

Charlie made it his mission to give back to the communities in which he and his employees lived. Over the course of more than two decades, his company and its employees gave more than \$50 million to organizations and innumerable worthy causes. One major way that Charlie and the people of MBNA helped transform those communities was through a division of MBNA called Support Services. Now a division within Bank of America, it currently employs more than 300 associates with intellectual or developmental disabilities at Bank of America offices in Delaware, Maine, and Texas. These employees handle a variety of tasks, some of which include manual package assembly, performing quality control on automated teller machines, printing t-shirts, letter folding, and mailing and processing detailed, confidential documents. Employees receive a competitive salary, full benefits, and the opportunity to grow professionally and build relationships with mentors at the bank.

It all began when Charlie was out to dinner with friends who felt their disabled son had little opportunity for employment and independence, so Charlie hired their son—and three others—and not long after, Support Services was born. Charlie knew there was value to this division, and with an abiding commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities, he grew the division to more than 200 employees. When Bank of America acquired MNBA, the division could have been downsized or even eliminated; however, Bank of America's vice chairwoman Anne Finucane saw an opportunity to involve Support Services in more aspects of the bank's businesses, not less, so the program was expanded even further.

Contributing significantly to the success of Support Services is that its employees are treated the same as other employees of the bank. Managers look at the team as a whole, determine what skills each member possesses, and then provide the conditions needed to foster success. Doing so has helped to ensure that the efforts of Support Services employees, which require near perfect accuracy and high efficiency rates, are met with success. In the early years of the division, many clients of Support Services were skeptical that people with disabilities would be able to complete the very meticulous and time-sensitive tasks in which this division specializes; however, those high expectations are always met and very often exceeded.

Support Services is a quiet gem that has given hundreds of employees the opportunity to build confidence and independence. It is a blessing in their lives. From recognizing project accomplishments, milestones, and promotions, to celebrating weddings and the birth of children, there is no shortage of success stories to come out of such a positive and impactful area.

Support Services is more than a division of the bank; it represents an op-

portunity to make a meaningful contribution every workday of their lives. Support Services has survived mergers and acquisitions because the potential value that Charlie once envisioned over dinner with his friends many years ago has been enthusiastically embraced by a new generation. Sadly, Charlie passed away in 2015, but his legacy of giving lives on through this program and its employees who together comprise the Charles M. Cawley Support Services team. Long may they serve.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE TAKEI

● Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, "Oh Myyy!" My friend George Takei is being honored with the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's, NAPABA, Inspire Award. In addition to his many contributions to the arts, George has been on the forefront for decades, fighting for those who don't have a voice.

When he was just 4 years old, the trajectory of George's life changed forever. His family and nearly 120,000 other Japanese Americans were declared enemy aliens and were forcibly removed from their homes for the duration of World War II. George's family packed up their entire lives into one suitcase and endured harsh living conditions in ramshackle internment camps.

The internment of Japanese Americans remains one of our country's darkest moments, and George has made it his life's work to educate a new generation of Americans about the importance of protecting fundamental rights.

George's most ambitious endeavor, "Allegiance," a musical on the internment, exposed a new audience to the shock, humiliation, anger, and resolve of one family, the Kimuras, who were interned in Heart Mountain, WY. As for others, the Kimura's internment harm didn't end when the war did. There was irreparable damage to the family's unity, hopes, and dreams.

In a TED Talk, George recounted the heroism of Japanese Americans who volunteered to serve in the military despite being declared enemy aliens. Their segregated units—the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service—remain some of the most decorated units in the Army.

"They gave me a legacy, and with that legacy comes a responsibility, and I am dedicated to making my country an even better America, to making our government an even truer democracy, and because of the heroes that I have and the struggles that we've gone through, I can stand before you as a gay Japanese-American, but even more than that, I am a proud American."

George is also a tireless advocate for and leader in the LGBT community. In 2005, George bravely stood up to conservative attacks on marriage equality by publicly coming out as gay. In 2008, he and his husband, Brad, became the

first LGBT couple in West Hollywood to apply for a marriage license. More than a decade later, America has caught up to George, and marriage equality is the law of the land.

George has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to stand up for people who don't always have a voice. And this award is as much a recognition of the work he will continue to do as much as for what he has already done.

Congratulations, George, on a well-deserved honor.●

RECOGNIZING BARRY CONCRETE, INC.

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, family-owned small businesses have a strong tradition in Louisiana and are the backbone of the business community. This week I would like to recognize Barry Concrete, Inc., of Lafayette, LA, as Small Business of the Week, which has been family-owned for three generations.

Barry Concrete was founded in 1947 by Charles Weldon Barry, Sr., better known as "Tex." After working as an electrician in the New Orleans Higgins Boat factory during World War II, Tex returned to his native Lafayette and established Barry Concrete. He successfully ran the company until his retirement in the late 1970s, when his son Charles Weldon Barry, Jr., better known as "Buzzy," took the reins. Upon Buzzy's untimely death in 1991, his wife, Bonny, continued to run the business, persevering in the face of great difficulties in order to help her sons attend college. After all three Barry sons—Mitch, Patrick, and Brady—graduated, they each joined the family business and today oversee day-to-day operations as CEO, VP of operations, and quality control manager respectively.

With four locations in Breaux Bridge, Lafayette, New Iberia, and Opelousas, Barry Concrete is well-positioned to provide concrete for a range of jobs in the Acadiana region. Barry Concrete is a nimble operation that can pour concrete on any scale, from residential driveways and wheelchair ramps to bridges, and even helped build the University of Louisiana-Lafayette's Cajundome.

Congratulations, again, to the Barry family and the employees of Barry Concrete, Inc., for being selected as Small Business of the Week and for carrying on Louisiana's tradition of family-owned small businesses.●

RECOGNIZING BRAIN FREEZE SNOWBALLS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisianians are constantly looking for a way to cool off from the summer heat, and one of the most popular ways to do so is by enjoying an ice-cold snowball. This week, I would like to recognize Brain Freeze Snowballs of Broussard, LA, as the Small Business of the Week. A stay-at-home mom, Kristi Broussard found herself with a lot of