

people we need to provide a consistent, unified front. We need to support the Bush Administration's policies towards Cuba. We endanger lives and prolong the suffering of the Cuban people by supporting travel and trade with Cuba.

Not many people know that I once lived in Cuba. Before Castro took power, I played alongside many Cubans for a baseball team in Havana. I saw the beautiful Cuban beaches and got to know the country and its people well. I have fond memories of Cuba and my wife Mary and I would like to go back and visit someday.

But as long as good Cubans like Dr. Biscet and others are jailed by a ruthless dictator like Fidel Castro, I will not travel to Cuba I will wait until the day I can visit a free Cuba—A Cuba that respects human rights and free speech; a Cuba where children are not brainwashed under Castro's propaganda classes and where their spirits are free, where they can grow up without fear, and where they can grow up in freedom.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COMMUNITY PHARMACY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy of Crescent Springs, KY on its outstanding dedication to the community.

The St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy has been in operation for nearly 2 years now. Since then it has provided an invaluable community service by filling expensive drug prescriptions for the needy for free.

In this era of high costs for prescription drugs, it is very comforting to know that there are groups such as St. Vincent de Paul which are helping low-income people afford the prescriptions that they need. In its first 6 months of operation alone, the pharmacy has 2,000 prescriptions totaling \$180,000 in value. These efforts are made possible by concerned citizens and volunteer pharmacists that dedicate their time to this worthy endeavor.

The people of northern Kentucky, and across the entire Commonwealth, can all be proud of the dedication and kindness shown by the people at the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy. In order for our society to continue to be at its best, we must have organizations like St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy in our communities and our lives. Kentucky is in your debt, and you make us all proud.●

DEPARTURE OF LESLIE BROWN FROM RECLAMATION

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I bid farewell and best wishes to Ms. Leslie Brown, who leaves the Bureau of Reclamation's Washington office after fifteen years of dedicated service.

For the majority of her 15 years at the Bureau of Reclamation, Leslie has

served in their office of Congressional Affairs with distinction and efficiency and without regard to ideology or partisanship. During my tenure both as chairman and as ranking member of the Water and Power Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Ms. Brown worked closely with my staff to make sure that testimony was submitted in a timely manner. She always worked to ensure that we got the information we needed from Reclamation in order to address many of the water resources issues facing Oregon and the western United States. We will miss Ms. Brown at Reclamation. With her there, we always knew we could get the information and assistance we needed in a timely manner and always with a smile on her face.

While Reclamation and those of us in this body who work with that agency are sad to see her leave Reclamation, I am pleased that Ms. Brown will continue to work with the Congress from her new post in the Congressional Affairs office at the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development—where she will continue to help Congress address the needs of rural communities throughout the United States.

Mr. President, I ask you and others in this body to join me in wishing her good luck and thank her for everything that she has done for me, for Oregon, for the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and for the Senate.●

HONORING MYRON EDLEMAN

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I today publicly recognize Myron Edleman on his retirement from the Farm Credit Council. He has had the honor of representing farmers and ranchers in American agriculture since the mid-1980s when he was first elected to his first Farm Credit System entity board of directors. Over the years, the system configurations may have changed but Myron's service to the system remains as dedicated as it was when he first walked into a board room. He has served as an association director, a bank director and as representative on the Farm Credit Council. Additionally, he has been appointed to select committees, advisory committees, search committees and other system assignments too varied and too numerous to itemize. His tenure at Farm Credit has been mutually rewarding. He takes with him friendships and associations that he will forever treasure and leaves behind a legacy of commitment and effectiveness which few involved in the system have equaled.

Myron was born and grew up in Willow Lake, SD. He was an outstanding student at Willow Lake High School and served as valedictorian of his senior class. He lettered 16 times, once a year for football, basketball, and track. He was named to All-State teams in both basketball and football. Despite an opportunity to try out as a catcher for the Chicago Cubs, Myron instead opted for a football scholarship at Kan-

sas State University. But his love, known even then, was ranching and instead of pursuing his college education, he returned to Willow Lake to go to into partnership with his father.

Returning to Willow Lake, he married his high school sweetheart, Jean Brower, raised three children, and was a vital part of this small South Dakota community. He served as an elder and a deacon of the Presbyterian Church and was a member of the Gideons. He served also on the Willow Lake Farmers Elevator board of directors for many years. He and his father worked together raising purebred Hereford bulls and today's Edleman Ranch is a fourth generation operation which he owns and operates with his eldest son, Marshall. Together they run a Red Angus commercial cow/calf operation. He is also involved with sons Marshall and Jason as joint owners of the Split Rock Cattle Company. Additionally, he is chairman of Beef Origins, a family-owned business which is involved in a computer based livestock identification program. Unexpectedly, Jean passed on in 1989.

Myron's in-depth knowledge of both the livestock and farming industries has proven invaluable in his ability to represent farmers and ranchers in a positive and effective manner. His ability to articulate that knowledge and share it in a meaningful way has also been essential to the success he has achieved as a director. And his unwavering commitment has been without peer. No matter how last minute the meeting, how inconvenient the conference call time or how many times flights had to be re-booked. Myron has always been there, on time and on top of the issues. Add to this mix his strong personal characteristics of honesty, integrity and a keen intelligence, plus a handshake that conveys not only strength but honor, and it is easy to see why Myron is widely regarded as the most respected and effective director in Farm Credit System.

Always able to separate his personal politics and opinions from his directorial duties, Myron has worked unceasingly for agriculture and those who are part of the industry in an unbiased and professional manner. His countless contributions will be missed not only by his colleagues and his friends, but by agriculture as a whole. We are grateful for his service and wish continued success for his future. Myron looks forward to spending his retirement with his wife Anne whom he married in 1992.

It is with great pleasure that I share his impressive accomplishments with my colleagues.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM T. BESTER

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a great American and a true military hero who has honorably served our country for 35 years in the Army and Army Nurse Corps: BG William T. Bester. Brigadier General

Bester has had a long and distinguished military career, which he began as a staff nurse before obtaining advanced education as a nurse anesthetist. He served at various medical facilities including Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA, Okinawa, Japan and Fort Sill, OK. His tremendous leadership skills led to his selection as a nurse instructor at the Army Medical Department Academy of Health Sciences in San Antonio, TX, and as a nurse recruiter in Indiana. He also served as a personnel management officer at the Army personnel command in Alexandria, VA, and as deputy commander for nursing at the medical facility at Fort Ben Harrison, IN. Brigadier General Bester served with distinction in a series of assignments as deputy commander for nursing at the Medical Department Activity, MEDDAC, at Fort Leavenworth, KS, deputy commander for nursing for the Sixty-seventh Combat Support Hospital, Wuerzburg, Germany, commander for Medical Task Force 67 assigned to provide comprehensive medical support to the National Support Element in Tazar, Hungary, during Operation Joint Endeavor, and finally commander, MEDDAC and director of health services, Fort Jackson, SC. In every assignment, Brigadier General Bester was recognized for his loyal, dedicated, and proactive leadership throughout the military community.

In 2000, Brigadier General Bester was appointed the twenty-first chief of the Army Nurse Corps. As chief, Brigadier General Bester planned, implemented and monitored all policy and programs for 3,415 Army nurses and over 13,000 reserve component nurses. He successfully implemented numerous recruiting and retention initiatives in his tireless pursuit to combat the impact of the nationwide nursing shortage on the nurse corps and the Army civilian nurse workforce. Brigadier General Bester was instrumental in obtaining congressional sanctioned direct hire authority for civilian registered nurses. This dramatically improved the fill rate of professional nurses in Army medical treatment facilities. With regard to recruiting Army nurses, Brigadier General Bester championed expansion of Reserve officer training corps nursing scholarships to almost 200 schools across the country and expanded the number of available slots for the Army Enlisted Commissioning Program for Nursing from 55 to 75. To meet the growing need for nurse educators and researchers, Brigadier General Bester and his Federal Nursing Service colleagues worked with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and Congress to successfully establish a Ph.D. program in nursing science and a perioperative clinical nurse specialist program at the Graduate School of Nursing.

As the Assistant Surgeon General for Force Projection and the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Health Policy and Services, Brigadier General Bester

shouldered the most complex policy and readiness issues. He consistently achieved positive results by fostering harmonious working relationships within the Pentagon and the Office of the Army Surgeon General. Brigadier General Bester was at the forefront of efforts to articulate the "medical position" to Army colleagues, Congress, TRICARE beneficiaries, and the sister services. He effectively oversaw and synchronized the conversion of the 91B and 91C Military Occupational Specialty into the 91W Future Medic—one of the most important and wide-ranging medical training initiatives of the past 20 years. Brigadier General Bester also championed the medical re-engineering initiative changes to the medical force structure, quality management techniques for the Army Medical Department, improved civilian personnel hiring incentives, and improved Reserve component integration.

As commander of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Brigadier General Bester effectively guided the only worldwide, medically matrixed health promotion and preventive medicine organization within the Department of Defense. He accelerated a transformation that enhanced the center's relevance to the Army and its ability to deliver effective support across the operational spectrum in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack on America. His emphasis on deployment occupational and environmental health issues, and the provision of operationally focused, health risk assessment guidance to combatant commanders within an operational risk management framework, directly contributed to saving the lives and health of our deployed soldiers in Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Persian Gulf.

Brigadier General Bester's accomplishments are eloquent testimony to his talent, dedication, loyalty, and determination to ensure that the best possible medical and preventive medicine support is always available to our soldiers, civilians, and family members. Brigadier General Bester has established a legacy of superior performance to be emulated by all, which reflects exceptionally on himself, the United States Army, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf of a grateful nation for his dedicated service. Congratulations to my friend, Brigadier General Bill Bester. I wish him Godspeed.●

IN MEMORY OF SEBASTIAN GARAFALO

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I speak in memory of the Honorable Sebastian Garafalo, who passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2004 at 72 years of age.

Seb, as he was known, served the people of Middletown, CT for over 31 years, including four terms as one of its most popular mayors. This was no small feat. Seb Garafalo was a Republican

who was the mayor of a city with three Democrats for every Republican. But his hard work and his kind spirit won him supporters and friends on both sides of the aisle. Seb Garafalo was a friend and a gentleman first, and a politician second.

From an early age, Seb Garafalo was an individual who wanted to make a difference. As soon as he graduated high school in 1951, he enlisted in the Connecticut National Guard. During the Korean War, he was called up to active duty and was stationed in Germany. He reached the rank of SSG before being honorably discharged. For many years to come, Seb Garafalo would be intimately involved in veterans' causes in Middletown, including the founding of the Middletown Military Museum, Inc. just this past year. Until the day he died, Seb Garafalo never forgot his military service and those with whom he served.

After years of participating in community organizations, from the Elks Lodge and the American Legion to the St. Sebastian Church and the Holy Name Society, Seb Garafalo began his formal public service when he was elected to the Middletown Common Council in 1973. In 1983, he was elected to his first term as mayor. He would hold that post until 1989, and then again from 1991 to 1993. Seb helped renovate Middletown's schools, roads, and parks, and took the lead on building a trash-to-energy plant. He even put his own life on the line when he wore a wire for the Middletown Police Department while meeting with individuals suspected of organized crime.

After his final term as mayor, Seb spent 6 years as Middletown's tax collector, and then was elected, once again, to the Common Council. In 2001, he closed out a long and accomplished career by serving as assistant district director for my friend and colleague Congressman ROB SIMMONS.

Seb's commitment to service was obviously extraordinary. And that kind of commitment extended to his private life as well. Seb was married to his high school sweetheart, Marie, and they had two sons, Michael and Joseph. When Seb was diagnosed with the disease that eventually would take his life, he was given six months to live. But he was determined to be there with Marie to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. So for 2½ years, Seb Garafalo fought cancer with that dream in mind. And just a few months before his passing, he and Marie did have that golden anniversary celebration.

On behalf of the United States Senate, I offer my thanks to Seb Garafalo for his years of service to the people of Middletown. And I offer my most heartfelt sympathies to Marie, Michael, Joseph, Seb's sister Josephine, his grandchildren and great grandchild, and to everyone who knew and loved him.●