

and remember with gratitude his exceptional service as our ambassador to Norway.

"He left the world a better place than he found it. And no one could ask for a finer legacy.

"Hillary and I are keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers."

Brian Hermelin then gave an emotional, personal tribute to his father.

"The thing about us that made us feel the most special was that he was our dad," Brian said. "Just being able to be with him at the intimate family settings allowed the full bright glow of one of God's brightest lights to shine on us and provided a comfort and security which is irreplaceable."

Brian added, "He just knew how much fun it was to be alive. And he was sure if you were with him, you would know how much fun life could be, too."

"We took such pride in his accomplishments with him," Brian said. "We were all equally amazed at how far and how much he accomplished because we know how he saw himself, just a regular kid from Pasadena [Avenue in Detroit]. He made it all seem so within our reach—the accomplishments, the friends, the admiration, the fun. Just go out there with that positive, can-do attitude and you can have all that, too."

Rabbi Groner mourned his friend, whose influence was felt from the sanctuary of the synagogue to the far reaches of the world stage.

"When a true leader goes, can he be replaced?" the rabbi asked. "Woe is the army that has lost its captain.

"We will miss him. He will miss his hearty welcome, he warm laugh, his quick wit, his words of encouragement, his shared exuberance.

"When David came into a room, his luminous presence was immediately felt," Rabbi Groner added. "He was so vital, so filled with energy, so magnetic that he seemed indestructible.

"Once you came to know David, your life changed. You laughed more, you felt more, you cared more, you gave more.

"To have known David was to have warmed your hands at the central fire of life.

"For David Hermelin, service, benevolence, mitzvot was the very essence of his life," said the rabbi.

"David gave us a great and blessed gift. He taught us how to dream a glorious dream."

Mr. Hermelin is survived by his wife, Doreen; son and daughter-in-law Brian and Jennifer Hermelin; daughters and sons-in-law Marcie and Rob Orley, Karen Hermelin Borman and Mark Borman, Julie Hermelin Frank and Mitchell Frank, Francine Hermelin Levite and Adam Levite; and grandchildren Matthew, Alex, Jason and Olivia Orley, Max and Isabel Hermelin, Asa Levite and Madeline Borman.

Also surviving are sisters and brother-in-law Henrietta Hermelin Weinberg, Lois Shiffman and Terran and Roger Leemis; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Eugene and Suzanne Curtis, Reggie and Dr. Robert Fisher and Mitchell Curtis; and mother-in-law Anna Curtis.●

CAROL BROWNER TRIBUTE

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Carol Browner, the longest-serving Administrator in the history of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and one of the people with whom I have been most honored to work. I can think of no finer role model for young women, or young men, considering a career in government today than Carol Browner.

Since she came to the EPA seven years ago, she has set a gold standard for public service and for protection of the public's health. A dedicated advocate for the environment, she has never neglected her responsibility to protect and preserve the water, land and air that our children's children will inherit from us.

Carol Browner has been a tireless advocate for the environment and made significant contributions in every area that the EPA touches. As just one example, Administrator Browner set up a children's office at the EPA for the first time, signaling her commitment to strengthening the ties between the environment and children's health. Under Administrator Browner's control, the EPA began to take children into account when developing air and water safety standards, such as the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Food Quality Protection Act was the first law that made health of children, rather than adult males, the benchmark for evaluating safety. These two acts are monuments to Carol Browner's dedication to the environment and to children.

To better protect our nation's surface waters, Administrator Browner was a principal architect of the Clinton Administration's Clean Water Action Plan. One component of this program was to increase the public's knowledge about the potential health threats from swimming in contaminated waters at our nation's beaches. Under her leadership, EPA established a publicly-accessible Internet site containing information about water quality and beach closings across the nation. Administrator Browner and I worked closely together to strengthen the water quality standards for our nation's coastal recreation waters, and to assist states in setting up beach monitoring and notification programs. Our efforts were successful through the enactment of Public Law 106-284, also known as the "Beach Bill."

Through the Clean Water Action Plan, Administrator Browner demonstrated her ability to take on the tough fights and to do what was right for the environment. Under her leadership, EPA adopted policies to reduce polluted runoff from factory farms and from aging urban wastewater systems, and helped obtain the funding to implement these controls.

As a proponent of corporate responsibility and the citizen's "right to know," an area of particular interest to me, Administrator Browner, the law and EPA's implementation of it, effected a 50 percent drop in the rate of industrial emissions, without creating any new regulatory mandates. As another example, Administrator Browner fought to limit the industrial pollution generated by coal fire plants in Midwestern states that contributed to air pollution in New Jersey. Under Administrator Browner and President Clinton, the EPA has both vigorously enforced environmental laws and reached

out to industry to find creative new incentives and environmental results. This is the kind of leadership that Democrats and Republicans can both rally around.

Perhaps most importantly to my home state, during Administrator Browner's nearly eight-year tenure, the Superfund Program has completed three times the number of waste site cleanups than in its previous twelve years. She helped keep Superfund strong, and held fast to the belief that justice and the environment are best served when polluters pay to clean up the messes they create, even while she strove to improve the program and accelerate clean-ups. I was honored to share the stage with Administrator Browner recently at Pepe Field in Boonton, New Jersey, which was Superfund's 750th clean-up. What was once a malodorous eyesore is now a thriving community park. Pepe Field is but one of many Superfund success stories under Administrator Browner's leadership.

With her oversight of the Brownfields program, Carol Browner has demonstrated the vital ties between a healthy environment and a healthy economy. Revitalizing these sites created more than 8,300 construction jobs. And once the work was done, another 22,000 jobs were either created or retained. Much of this economic revitalization happened in communities in need, where per capita incomes averaged just over \$10,000 a year, versus a national average of almost \$14,500. This program brings both environmental and economic justice to these neighborhoods. Communities once on the verge of despair are back on the road to revitalization, thanks to Carol Browner.

Carol Browner is one of the best friends this nation's environment has ever had. As I prepare to leave the Senate, I will remember her for many things, but most of all for her optimism, her commitment, and her integrity. I thank her for her work and salute her accomplishments.●

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABILENE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to note a very important event for the city of Abilene, Texas. On December 2 of this year, the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra celebrated its 50th anniversary. This is one of Abilene's oldest performing arts organizations. This great symphony orchestra enriches the cultural life of this city in a unique way. It has drawn top quality musicians to this wonderful city. Abilene is now a city where talented musicians can also teach and perform. When the Philharmonic started in 1950, concerts were held in the old Abilene High School with audiences of less than 100 people. Now, the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra performs in the Abilene

Civic Center with crowds averaging 2,000. I would not only like to acknowledge this organization for their 50th anniversary, but also the enormous impact they have had on the Abilene community. •

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL MICHAEL BLOOMFIELD, USAF

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Bloomfield, USAF. Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield was the pilot of the space shuttle Endeavor during its recent 11-day mission to make repairs to the International Space Station Alpha. One of the highlights of this mission was the installation of new solar wings to provide electricity for the astronauts and cosmonauts who live and work there. These solar panels are 240 feet from tip to tip, the longest structure deployed in space.

Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield was born in Flint, Michigan. He graduated from Lake Fenton High School, and still considers Fenton, Michigan, as his hometown. He attended the United States Air Force Academy, where he was captain of the United States Air Force Academy Falcon Football Team. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Mechanics from the Air Force Academy, and a Master of Science Degree in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University.

Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield was trained as an F-15 Fighter Pilot, and has been assigned to NASA since 1995. This was his second space flight. His first flight was a mission to rendezvous and dock with the Russian Space Station Mir to exchange U.S. crew members.

Mr. President, we in Michigan are proud of Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield's record as a NASA astronaut. I know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating Lieutenant Colonel Bloomfield for his outstanding service to our nation. •

CONRAD N. HILTON AWARD FOR CASA ALIANZA

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to bring to the attention of the Senate the excellent work that an impressive organization in Costa Rica is doing to address the tragic problem of street children in Central America. The organization, Casa Alianza—a subsidiary of Covenant House in New York—is headquartered in Costa Rica. It was founded in 1981, and provides services for thousands of homeless children, ages six to eighteen, offering shelter, food, medical care, and educational opportunities.

The extraordinary work of Casa Alianza was recently honored by the Hilton Foundation, when it received one of the world's most prestigious humanitarian awards, the Conrad N. Hilton Award.

At the ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland to present the award, Queen Noor of Jordan praised Casa Alianza. As she stated, "The phenomenon of street children is global, alarming and escalating. Estimates are that today are 100 million children living on the world's streets. Casa Alianza deserves the Hilton Humanitarian Prize for being the voice and the defender of this helpless and unprotected segment of society and for its important work to stop the human rights abuses inflicted upon them."

In accepting the award, Bruce Harris, executive director of Casa Alianza, said, "Street children are often the victims of violence, but what is even more hurtful to them is society's indifference. * * * The prize money will feed and shelter many more abandoned children, but the recognition will feed their souls."

Mr. Harris was recently profiled in the book *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World*, by my niece, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo.

I join in commending Casa Alianza for this well-deserved award and for its pioneering work. These children desperately need help, and Casa Alianza is providing it. At great risk, including facing death threats and armed on its facilities, Casa Alianza and Bruce Harris are acting effectively on behalf of these needy children. They deserve our praise, our thanks, and, most importantly, our support. •

HONORING GERVASE MILLER

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as America honors and remembers those who have served in our armed forces, I want to recognize the service of Mr. Gervase Miller, a North Dakota native who served his country during World War II. Mr. Miller was drafted into the Army in September 1942 and was away from home while his wife was pregnant with their first child. Although deaf in one ear, Mr. Miller served with distinction for more than three years in China, Burma, and India.

Mr. Miller was a part of the 1575th Heavy Shop Engineers, a group of men who helped to build roads in Burma and then drove heavy supply trucks in this dangerous territory. Throughout his service in the Army, Mr. Miller earned three Battle Stars and one Bronze Star for his heroic actions.

He finally came home for good in December 1945. He was discharged as a Technician, 5th Grade. It is men like Gervase Miller who won World War II for the Allies and helped to guarantee the rights and freedoms that we all enjoy today.

Today, Mr. Miller lives in Parshall, North Dakota, with his wife Bernice. They have four children and 9 grandchildren. As his family gathers for Christmas this year, I want to send out warm holiday greetings to him and a word of appreciation for his service to our country more than 50 years ago. •

THE NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL FOR VIRGINIA DRIVING HAWK SNEVE

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve for being awarded the National Humanities Medal for 2000 presented to her by the President of the United States. Virginia is the first South Dakotan to receive this prestigious award, and I am pleased that she is being recognized for her extraordinary contributions as an author, a counselor, and a teacher.

As you know, the National Humanities Medal honors individuals whose work enhances the nation's understanding of the humanities while also preserving Americans' access to important resources about their history and society. The humanities preserve the voices of generations through history, literature, philosophy, religion, languages, and archaeology. However, the humanities are not simply records of past eras; they are an essential part to the development and understanding of our current culture and definition of who we are as Americans.

Born on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve has become one of the nation's preeminent storytellers. Virginia's stories often come straight from her experiences growing up on the reservation and help give an accurate portrayal of her ancestors' lives in the Dakotas. Her children's books have won numerous awards, including national competitions for minority children's books, because of their unique and poignant mixture of recorded events and imagination.

Virginia has also given us valuable works of literature about the American Indian written from the female perspective. In her award-winning work, *Completing the Circle*, Virginia breaks the historic mold of denoting Native American women either as princesses like Pocahontas or noble savages like Sacagawea. The result is an educational account of the strengths and weaknesses of the Sioux culture from the female point of view. Virginia's research and writings have helped others to understand the high level of esteem held by the Sioux for women—a lesson from which Native American society and non-Indian cultures can draw guidance and appreciation.

I applaud Virginia for the literary works she has given us and for her continued teaching, counseling, and mentoring in South Dakota. Virginia's words, either on paper or in person, have opened a nation's eyes to the lives of Native Americans and will prove to be the foundation from which other Native American writers, especially women, will continue to explore their unique heritage and society. Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve is a national treasure and the pride of South Dakota. •