

community. Its post office was established not long after Alabama became a State in 1819.

Admiral Moorer actually attended a one-room schoolhouse. Later, his family moved to Montgomery which is where he graduated from high school. He was the Valedictorian of his class, graduating at the age of 15. Two years later he entered the Naval Academy. During this period his family moved to Eufaula, AL, which is where he met his wonderful life partner, Carrie Foy. Mrs. Moorer, a most delightful person in her own right, was tremendously supportive of Admiral Moorer's career and his beliefs, and remains proud of his exceptional service, as well she should.

It is appropriate that we reflect today on the sacrifices made by this veteran Sailor and great military leader. I am proud of him for serving our great country through challenging times. And I join all of the citizens of Alabama in prayer for one of our own, this country boy from Mt. Willing, Alabama who turned top Admiral. His story is one that all Americans can be proud of. We wish him and his family Godspeed and fair winds and following seas as he leaves us for his final watch.

He came from rural America. He was learned of the greatness of America. He was not bombarded by the "blame America first-crowd." Because of his recognized ability, he was selected for the Naval Academy. Because of his record of accomplishment he rose to the highest position a uniformed military officer can achieve—Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He delivered for his beloved homeland there just as he did in all his previous positions. These values, taught best in our small towns, sustain us in difficult times. Admiral Moorer, like all the other wonderful Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, fully understood that when he put on that uniform, he was prepared to give his life for his country.

#### ABSTENTION FROM VOTE

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, today the Senate Armed Services Committee met to vote on several military and civilian nominations before the committee. Included on the list of military nominations was that of my own to be Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve.

While I take my responsibility as a member of this committee which holds oversight authority over the United States military very seriously, I would like to note for the record that I abstained from the voice vote on this subject to avoid the impression of a conflict of interests.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALMA KRISTOFFERSEN

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I rise to commend one of the many unsung heroes of our Senate family, Alma Kristoffersen, who will retire tomorrow after 20 years of service as a

transcriber and reporting technician for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I worked in the private sector for more than 30 years before I first came to the Senate. One of the things that struck me about this institution as I came to know it is the dedication, skill, and professionalism shown by the people who work in all capacities here. Senators and committees have their own staff, and we rely on them, to be sure. But we also rely on the hundreds of staffers who make up what I call the "infrastructure" of the Senate. For the most part, they go about their business unnoticed and certainly underappreciated. We have to remind ourselves now and then that this place would screech to a halt without their tireless devotion to their jobs and to our Nation.

Alma is a fine example of that tradition. She has many talents, including a strong knowledge of grammar, spelling, and vocabulary; a quick wit; and dry sense of humor. But her most enduring asset is her absolute commitment to teamwork. She is always willing to volunteer for extra duties.

Alma was born in Liverpool, England, and moved to the United States in 1968. She became a citizen in the early 1990s, qualifying for a high security clearance to work on classified material. She and her husband Tom have a son, Alex, who lives in Brooklyn, NY. Alma plans to enjoy all her various hobbies in retirement, including gardening, tennis, travel, and actually being able to attend her book club on week nights.

I know that I speak on behalf of the entire Senate when I say how much I appreciate Alma's service to this institution and to the Nation. Alma's colleagues and friends here in the Senate, particularly in the Office of Official Reporters of Debates, will miss her, but we wish her a long and happy retirement, which she has certainly earned.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### MARATHON COUNTY RESOLUTION RELATING TO BSE

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, this week-end members of the National Association of Counties will be meeting in Washington for their annual legislative conference. County officials across the Nation deal with a wide variety of issues that affect the day-to-day lives of our citizens and I want to acknowledge their commitment to public service.

I also want to take this opportunity to share with my fellow Senators a resolution recently adopted by the Marathon, WI County Board of Supervisors relating to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Marathon County is in the heart of Wisconsin dairy and beef country and I commend the Board of Supervisors' diligence in this area.

I ask that Marathon County resolution R-6-04 be printed in the RECORD.

##### RESOLUTION R-6-4

The resolution follows.

Whereas a case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or Mad Cow Disease has been detected in the United States; and  
Whereas agriculture is a \$40 billion industry in the State of Wisconsin; and

Whereas Marathon County is a leader in Wisconsin agriculture, notably the dairy and beef industry; and

Whereas Marathon County is concerned about the health, safety and economic impacts related to BSE; and

Whereas in 1997 the United States Food and Drug Administration banned the use of protein derived from mammalian tissue in food for ruminant animals to prevent the establishment of BSE; and

Whereas many countries that export livestock and meat to the United States do not have the same standard of safety. Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby resolve and ordain that Federal, State and local agencies continue to judiciously enforce the standards set forth by the Federal Food and Drug Administration; be it further

*Resolved*, That countries that export livestock or meat to the United States, meet or exceed U.S. standards of care regarding BSE; be it further

*Resolved*, That livestock or meat from countries which do not meet or exceed the U.S. standard of care be banned from importation to the U.S. to protect the health and safety of our citizens, livestock, and economy. Be it further

*Resolved*, That this resolution be forwarded to our local, state and federal legislators, as well as the appropriate state and federal agencies and interested consumer and business organizations. •

##### GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE CORPORATION

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend a company based in Georgia which, with its partners, has won the prestigious Collier trophy, the aviation equivalent of the Super Bowl, for the second time in 8 years. Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, a world-renowned maker of business jet aircraft, and the other members of the aircraft development team, which include Honeywell International, Kollsman, Rolls-Royce, and Vought Aircraft Industries, have won the 2003 Collier Trophy for their outstanding contribution to aviation. In 1998, the firm's Gulfstream V jet won the 1997 award for its combination of high technology avionics, speed, and range. This year, the Collier Trophy recognizes the G550 Development Team for the large-cabin, ultra-long range Gulfstream G550 business jet. The aircraft can fly as high as 51,000 feet, at speeds up to Mach .885, and 6,750 nautical miles non-stop. It also has an avionics system which enhances the pilot's ability to fly the aircraft safely.

The trophy, named for American publisher and sport pilot, Robert J. Collier, was established in 1911 to honor those who have made significant achievements in the advancement of aviation. Honorees include many of the great names in aviation, including Orville Wright for an automatic stabilizer, the U.S. Post Service for air