

removal of lead hazards from our old homes and buildings is a slow process and success can be long in coming, but with dedicated public servants like Ron I have no doubt that success will indeed be met. Thank you, Ron, and congratulations to you for making Vermont's Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program the continuing success it is today.

#### RETIREMENT OF SAM WHITEHORN

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a member of my staff who will be leaving the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation after more than 15 years working for this institution and more than 25 years of service to the American public. Sam Whitehorn has been my deputy staff director and general counsel on the Commerce Committee during the 109th Congress, but he has worked diligently for the committee's membership and many of our predecessors during more than a decade as senior counsel on the Aviation Subcommittee. I know Senators Jay Rockefeller, Fritz Hollings, and Wendell Ford hold Sam in the highest regard for his commitment to this institution and his efforts to pass legislation that established the United States as a world leader in aviation and transportation policy.

Sam's reputation as an expert and dogged proponent of aviation security, safety, and economic viability is known to everyone in the aviation community. His ability to negotiate and work in a bipartisan fashion has served the committee honorably, allowing aviation legislation to consistently move responsibly and timely. His accomplishments speak well of him: he has been involved in the passage of six Federal Aviation Administration Authorization, FAA, reauthorization bills during his tenure. While Sam has more recently expanded his reach to other major aspects of the Commerce Committee's agenda, aviation continues to have a special place in his heart.

This country and the aviation industry also have benefited from Sam's commitment to public service and his expertise on the issues during one of our most difficult times in modern history. After the horrible attacks of September 11, 2001, he helped lead the passage of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which established the Transportation Security Administration, TSA. That legislation was instrumental in restoring public confidence in our aviation system.

He also played a central role in the development of legislation that currently funds the aviation system, efforts to advance the modernization of the National Airspace System, NAS, and promoted workplace reforms at the FAA which have helped place the agency on a more economically viable path. To put it simply, Sam Whitehorn's name is synonymous with aviation safety, security, and viability.

Prior to working for the Senate Commerce Committee, Sam worked at the

U.S. Department of Transportation, DOT, as a senior attorney in the Office of the General Counsel for Regulations and Enforcement where he represented the DOT on a host of aviation issues. Before that he was a staff attorney in the antitrust section of the Civil Aeronautics Board, CAB, the precursor to the FAA.

While Sam has a passion for aviation and has been truly devoted to the Senate Commerce Committee, nothing has been more important to him than his family. From his upbringing in New Hyde Park, NY, to the many years he has spent in his adopted hometown of Washington, DC, his close-knit family has been vital to his success. We have seen his dedication to his wife Carol, who has been extremely patient at times, and more recently saw him watch proudly as his son Michael and daughter Zoe went off to college. We greatly appreciate their willingness to share Sam with us for these many years.

As Sam retires from the Senate, we wish him nothing but the best. He will be missed, but his legacy will remain strong as we continue to tackle aviation issues in the future. I and this institution will miss him.

#### RETIRING U.S. ATTORNEY CHARLES LARSON, SR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to retiring U.S. Attorney Charles "Chuck" Larson, Sr. While I could easily just focus on all Chuck has done in his years as the dedicated U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, this man has given so much more in over 40 years of Government service.

When his country has called, Chuck has been there. He served in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves for 40 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1989. Four U.S. Presidents have called on Chuck to serve in various capacities, and each time he has stepped forward and served with honor and distinction.

Chuck was first appointed as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa by President Ronald Reagan in 1986 and continued to serve in this position under President George H.W. Bush through 1993. During his service at this post, Chuck went well above and beyond. He devoted himself to fighting the scourge of drug crime and abuse by bringing local, State, and federal agencies together. Chuck also recognized the need for community outreach, and he pioneered a number of programs that brought together community leaders, clergy, and citizens to explore approaches to reduce drug abuse in Iowa.

These ideas were recognized as very innovative at the time and led to President Clinton's call for Chuck to serve on the Commission on Drug-Free Communities, a post in which Chuck served with distinction and which his son, Chuck, Jr., fills today.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Chuck was again called to duty as the U.S. Attorney in the

Northern District of Iowa by President Bush. He continued his aggressive and innovative strategies in this new and complex era of the war on terror. His efforts led to programs for the training of law enforcement and other emergency responders in dealing with and preventing terrorist attacks. Chuck extended this training effort to private industry and trade associations. Yet Chuck never ceased his efforts in Iowa in fighting crime and drug abuse. His past successes in community outreach programs and law enforcement coordination led to the creation of programs such as the "Weed and Seed" initiative in Cedar Rapids and the statewide "Meth and More" program. These programs not only helped put criminals behind bars but also provided help and support to thousands trapped in the destructive cycle of methamphetamine abuse and educated Iowa communities about the disastrous effects of drug abuse. His devotion to this cause can be summed up in Chuck's own words, "if we can save one life, then our efforts are a success."

In the midst of this, his country called yet again. In 2004, Mr. Larson was asked to serve as the senior Department of Justice representative in Iraq. Chuck was given the enormous task of directing and administering efforts to train Iraqi judiciary, law enforcement, and civilian contractors. He was tasked with nothing less than restoring justice and equity to the Iraqi judicial system. Despite the inherent dangers and complexities of his mission, Chuck yet again served with distinction.

Again, I offer my thanks and congratulations to U.S. Attorney Charles Larson, Sr. Chuck's dedication, devotion, and courage, again and again, provided invaluable service to our country and the great State of Iowa. Chuck, you are a true American and a model for all in Government service.

#### TRIBUTE TO KATIE GUMERSON ALTSHULER

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of Katie Gumerson Altshuler, my staff director at the Senate Republican policy committee. Katie has decided to return to her native Oklahoma and begin a new life as chief of staff to the Speaker of the House of the Oklahoma Legislature.

Katie became staff director of the RPC earlier this year, in what was the culmination of an impressive climb through the ranks of Senate staff leadership dating back to 1995 when she served as an intern for Senator Don Nickles when she was still in college. When Katie graduated from Sweet Briar College 2 years later, Senator Nickles hired her first as a staff assistant and then as a legislative correspondent. And in 1999, he promoted her into the majority whip's office, where she quickly became well known in the Capitol as a floor assistant and policy adviser to Republican Senators.

When Senator Nickles finished his term as majority whip, I was thrilled that Katie agreed to join me as my first deputy staff director of the Republican policy committee. In that capacity, she quickly became my eyes and ears here in the Capitol Building, tracking the ins and outs of floor activity, representing the RPC within the leadership, and doing everything she could to ensure that only the best policy—good, conservative Republican policy—became law. As one of her many duties, you may recall that she developed our RPC “getaway” materials and stood over by the side door to my right and handed them to Republican Senators after the last vote of the week.

Katie quickly earned my trust, as I know she had earned the trust of Senator Nickles before me. So it was an easy decision to promote Katie to staff director of the RPC in June 2006. She had experience in a broad range of policy areas and she understood the pulse of this body better than most ever will. My staff has enormous respect for her, and she is a natural leader.

Katie's departure coincides with the end of my 4 years chairing the Senate Republican policy committee, a job I have enjoyed immensely. I want to thank Katie for the consistently good work product she helped us achieve during these past 4 years. She has inspired other staff members of the committee to achieve a level of excellence that, I believe, has been of great value to Senators and their staffers. My goal, since day one, was to make sure we produced a first-rate product—thorough, accurate, and reliable. Katie understood this, and she made sure it happened. And so we both depart the policy committee—I for the chairmanship of the Republican Conference and she for the Oklahoma State House—I believe we have left it well-prepared and well-armed for the future.

Let me share a few words about Katie personally. We all know Katie to be bright, quick-witted, fiercely loyal, and genuinely warm to those around her. She is a true patriot who cares deeply for this Nation and the Senate, and I know she is proud to have served here for the past 9½ years. She loves and reveres this institution, even its eccentricities. For example, a former colleague of hers remembers fondly how irritated Katie can become when the decorum of the Senate is offended, even when it is a Senator who fails to take seriously the Senate Chamber's dress code.

When contacted a few days ago, Katie's former boss, Senator Don Nickles, had this to say about her: “Katie brought a great deal of professionalism and enthusiasm into both the Whip office and Policy Committee. She will certainly be missed.”

Eric Ueland, now chief of staff to Majority Leader FRIST, worked with Katie for several years in the Nickles whip office. He said: “No one should ever mistake Katie's grace and charm for

indifference to conservative philosophy or Republican ideology, because within her beats the heart of a lion and the ferocity of a tiger. Katie always harnesses the very best from her colleagues to bring creative solutions to bear. She always seeks to suggest the best way forward to do credit not just to the Senators she serves, but to the values that brought them to Washington.”

One more accolade. Dave Schiappa, the secretary for the majority, who handles all floor operations for the Republicans and who has worked with Katie for many years, had this to say: “Over my 22 years, I have had the privilege to work with a great number of intelligent and dedicated people. Katie Altshuler is one of those shining stars and has set a standard of professionalism and devotion to the Senate as an institution.”

I wish Katie could be convinced to stay and help us in the Senate, but I know that the pull of home and of new challenges is a strong one, and I wish her well in her new endeavors. So, Katie, my best wishes to you as you take up your new line of duty, and on behalf of the Senate, I commend you for your excellent work. Thank you.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CLAUDE WOOD

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, earlier this week, Claude Wood celebrated his centennial. His name is familiar to several long-serving Members of this body, for he was the chief of staff to one of the Senate's giants, Clinton Anderson of New Mexico. For all of Senator Anderson's career in this Chamber, Claude was at his right hand.

A native New Mexican, he served our State, our Nation, and the Senate with distinction and honor. He retains an active interest in what we do here and is a great friend of the Senate Historian, Richard Baker. I myself have known Claude for many years and am very glad to have this opportunity to send him best wishes on this milestone birthday.●

##### IN MEMORIAM: BEBE MOORE CAMPBELL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I offer a few words in observance of the passing of novelist Bebe Moore Campbell, a most influential American writer and a leading advocate for people living with mental illness.

I extend my deepest sympathy and most sincere condolences to Ms. Campbell's family, especially her husband, Ellis Gordon, Jr.; her mother, Doris Moore; and her daughter and stepson, Maia and Ellis Gordon III. My thoughts and prayers go out to them as they struggle with the death of a woman they loved dearly.

In an illustrious career spanning 20 years, Bebe Moore Campbell was an ex-

traordinarily perceptive author who tirelessly explored the American experience through a variety of perspectives. Growing up in both the North and the South in the 1950s and 1960s, she experienced first hand the numerous ways in which fear and hatred are manifested in the form of racial segregation and oppression. She learned about living amid injustice, about the rage and sorrow it imparts, and about the dignity and resolve required to overcome it.

Ms. Campbell drew much of her inspiration and strength from the strong bond she had with her parents. Her second book, “Sweet Summer: Growing Up With and Without My Dad,” is a loving tribute to the warmth of extended family and friends, the strong women in her life who helped mold her character, and the heroic example of her father, whose perseverance after a car accident left him a paraplegic taught her courage and independence. The importance of family dynamics would be a guiding theme in Ms. Campbell's work and stimulated her interest in the intricate nature of relationships.

As Ms. Campbell continued to explore the parent-child relationship, she also delved into the complexities that exist between and within genders, races, and communities. She produced two critically acclaimed novels in the first half of the 1990s set against the backdrop of historical instances of racial violence: “Your Blues Ain't Like Mine” and “Brothers and Sisters.”

In these novels, Ms. Campbell explored the issues of race, class, and gender and personalized them in the form of characters we related to and cared for. Courageous and exceptionally talented, she captured the social and historical forces that cut through out society and divide us. She graphically demonstrated how America's racial, economic, and gender fault lines cut through the lives of individuals, often forcing people into difficult and painful conflicts with others as well as themselves.

Ms. Campbell focused in her later writings on the issue of mental illness. With passion and emotional depth, she explored the horrible consequences of mental illness and the strain that it places on those who love and depend on people suffering from a mental condition. Her work has helped to raise our Nation's consciousness about the issue and has made an invaluable contribution to our society's efforts to improve the lives of people living with mental illness. Ms. Campbell was a founding member of the Inglewood branch of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and her children's book “Sometimes My Mother Gets Angry” won that organization's Outstanding Literature Award for 2003.

In her work, Ms. Campbell illustrated how oppression and injustice dehumanizes everyone involved. She challenged and inspired us to examine our preconceptions and fears and to open our hearts and minds to those around us.