

Lawrence Seaway was close to completion. With a greater influx of commercial activity along the waters, there was a collaborative desire in the region to form an organization whose task would be to promote the development, use and conservation of the Great Lakes Basin while making it possible for the States to derive maximum benefit from its resources. Additionally, the Commission was to serve as an advisory agency of the States and Federal Government. In 1954, at the Great Lakes Seaway and Water Resources Conference the notion of creating a State and provincial compact was discussed. In the following year, the eight Great Lakes States all passed legislation to establish the Commission.

Congressional ratification did not come until 1968 after jurisdiction over the type of consultation the Commission would be able to provide to both the U.S. and Canada had been addressed.

Over the years, the Great Lakes Commission has been responsible for providing a unified voice, quality research, and sound advice for the Great Lakes region. Among its accomplishments are the establishments the Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database, the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, the Great Lakes Information Network, the Michigan Water Corps, and Great Lakes St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference. I would just like to share briefly with my colleagues a bit about these great programs.

In 1988, the Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database was one of the first compilations of its sort. It provides a comprehensive collection of information on the region's water use, including reports, charts and other publications. Today, it is just one of many database and monitoring programs initiated by the Great Lakes Commission.

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control works in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It was created in 1991 to prevent further soil erosion and sedimentation from damaging the Great Lakes waters by using educational and financial tools. This program has already saved more than 650,000 tons of soil and prevented 487 tons of nitrogen and 674 tons of phosphorus from flowing into the waterways.

The Great Lakes Information Network is an online database that combines economic, environmental, travel, and educational information about the Great Lakes. It is a premier search engine on information regarding the region and has won numerous awards. The Commission's work to establish and maintain such a network is invaluable to those who need data and research on the Great Lakes.

Recently, the Michigan Clean Water Corps has also joined the long list of successful programs supported by the

Great Lakes Commission. The Clean Water Corps was established in 2003 by executive order from Governor Jennifer Granholm to work in partnership with the Huron River Watershed Council and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. The goal of the Corps is to provide volunteers with training to monitor and distribute information on the water quality of the waters around Michigan and to provide educational tools to assist in creating an informed public.

In 1987, the Commission brought together the regional mayors to meet about Great Lakes issues for the first time. The Commission helped promote the idea that the mayors in the Great Lakes region could unite and be a driving political force. This annual conference also provides a forum for the mayors of the Great Lakes region to share ideas to address the area's problems.

These are just a few of the programs that the Great Lakes Commission oversees and implements. As they continue these initiatives in the coming years, they will also focus more on sustainability and growth.

The Great Lakes Commission is vital for the health and future of the Great Lakes. I would like to thank the Great Lakes Commission for the wonderful work they have done over the past 50 years and congratulate them on reaching this milestone. I hope that my colleagues will join me in expressing that appreciation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BENJAMIN AARON BENJAMIN

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Benjamin Aaron Benjamin, a great musician and teacher, who passed away at the age of 40 on May 22, 2005. Mr. Benjamin was well respected in the Detroit community and dedicated his life to sharing the gift of music with others. He will be sorely missed by those whose lives he has touched.

Benjamin Aaron Benjamin, who learned to play the piano at a very young age, was born in Stamford, CT on March 8, 1965, to James and Rebekah Benjamin. He attended the Hart School of Music and was a concert pianist who devoted much of his time to instilling in children his love of music. He founded the Benjamin Conservatory of Music in 2002 to provide music education to the people of the greater Detroit area.

He is mourned by his family, former students, and many people across my home State of Michigan. Benjamin is survived by his parents, his daughter, Yasmine, and his seven siblings: James, John, Mark, Richard, Chandler, Grace, and Myah.

This is, indeed, a great loss to all who knew him and to those who have benefitted from his talent and love of

music. I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to the life and work of Benjamin Aaron Benjamin. I hope his family takes comfort in knowing that his legacy will be passed on through the music he loved so much and by the many whose lives have been enriched by his efforts.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. J. GEORGE MITNICK

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, George Mitnick, who I have known for more than a quarter-century. He passed away on August 6, 2005, at the age of 87, and I would like to take this opportunity to honor his life.

A devoted family man, George was married for 61 years to Willine Engel Mitnick. Together, they raised two daughters, Ronne Mitnick Hess and Karen Mitnick. He and his wife resided in Jasper, AL, until his passing.

George was born in Hartford, CT, on December 21, 1917, and attended college at the University of Connecticut. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the military and served in World War II. He was a captain in the 65th Infantry Division in the European Theatre and received two Bronze Stars for his service.

George Mitnick was very devoted to charitable efforts, making generous contributions in money, time and energy. Some of those organizations included United Cerebral Palsy and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. In addition, much of his philanthropic work was aimed at young people. Both the Mitnick Fellowship Fund and the Mitnick Wilderness Boot Camp helped youth in Alabama.

Well known as a business leader, he was a co-founder of Top Dollar Stores in the 1950s. The company, which expanded to over 250 stores, was acquired by Sav-A-Stop Company, and George served on the company's board of directors and on its executive committee. He also served as a director of the First National Bank of Jasper and First Commercial Bankshares.

George was very active in civic, professional and political organizations. He was committed to making a difference across the State of Alabama, dedicating much of his time to community organizations. He served as president of the Alabama Retail Association, the Jasper Chamber of Commerce and the Jasper Rotary Club. He was instrumental in founding the Walker Area Community Foundation and the Walker College Civic Concert Association.

He served on a number of boards including the Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center, the Walker County Association of Retarded Citizens, Walker Junior College and Walker Regional Medical Center. He was also very involved in the political process, playing an integral role in Americans for Good Government.

Active in the Jewish community in Alabama and across the nation, George

served as president of the Temple Emanu-El in Jasper, AL and the Walker County Lodge of B'nai B'rith. In 2003, he was named "Man of the Year" by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, where he also served as a member of the executive board.

George Mitnick gave of himself so selflessly to the Jasper community and the State of Alabama. We are better off for having him a part of our State and our country, and I am fortunate to have known him and called him a friend. My deepest sympathies are extended to his wife, Willine, and his daughters, Karen and Ronne. May this tribute, in a small way, honor his life and memory.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN W. HANDY

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, it is my honor and privilege today to pay tribute to a leader and warrior, General John W. Handy, Commander, United States Transportation Command, USTRANSCOM, and Commander, Air Mobility Command, AMC. General Handy is retiring after honorably serving this great Nation for over 38 years.

General Handy was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1967 and received his pilot wings in 1968. He has accumulated over 5,000 hours piloting just about every mobility aircraft in the U.S. Air Force, to include the C-7A Caribou, the C-130 Hercules, the C-141 Starlifter, the C-37 Gulfstream V, the C-9 Nightingale, the KC-10 Extender, and the Nation's newest mobility airlifter, the C-17 Globemaster III. His hands-on performance, sound judgment, and expertise have made him an exceptional Air Force leader.

General Handy commanded the 21st Air Force at McGuire Air Force Base. He created and commanded AMC's Tanker Airlift Control Center. He also commanded two airlift wings and a maintenance squadron. He previously served as the Director of Operations and Logistics for USTRANSCOM; the Air Force's Director of Programs and Evaluations; the Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, DC; and Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. It is clear that General Handy is the preeminent mobility and logistics expert in the Department of Defense.

In November 2001, General Handy assumed command of USTRANSCOM at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, responsible for executing mobility combat operations through three component commands: The Air Force's AMC, the Navy's Military Sealift Command, MSC, and the Army's Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, SDDC. General Handy has had the unique distinction of simultaneously commanding both USTRANSCOM and its air component command, AMC. USTRANSCOM provides the synchronized transportation,

distribution, and sustainment which projects and maintains our national power. As a global combatant commander, General Handy has made supporting the American warfighter his top priority.

Since the tragic events of 11 September 2001, USTRANSCOM, under General Handy's leadership, has moved over 2.4 million passengers, 6.4 million short tons of cargo, and 2.8 billion gallons of fuel in support of the Global War on Terrorism, including Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. To put this in perspective, the passenger movement is equivalent to moving the entire population of Kansas while the cargo movement is equivalent to moving over 70 Washington monuments halfway around the world. General Handy, an avid NASCAR racing fan, is fond of stating the amount of fuel moved could run the NEXTEL Cup Series for the next 19,473 years.

America truly has a military deployment and distribution system that is unmatched anywhere in the world. America's military might moves with USTRANSCOM, but so too does its heart. As quick as we are to defend this great Nation, Americans are just as quick to assist those in need; and when we do, we turn to the remarkable capabilities of USTRANSCOM. Under General Handy's command, USTRANSCOM has provided humanitarian relief to hurricane victims in the United States, earthquake victims in Iran, and tsunami victims in South Asia, just to name a few. The medicines, supplies, equipment, and personnel that USTRANSCOM delivered to these and other natural disasters ultimately saved lives and eased human suffering.

In addition to conducting the largest military movement since World War II and providing unparalleled humanitarian relief, General Handy has made it a priority to transform our Nation's deployment and distribution system, ensuring our ability to project national power where needed with the greatest speed and agility, the highest efficiency, and the most reliable level of trust and accuracy. As the USTRANSCOM commander, General Handy actively took on the role of the distribution process owner for DOD, charged with improving efficiency and interoperability across the entire DOD supply chain. His initiative to develop Joint Deployment and Distribution Operations Centers JDDOCs, in each of the regional combatant commands continues to improve combat capability and save valuable resources. Regional combatant commanders can now plug into the DOD supply chain system, track their requirements, and prioritize their actions. The net result is that troops and equipment are now arriving to the battlefield faster and at less cost. While meeting the needs of the warfighter, General Handy's distribution process owner improvements have saved almost one-half billion dollars in the global war on terror.

General Handy will be the first to tell you he did not accomplish these feats alone. General Handy has led the way in seeking collaborative joint solutions to today's complex combat issues. Those who worked for him and with him, military and civilians from every branch of Service, will miss his leadership and mentorship. They will miss the stories and humor he used to get his message across. In Congress, we will miss his straightforward approach and sound counsel. The Nation will miss his devotion to duty, ceaseless drive for improvement, and unwavering support to our warfighters.

General Handy will be remembered as the man who brilliantly led our Nation's mobility forces during the global war on terrorism. I know we speak on behalf of our colleagues and a grateful Nation in saying thank you to General Handy and his wife, Mickey, for their years of service and sacrifice. We wish General Handy and his wife, Mickey, all the best in future endeavors and pray that those who follow in your footsteps may continue the legacy of unprecedented support to our great Nation. Good luck and Godspeed.●

HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MOTHER'S COOKIE COMPANY AND WAMZ-FM RADIO IN LOUISVILLE, KY

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the employees of the Mother's Cookie Company and WAMZ-FM Radio in Louisville, KY, for their commitment to philanthropy through their participation in a charity softball game to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The employees from Mother's Cookie Company assembled a team to take on the WAMZ-FM Hamz softball team. For the past 2 years, this Louisville radio station has assembled players to compete against area businesses willing to provide a location, umpires, and players to raise money to benefit the St. Jude Children's Hospital. While the team from Mother's Cookies lost a close game by a score of 7-8, they won big raising money for St. Jude's Children's hospital. Their donation of \$1,264.65 was the largest single game donation generated this season.

I believe the employees of these two companies in Louisville are examples of how every American can contribute to the care and maintenance of community by participating in activities that bring people together, and unselfishly dedicating their time and resources to a worthy cause. Companies that give back to the community and employees who share their time with others form the backbone of the American economy, and are the foundation of a strong neighborhood. The men and women who work at the Mother's Cookie Company not only took the time to raise money for medical research, but also bake more than 60 percent of the Girl Scout cookies in America throughout the year.