

their professional and timely responses to the many requests for information they receive from Senators and their staffs.

It is difficult for me to imagine this institution's functioning without access to reliable information, and it is with deep appreciation that I commend researchers of the Congressional Research Service for responding quickly, pleasantly, professionally and with attention to detail to the many requests received from my office. It is this type of dedicated service that government employees all too often perform, and no one hears anything about it. This is a group of people who take their commitment to the Congress and the American people very seriously. And they deliver.

Mr. President, the Congressional Research Service provides a truly unique and indispensable service to the Congress. It has certainly made my first term as a U.S. Senator easier and more productive. I congratulate all of the workers there on their fine work and extend to them my heartfelt thanks.●

BIRMINGHAM ROTARY CLUB 75TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Birmingham Rotary Club on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary of service to the community.

The Birmingham Rotary Club was organized on March 19, 1924, by fifteen of the community, business and professional leaders. The club has an illustrious past with many local activities attributed to or begun by the Rotary Club including The Halloween Parade. At Seaholm High School, they dedicated the Rotary Memorial in 1950 to those who have died in service to our country, sculpted by Marshall Fredericks, also a Birmingham Rotarian and in 1992, a baseball scoreboard. The J.B. Howarth City Park was dedicated and named for a Birmingham Rotarian. Kenning Park is named for Bob Kenning (Retired City Manager of Birmingham), also a Birmingham Rotarian and past club president.

The Club has made numerous contributions to the community from furnishing the Rotary Room at the Baldwin Library and computer system at the Community House to the elevator and picnic shelter at Springdale Park. In addition, they support numerous schools, community groups and those who are less fortunate during Thanksgiving and the holiday season. Rotary has hosted international exchange students and has sponsored local students to go abroad through the International Rotary Scholarship Foundation.

Currently, the Birmingham Rotary Club is helping establish an Interact Club at Seaholm High School to involve high school age students in "Service Above Self". They are also supporting Polio Plus, to eradicate Polio worldwide by the year 2000, with a sizeable donation from all of the membership.

Over the past 75 years, the Birmingham Rotary Club has had a positive influence in the community and around the world. Through the tireless dedication and leadership of their 140 person membership, the Club's influence will only continue to grow and benefit those in the community and those who are less fortunate.

As one of Michigan's finest examples of volunteerism, I want to express my congratulations to all members of the Birmingham Rotary Club in recognition of their 75th Anniversary.●

RETIREMENT OF ROBERT MARTIN

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take the opportunity today to honor Robert (Bob) Martin for his years of hard work and commitment to the people of South Dakota. I would also like to extend my warmest wishes and congratulate Bob on his upcoming retirement.

Bob, a native of Estelline, South Dakota, graduated from high school in 1952. After his graduation Bob joined the United States Navy and proudly served from 1952-1956. Following his military service, he attended Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota receiving a bachelors degree in 1960. With a degree in hand, Bob became a welcomed addition to the faculty in the Madison School System where I am certain he inspired many students to pursue their dreams.

In 1965, Bob joined KEM Electric Cooperative, in Linton, North Dakota, serving as Public and Member Relations and Power Use Director. Coming back to his South Dakota roots, Bob returned to Madison in 1970 to become Member Service Director for East River Electric Power Cooperative and eventually Assistant to the General Manager at East River, a position he held until 1983. Ultimately, Bob became Manager of the Member Services and Public Affairs Division and remained in this position until 1990. In 1990, Bob left East River Electric to become General Manager of Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative located in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Bob's lifetime of service to rural electric cooperatives is impressive and reflects his commitment to public power and the critically important role rural electric cooperatives play in rural America. Bob has been a leader on many different issues important to public power and rural electrics, from preventing the privatization of the Power Marketing Administrations to helping further rural water efforts in South Dakota. Rural electric cooperatives are an important factor in the economic development of their communities and in many cases, they are the best equipped to work to ensure small communities remain viable and continue to keep medical facilities, schools and other services available. I am convinced the importance of rural cooperatives will continue to grow, but it will require the dedication of more

individuals like Bob Martin to ensure the future of public power.

Today, Bob is a member of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Citizens Advisory Committee; a Director on the Board of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association; chairs the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee; and is Chairman of the Pennington County Extension Board.

In addition to his military, scholastic, and professional achievements Bob and his wife, Kay have four grown children and five grandchildren. Again, I would like to thank Bob for all he has done to better South Dakota and I would like to wish him best of luck in his retirement. Although I imagine that keeping up with five grandchildren is not exactly retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO MICELL TECHNOLOGIES

● Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I would like to commend a rising company in the Tarheel State and use its positive example to encourage my colleagues to recognize and support the role environmental technologies are playing in our economy.

Micell Technologies of Raleigh has made great strides in improving carbon dioxide cleaning methods which may soon revolutionize the dry cleaning, metal finishing and textile industries. This company's environmentally friendly and energy efficient innovation, which is the result of research by a prominent professor and students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has recently earned recognition by R&D magazine as one of the top 100 innovations of 1998.

I would also like to share a column authored by Anna Vondrak that appeared recently in the Greensboro News & Record calling for the federal government to provide more research and development funding to stimulate environmental discoveries as well as tax and other incentives for polluting, less energy efficient companies to seek alternative manufacturing processes.

I respectfully request that this statement and accompanying article by Ms. Vondrak be printed in the Record.

[From the Greensboro News & Record, Sept. 27, 1998]

N.C. FIRM SHOWS THE POWER OF "GREEN" RESEARCH; GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(By Anna Vondrak)

Congress is notorious for its tendency to divert money for research and development to well-larded pork projects.

The federal government is spending \$74 billion on R&D this year. But more than half of that goes to defense. A third of the rest goes to medical research, which consumes a rising share of federal research dollars.

In today's rapidly changing world, however, technological innovation by small firms will become increasingly important in ensuring economic success and environmental protection. Improved technologies can help industries move from dirty, energy-