Series, an agreement between the four major college football bowl games that allows for the top two teams to play for the national championship at the end of each year.

In 1996, Swanson went to work as general manager for WNBC, NBC's flagship station in New York. The station was running second to longtime market leader WABC-TV, but needed a creative spark to put it over the top. As he had done in L.A. and Chicago, Swanson focused on providing viewers with high-quality community programming. He convinced network executives to broadcast the Christmas tree lighting at Rockefeller Center live during prime time. It was a huge hit. True to form, the station under Swanson broadcast other community events, such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Puerto Rican Pride day parade, ensuring that many New Yorkers who were unable to attend the parades could still feel like part of the festivities. When Swanson left WNBC in 2002, the station, like those he left in Chicago and Los Angeles, was the ratings leader for its market.

After leaving WNBC, Swanson served as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Viacom Television Stations, Inc., where he oversaw 39 television stations throughout the country. While his tenure there was brief, having left for FOX in 2005, at the time of his departure Viacom's stations in New York and L.A. were increasing in market share, as were several stations in smaller markets. He now is in charge of FOX's 35 local television stations.

For all the success he has had, focusing solely on Mr. Swanson's professional success doesn't even allow one to scratch the surface of his rich life. Far from the apocryphal career-obsessed television executive of popular lore, for him serving the community was not just a strategy for increasing television ratings but a way of life. He has served on the boards and advisory committees of various organizations, including the Broadway Association, Inc., the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc., and the Ireland-United States Council for Commerce and Industry. He has also been active in efforts to pro-

mote minority voices in the media, serving as chairman of the Emma L. Bowen Foundation for Minority Interests in the Media since its founding in 1991.

Those who know him best say Mr. Swanson has two passions: his family and the U.S. Marine Corps. Having served in the Marines as an officer in the early 1960s, he often credits the corps with helping make him the man he is today. He has given back, raising millions for the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

But first and foremost for Mr. Swanson is his family. Despite his busy schedule, he strives to spend as much time as possible with Kathy, his wife of 46 years, their three children and nine grandchildren. He makes it a point to be with them for every holiday and special event. All of his grandchildren have their grandfather attend their events, whether they are hockey games in Connecticut at 6 a.m. or theatrical plays and lacrosse games in northern Virginia or ballets and soccer games in southern California; Dennis is always there for them.

When looking upon all that Mr. Swanson has accomplished both professionally and personally, it is difficult to imagine that there is more that he can do. Yet his dedication and creativity have proven resilient over the years, so one can only expect bigger and better things from him. I look forward to seeing what kind of new and innovative ideas he develops in the future.

Happy birthday, Dennis Swanson. May your 70th year be your best one yet.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LOUIE KROGMAN

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor Louie Krogman from White River, SD. On December 20, 2007, Louie scored his 2,826th point to become South Dakota's all-time leading boys basketball scorer.

Louie broke the former record of 2,825 points when he sank a free throw in the first half of White River's game against Pine Ridge during the Lakota Nation Invitational Tournament in Rapid City, SD. The 5,000 fans in attendance rose to their feet and honored him with a standing ovation. Before the game continued, the Lakota Nation honored Louie with a Lakota name and serenaded him with a Lakota honor song while he donned a traditional Native quilt. When the game resumed, Louie continued his dominance and led the Tigers to a decisive victory. Louie broke the 50-year-old record notably early in the 2007-2008 season, which leaves him plenty of time to continue to build on an amazing high school career.

This prestigious achievement is a direct result of the hard work and dedication that Louie has demonstrated throughout his career at White River High School. During his career, Louie was twice selected to the all-state basketball first team, named all-con-

ference first team four times, named the Argus Leader player of the year, and chosen for the State "B" Tournament All-Tourney team. Through his hard work, leadership, athletic abilities, and a great supporting cast Louie has helped the Tigers become one of South Dakota's top basketball teams.

Mr. President, it gives me great honor today, along with Louie's friends, family, and the State of South Dakota, to congratulate him on this impressive accomplishment.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DON MEYER

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor Don Meyer, the head men's basketball coach at Northern State University, NSU, in Aberdeen, SD. Coach Meyer recently won his 880th coaching career victory and currently has the most wins of any active coach in men's basketball. This accomplishment places Coach Meyer in second place on the collegiate all-time win list, trailing only Bobby Knight.

Coach Meyer began coaching at NSU in 1999 and has led the Wolves to 178 victories. Prior to coming to Aberdeen, he coached for 24 seasons at David Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN, and three seasons at Hamline University in Minneapolis, MN.

Despite his many accomplishments, Don Meyer has remained extremely humble. He is always quick to praise his assistant coaches, players, and fans for the invaluable role they play in his accomplishments. This humility has earned him the respect and admiration of his players. His excellent example of leadership and teamwork has even inspired one of his former players to write a book chronicling his time playing for Coach Meyer.

Coach Meyer is truly an example of the dedication and inspiration that is found in South Dakota's coaches. He has given the young people of South Dakota a fine example of what it means to be leader both on and off the court. On behalf of the State of South Dakota, I am proud to commend Coach Meyer on this impressive accomplishment and wish him and the Wolves all the best for their continued success.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) announced that on today, February 12, 2008, he had signed the following enrolled bill, which had previously been signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 3541. An act to amend the Do-not-call Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal "do-not-call" registry.

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by