

Frank Souza was born in New Bedford, MA in 1925. In 1948, he and his wife Virginia drove across the country to California in search of better job opportunities. Upon his arrival, he took a job with Greyhound as a bus mechanic, and worked there for 13 years. In 1953, Frank became involved in the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO.

When I first met Frank many years ago, before I was in elected office, I was struck by his kindness and dedication to working people. That kindness and dedication grew with each passing year. Frank's commitment to social justice earned him the trust and respect of fellow labor activists and allowed him to rise quickly through the ranks at the machinists union. It was not long before Frank was a nationally known leader of the machinists union in northern California. In his capacity as Directing Business Representative of District 190, the largest automotive district of the machinists union in America, Frank was a constant source of pride for both his fellow machinists and the community at large.

Although Frank retired in 1989 after 25 years with the machinists union, he remained an active union leader, holding impressive positions as a machinists union delegate to the National AFL-CIO, vice president of the California Labor Federation for the AFL-CIO, chair of the Western States Trucking Committee for the National Auto Transporters, chair for the Sea Land West Coast negotiating committee, and treasurer for the California Alliance of Retired Americans.

It is not just Frank's accomplishments in the field of labor that made him stand out. Frank was one of the most wonderful people that I have come in contact with in all of my years of public service. His warmth and intelligence were a true inspiration to me. When he talked to me about injustice in the workplace, or in the world, his eyes would tear up. I knew that I could never let him down.

Frank Souza was a deeply loved labor leader who championed the causes of America's working families, not only in this country, but throughout the world. We can take comfort in knowing that future generations will benefit from his spirit, his vision, and his leadership. He taught us about the dignity and soul of working people, and in his memory we won't forget.●

ELIZABETH A. "BETSY" DUKE

● Mr. ALLEN. Elizabeth A. "Betsy" Duke was recently chosen to be the chairwoman of the American Bankers Association.

The ABA serves as the largest banking trade association in the country, representing most community banks, as well as virtually all large banks of our Nation. She will oversee the day-to-day leadership of the ABA, and all of its 330 employees.

Ms. Duke's one-year term marks the first time that a woman has held this

highly visible position, as well as the first since 1951 that the post has been held by a Virginian.

I am confident that Betsy Duke's extensive background in the banking industry, including serving as former director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and former president of the Virginia Bankers Association has prepared her well for this new and challenging leadership role.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1974 with a degree in drama, Betsy moved back to her native Virginia Beach and found an acting job in a dinner theater. In order to support her dream of becoming an actress, Betsy went looking for a day job. After being turned down by a local dry cleaner, she finally found work as a part-time drive-up bank teller.

The theatrical show in which Betsy was participating in ended about a year later, but by then she had come to a couple of conclusions: that her dream of becoming a great actress would never materialize, and that she really enjoyed her job as a teller. Betsy was soon able to secure a new-accounts job at Bank of Virginia Beach, which changed her life in more ways than one. It was there that she met her mentor, Burt Harrison, who served as the bank's CEO, and a young operations officer and her future husband, Larry Harcum.

As Betsy began taking on more responsibility, she began taking banking courses and was named the bank's accounting officer, but things became complicated when she began dating Larry. The bank had a strict policy regarding this activity, so after a few months, Betsy left the bank to go work at a local car dealership, but was asked to return a few months later by her mentor and bank CEO, Burt Harrison. The very next day, however, Larry quit. Burt quickly caught on, but allowed the two to stay under the condition that they keep their budding romance quiet. About a year later, the two married, but not after receiving the board's approval for the two of them to be able to keep their jobs at the bank. One of the directors actually got confused and thought he was voting on whether or not the two should get married, and voted no.

Betsy's friend, mentor, and boss Burt died suddenly of a heart attack in 1991, and Betsy, who by then had been named president, suddenly found herself thrust into the role of CEO. She and Larry ran the bank successfully for another 10 years until what was now referred to as the Bank of Tidewater was acquired by SouthTrust in 2001. Betsy served as executive vice president for community bank development at SouthTrust.

It was around this time that Betsy Duke became vice-chairman of ABA. Prior to this, she had served as a member of ABA's board of directors. The following year, she was named chairwoman of the ABA.

Betsy Duke is currently executive vice president, Merger Project Team,

Wachovia Bank in Virginia Beach. As I previously mentioned, she was executive vice president for Community Bank Development at SouthTrust, but upon the bank's merger with Wachovia, she transferred to the merger integration team.

Beyond her current role as chairman of ABA, her involvement with the organization spans two decades. She began as an instructor for ABA's National School of Bank Investments and has continued in this role to this day. In addition, she has been a member of the trade group's Community Bankers Council, Communication Council, and Grassroots Task Force. Finally she has led the ABA's Government Relations Task Force, and served on its board of directors.

In addition to her bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of North Carolina, she has a master's degree in business administration from Old Dominion University.

Betsy Duke loves banking. She truly believes that the industry is one of the most important in this country. Betsy believes that no other association comes close to serving the banking industry as does the ABA. I am pleased that Betsy Duke is heading up this great group, not just because she is a Virginian, but because she brings the real life experience needed to continue the successful tradition of the ABA. Congratulations Betsy, you have made your friends, family, and Virginia proud.●

HONORING MICHAEL CREASEY

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today I honor Michael Creasey for his work as the Executive Director of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. For the last 10 years, Michael has been a driving force in the Blackstone Valley, completing projects, building advocacy and partnerships, and instilling pride in the people who live beside this historic river.

Michael has devoted his career to public service and national park stewardship since 1986. After honing his skills in Utah and New Mexico, he was assigned to the Blackstone Corridor in 1995 as Deputy Director and became the Executive Director in 1999. What a gift he has been! His boundless energy and devotion to the Blackstone Corridor, and his skill in working with the Corridor Commission and its large group of stakeholders, have spawned a revitalization that includes the creation of new jobs, the preservation and enhancement of historic sites, and the restoration of valuable wildlife habitat.

In April 2000, shortly after I came to the Senate, Michael took me on a tour of the Valley to point out some of the Federal and private sector investments that had been made in the Heritage Corridor. I could not help but be impressed with his energy and passion as we viewed the Blackstone River Bike-way—or Riverway, as he has dubbed