

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

extra time once her daughter was old enough to go to school. With the neighborhood snowball stand recently vacated, Kristi and her husband, Colby, decided to buy the stand in 2014 and share their family's 50-year-old snowball recipes with the local community, including the popular Cheesecake Stuffed Snowball. Kristi and Colby bought a bright orange trailer and parked it on West Main Street and, since its opening, has attracted a loyal clientele that grows each year.

Today Brain Freeze Snowballs is in the process of expanding to a new portable building, which will allow customers to try their snowballs without waiting in line on the side of a major road. The new building will complement the original bright orange trailer that is still used for local fairs and festivals.

Congratulations again to Brain Freeze Snowballs for being selected as Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING CELTIC MEDIA CENTRE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the people and businesses of Louisiana have continued to display remarkable strength, perseverance, and selfless service throughout the ongoing flooding and fallout in the State. Celtic Media Centre is certainly no exception to this outpouring of help and determination in its efforts to aid the community, and for this reason, I would like to recognize this fine company as Small Business of the Week. Without its willingness to accommodate any and all victims at a moment's notice, over 2,000 people would have been left to weather the catastrophe alone and with no roof over their heads.

Celtic Media Centre, CMC, was founded by Brendan O'Connor in 2005 and has become the largest film and television production studio in the State of Louisiana. A Baton Rouge-based company, CMC originally catered exclusively to the smaller independent film industry. However, after continued success and expansion, the company now boasts an impressive resume, including major productions such as "True Blood" and "Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Parts 1 and 2." Brendan's son Michael took over as president and CEO after his father's unfortunate passing in 2009, and Patrick Mulhearn was brought on as the executive director of studio operations. Under their leadership, the studio has blossomed into what it is today.

The recent flooding in Louisiana is not the first time that Michael and Patrick teamed up to help the community. In 2012, after signing an agreement to aid the Red Cross during disasters, CMC provided shelter to over 500 Red Cross volunteers in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac. This experience became vital for the much bigger task they had to face during the recent

floods. Although no State or Federal contract was in place in advance, Mr. O'Connor gave Patrick the green light when a phone call came through from the Office of Emergency Preparedness at 3:05 a.m. August 14 to do whatever was necessary to help the increasing number of victims seeking shelter. Despite no time to prepare, CMC opened all its facilities and the buses of evacuees began to arrive at 5 a.m. Not only did Celtic take in over 4,000 evacuees at high water mark the first day and sheltered over 2,500 at night, they also welcomed all pets due to their long-standing pet-friendly policy. Although at first a struggle to provide anything but a roof and water, the operation ultimately expanded to include countless generous individuals and other companies throughout the area. Guests were able to enjoy a wide range of free desserts, gourmet coffee, moon bounces for the kids, live music, and even a special visit from the LSU football team. In addition, CMC was not only willing to host these thousands of victims and families, but the last evacuees did not leave until 12 days later. During one of the most trying times in Louisiana history, Celtic Media Centre not only showed its resolute dedication to the Louisiana community but did so for nearly 2 weeks straight. CMC is a remarkable example of true community spirit and selfless service.

I would like to extend my humble gratitude to Celtic Media Centre for its tremendous efforts in service to the Louisiana families and communities affected by the horrific flooding. Actions like theirs truly embodies the American spirit of unity and service that is required in such times of need. I wish them the best in their ongoing recovery efforts and continued growth and success in the business world.●

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL CRUDE OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisiana plays a major role in keeping our Nation powered up and running, and our natural resources industry provides many crucial jobs to residents of the Bayou State. This week, I would like to recognize Central Crude of Lake Charles, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

Central Crude was founded in 1974 with the goal of safely transporting crude oil while minimizing the environmental impact. Over the next two decades, Central Crude added numerous oil pipelines and terminals in order to expand their transportation capabilities and customer base in southwest Louisiana. In 2000, Central Crude expanded again by adding a state-of-the-art gas gathering system, which allowed them to provide full service capabilities to the natural gas market for the first time.

Today, Central Crude operates 7 pipelines, a 260,000-barrel tank farm, a rail and barge terminal, and a trucking division. With the addition of these as-

sets, Central Crude has been able to grow their business considerably, creating even more Louisiana jobs. The company now participates in the marketing and transportation of natural gas along with crude. Under the leadership of CEO Steve Jordan, this small business's consistent growth and expansion has made the company the largest privately owned crude oil purchaser in Louisiana.

In addition to the excellent services they provide to the oil industry, I would also like to recognize Central Crude for their commitment to the highest level of customer service through their honesty, integrity, and reliability and for their consideration to all aspects of the community in which they serve. Congratulations again to Central Crude for being selected as Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING CLEGG'S NURSERY AND NAYLOR'S HARDWARE AND GARDEN CENTER

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in the ongoing fight to rebuild much of south Louisiana after the devastating losses we experienced from widespread flooding, I am proud of the perseverance, resilience, and spirit of service clearly present amidst the efforts to restore and rejuvenate our great State. As such, I would like to recognize Clegg's Nursery and Naylor's Hardware and Garden Center of Baton Rouge, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

Following the deadly, unprecedented flooding in south Louisiana this August, Clegg's Nursery has permanently merged businesses with Naylor's Hardware and Garden Center, whose facility was severely damaged. Their joint determination and commitment to helping other local businesses has inspired the Baton Rouge community to maintain a positive and selfless attitude and continue to lend helping hands to friends and neighbors during this time of loss and recovery.

In 1955, Sam and Effie Clegg founded Clegg's Nursery in Baton Rouge, LA. They began by selling just a few plants from an empty lot on Florida Boulevard, but this quickly led to the opening of a small garden center on North Donmoor in Baton Rouge's Lobdell-Woodale neighborhood. In 1981, Sam Clegg sold the business to his son Marshall, who then expanded the family business to two other locations in Baton Rouge. In 1999, Clegg's was again sold to current managers, Scott Ricca and Tom Fennell, who dedicated themselves and the company to the same values, mission, and passion for gardening that both Sam and Effie Clegg envisioned over 40 years before. What started out as a plant stand in an empty lot has now developed into a wholesale growing operation with several locations throughout the Baton Rouge area.

Today Clegg's owns over 40,000 square feet of commercial greenhouse space,