

and operates 24 housing facilities for seniors in the metropolitan Detroit area. American House strives to be the most outstanding affordable senior housing organization in the State of Michigan, and to provide all seniors, regardless of their income, with quality services and care. The organization is founded on the principle that individuals are entitled to living with dignity and with freedom as they enjoy the later years of their lives.

Recently, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Gillette on an issue that is of utmost importance to the seniors of Michigan—affordable senior housing. At certain American House locations, a program has been developed which utilizes two assistance programs available to seniors. A Michigan State Housing Development Authority tax credit provides qualified applicants with a tax credit and rent subsidies, based on income limitations. In addition, the federally funded Medicaid Waiver Program, which has been in effect since the early 1990's assists qualified applicants in paying for housework, meals, and personalized care services in a home environment.

Mr. President, taking advantage of these two government subsidy programs has the potential to narrow the gap in housing prospects that exists between low, middle, and high-income seniors. It will provide many seniors, who otherwise would be forced to move into publicly-funded nursing homes, with the ability to remain in assisted living programs like that which American House offers. It is a wonderful program with enormous potential.

Combining these programs to assist seniors was the idea of Bob Gillette. This is the kind of work that he does every day. He is always thinking about how to make the lives of people around him better. His enthusiasm for his job and his genuine interest in the people around him make others want to help him.

Anyone who knows Bob will tell you that he is a wonderful person. I consider it a privilege to have him as a friend. He is truly a remarkable man. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish Bob Gillette a happy 60th birthday, and best of luck in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO THE TELEPHONE PIONEERS OF AMERICA

● Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to the Telephone Pioneers of America. This tremendous volunteer organization has provided 40 years of volunteer labor service to the repair of talking-book machines for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Since 1960, the Pioneers have provided over \$70 million worth of volunteer labor and have repaired nearly 2 million machines. More than a half-million blind and physically disabled individuals

benefit from this outstanding volunteer repair service. In Rhode Island alone, Pioneers have volunteered 27,186 hours and repaired 17,146 machines since 1986.

The Pioneers are a good-will organization of a million people. This international organization is led by President Irene Chavira of U.S. West, Senior Vice President, Harold Burlingame of AT&T, and Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer James Gadd of Bell South. The organization is further supported by countless special people who make up the association, headquarters advisory board, and sponsoring companies.

Concerning the talking-book program itself, there are 1,500 Pioneer men and women who work on talking-book repair. They consist of volunteer personnel from AT&T, Bell Atlantic, Bell South, Lucent Technologies, Southwestern Bell Corporation, SBC, Communications, Inc., and U.S. West. They are ably supported by their Pioneer Vice Presidents and are also ably assisted by regional coordinators.

Through the generosity of the sponsoring companies, talking-book repair Pioneers are provided facilities in which they repair the equipment. Further, they are provided funding for tools, while the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides testing equipment and parts for necessary repairs. The Pioneer organization also ensures talking-book coordinator leadership, including administrative support, management support for the program, and funding for travel to training and for recognition events.

The talking-book machines provided by the National Library Services to blind and visually impaired Americans are nothing less than a lifeline. Profound vision loss and blindness can seem like an insurmountable obstacle to what most of us take for granted, reading. We live in the information age, but for blind and visually impaired individuals, most information would be out of reach if it were not for the availability of specially designed talking-book machines. With talking-book machines, and other forms of assistive technology, blind boys and girls, men and women are reading for pleasure, for academic achievement, and for professional advancement.

Volunteerism is one of the greatest of all American virtues, and most who given their time for the benefit of others, do so without hope of fanfare. The Telephone Pioneers of America truly have sounded a clarion call for all other volunteer organizations to follow by responding to those in need, and I commend them for it.●

DEATH OF JEFF MACNELLY

● Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, readers of the Chicago Tribune and newspapers across America suffered a great loss last Thursday when legendary political cartoonist Jeff

MacNelly lost his battle with lymphoma. He was 52.

Jeff MacNelly was one of the giants of modern political commentary. In this era of multi-media communication, round-the-clock news, and ubiquitous political punditry, Jeff offered a fresh and witty perspective on local and national affairs.

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. But Jeff MacNelly was a master, and his were worth more. No matter what the issue, no matter who the subject of his praise of caustic criticism, Jeff had a way of making his point and making you laugh at the same time. That was his gift.

Born in New York City in 1947, Jeff MacNelly knew he was meant to draw. He left college during his senior year in 1969 to pursue a career as a political cartoonist, and accepted a job with a weekly newspaper in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Jeff won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1972 at age 24, and two more followed in 1978 and 1985. His legendary comic strip "Shoe," which he continued for the rest of his life, was born in 1977. By the time Jeff passed away last week, "Shoe" was syndicated in over 1,000 publications nationwide. Jeff briefly decided to retire his pen in 1981, but, missing the excitement of politics and the daily news business, was lured back into action in 1982 by the Chicago Tribune. He worked at the Tribune until his death.

For nearly 30 years, Jeff MacNelly entertained and informed us with his unique blend of humor and political insight. He died young, but left his mark—literally and figuratively—on the entire world.●

RECOGNITION OF MARK LAMPING

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mark Lamping, President of the St. Louis Cardinals. Today, the St. Louis Catholic Youth Council presented its Annual Achievement Award for the year 2000 to Mr. Lamping. His tenure as head of the Cardinals has seen a 1996 Central Division championship, a return to post-season play for the first time since 1987, and a complete renovation of Busch Stadium. In 1999, his dedication as President enabled the Cardinals to receive the honor of Major League Baseball's Fan Friendly team by the United Sports Fans of America for the Cardinals' outstanding efforts at making the ballpark a more enjoyable, affordable, and memorable experience for the paying public.

In February of 1994, after serving for five years as Anheuser-Busch's group Director of Sports Marketing, Mr. Lamping was appointed Commissioner of the Continental Basketball Association. While in this position, Mr. Lamping managed the company's TV and radio sports marketing activities for all Anheuser-Busch beer brands, including sponsorship agreements with the Olympics, World Cup, the National