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CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANK PYTEL CELEBRATING HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Frank Pytel of Kansas City, MO, who celebrated his 100th birthday on Friday, October 4, 1996. Frank is a truly remarkable individual. He has witnessed many of the events that have shaped our Nation into the greatest the world has ever known. The longevity of his life has meant much more, however, to the many relatives and friends whose lives he has touched over the last 100 years.

Frank's celebration of 100 years of life is a testament to me and all Missourians. His achievements are significant and deserve to be recognized. I would like to join Frank's many friends and relatives in wishing him health and happiness in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO NANCY ELKIS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, a few days ago, New Jersey lost a very special woman and I lost a good friend when Nancy Elkis passed away.

Mr. President, few people in New Jersey have touched more lives, or made a greater contribution to their community than Nancy Elkis. Nancy was a woman of amazing energy and incredible warmth. Over the years, she involved herself in a very broad range of civic and philanthropic initiatives, and held a variety of positions of responsibility in government and community organizations. Yet throughout her life, Nancy always was able to find the time to help people on an individual basis. And, quietly and with little fanfare, she improved the lives of countless numbers of others who were in need.

Mr. President, Nancy Elkis was the first woman elected to the Woodbury City Council, and she served as a councilwoman for 22 years. Although she was a Democrat in an area of the city dominated by Republicans, she won the respect of her constituents and her colleagues because of her unselfish, caring attitude, and her dedication to her community and the public interest.

On the city council, she was especially active in overseeing the city's water department, and she continually worked to ensure that the city's water quality remained high. She also was vice chair of the Gloucester County Housing Authority. In that capacity, she came down to Washington regularly to discuss our State's housing needs, and we talked often. In all of those visits, it was obvious that Nancy cared deeply about publicly assisted housing, and was motivated by a deep commitment to improving the lives of residents.

Nancy also was a member of the county economic development committee, the human resources committee,

the commission on women, and the parks and recreation committee. Additionally, she was a State Democratic committeewoman for Gloucester County and past chair of the Woodbury Democratic Committee.

Mr. President, Nancy's contributions extended well beyond the realm of government and politics. She also played a major role in several charitable organizations. For more than 20 years, she was active with the Gloucester County unit of the American Heart Association, and she was chairwoman of the board of the New Jersey affiliate division of the American Heart Association at the time of her death. Recently, she was named State Volunteer of the Year.

In addition, Nancy was on the board of the United Way of Gloucester County, and had served as former president of the Gloucester County Visiting Nurse Association. She also volunteered at Underwood-Memorial Hospital in Woodbury.

Mr. President, beyond her long list of accomplishments and contributions, Nancy Elkis was a woman of great warmth. She really cared about other people, especially her own family. But her love of others extended to her entire community, and she continually was looking for ways to help others in need.

Mr. President, I attended a memorial service for Nancy yesterday, and was struck by the exceedingly large number of people who attended. The chapel was literally overflowing. People recounted stories of how Nancy had helped them over the years and each one was a memorial to a service she performed. Nobody could come away from that service, Mr. President, without appreciating just how deeply Nancy was loved and respected throughout her community, and how many lives she touched.

Mr. President, I have a special personal connection to Nancy Elkis because her daughter, Karin Elkis, is the director of my Barrington, NJ, office. And as I attended yesterday's memorial service, I came to appreciate more than ever how Karin's boundless energy and tremendous warmth—and her deep commitment to her family and her community—is a reflection of her own mother. It would be hard to find two more special people, Mr. President. And if there is a personal testament to the kind of person Nancy was, it is Karin along with her three other children.

Mr. President, I want to express my appreciation for the contribution Nancy Elkis made to her community and our State and offer my deepest condolences to Karin, her father, Preston, her sisters, Lisa and Emily, her brother, Tony, Nancy's mother, Irene Zibelman, and the other members of Nancy's family. Although their loss is painful, I know they will be nourished by their wonderful memories of Nancy.

Mr. President, Nancy Elkis was an uncommon person whose legacy will

live on for many years. I know I speak for literally hundreds of others in expressing my sorrow over her passing, and my deep appreciation for everything she did for her community. She will be greatly missed.●

TRIBUTE FOR CONNIE WOODRUFF

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, New Jersey recently lost a remarkable woman, Connie Woodruff, who passed away on October 20. A veteran leader of New Jersey's African-American community, she will be remembered by many as a friend, mentor and supporter. And her work on behalf of the women of our state constitutes a permanent legacy.

Mr. President, if Connie Woodruff had a motto, it was, undoubtedly, that we make a living by what we gain, but we make a life by what we give. And her life was an example of generosity and compassion which should serve as a benchmark for all of us. In West Orange, she was chairwoman of the Human Rights Commission. And she was active in the Essex County "Stamp Out Hate" campaign, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee. She was appointed to various commissions by six governors, including the state's Commission on Judicial Review and the New Jersey Martin Luther King Commemorative Commission. Governor Whitman also appointed her an Essex County Tax Court Judge.

Over the years, Connie served on the board of more than 20 organizations, including the NAACP, the Urban League of Essex County Guild, The Leaguers, Newark YMWCA and New Jersey Cities in Schools. For several years, she was chairwoman of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's Board of Concerned Citizens.

Mr. President, although everyone in New Jersey benefited from her compassion and caring, she will be especially missed by the women of our State. During her 20 years with the Ladies Garment Workers Union, she battled to improve the working conditions for thousands of workers, mostly women. Later, she was an adjunct professor of labor studies at Rutgers-Newark, before moving on to Essex County College, where she spent the last 10 years of her career in education. At ECC, she was credited with helping to turn the dream of a Women's Center into reality. The Center's Director has remarked that Woodruff's life was dedicated to helping women become personally and financially self-sufficient. She also established the Connie Woodruff Nursing Scholarships at Essex County College.

Mr. President, Connie Woodruff served 16 years as chairwoman of the New Jersey Commission on the Status of Women, and she won two terms as president of the National Association of Commissions on Women, becoming president emeritus by acclamation.