

schedule, saving \$2.2 million; the construction of 300 new military family housing units; a temporary lodging facility; and a new main gate complex.

Colonel Bird's outstanding leadership abilities inspired excellence and achievement in others, and his comprehensive view of the wing's mission within the context of the broader mission of the Air Force and the U.S. military made him a particularly outstanding commander. My staff and I have enjoyed an extremely positive working relationship with Colonel Bird and his staff, which helps to ensure that Mountain Home AFB not only retains critical missions, but is considered for others as it possesses one of the top training ranges in the Nation and has the strong support of the local community and the State.

Colonel and Mrs. Bird have been exemplary representatives of the Air Force and good friends to Idaho. They will be greatly missed. On behalf of the State of Idaho, I wish them well as they move back to Washington, DC, where Colonel Bird will work as Chief of the Force Application Division at the Pentagon, and I thank them for their continued service to our Nation and for their time as gunfighters in the great State of Idaho.●

TRIBUTE TO B.M. "MACK" RANKIN, JR.

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about a dear friend whose contributions to the great State of Texas and our Nation are most notable.

B.M. Rankin, Jr., known by his friends as "Mack," is a pioneer in the oil and gas industry. More than three decades ago, Rankin and two partners, W.K. McWilliams, Jr. and James R. Moffett, founded McMoRan Exploration Co., an independent public company engaged in the exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and onshore in the gulf coast area. Today Rankin is the vice chairman of both McMoRan Exploration Co., NYSE, and Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., NYSE, the world's third-largest copper deposit and the single largest gold deposit in the world.

Rankin's expertise and knowledge of America's energy resources, coupled with his leadership and vision for our country's energy needs, have transformed public policy in this area.

For the past 2 years, he has served as the chairman of the U.S. Oil and Gas Association. Under his guidance, the association has provided the industry with representation in legislative, regulatory and public affairs, and it serves as a resource on technical matters. Membership in the association represents all segments of the industry, including major oil and gas companies, independent oil and gas producers, refineries, natural gas and petroleum products transportation and distribution companies, natural gas generation

companies, and other firms and individuals involved in the industry.

Throughout his career Rankin has been a strong advocate for clarity and practicality in the ongoing debate to formulate a responsible national energy policy. Because of his steadfast efforts, the oil and gas industry plays a leading role in these policy debates and deliberations.

A native of Dallas, Rankin is an active member and generous benefactor of a number of local charitable foundations. He has served on the Board of Visitors of the University Cancer Foundation of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital Cancer Center and as chairman for the Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, CLL, Global Research Foundation.

On May 13, 2010, Rankin will step down as chairman of the U.S. Oil and Gas Association. On this special occasion I want not only to commend Rankin for his lifelong dedication to energy policy but also to thank him for his tremendous commitment to our State and country.●

GOVERNOR'S WORK-LIFE BALANCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate 17 Arkansas employers that were recently honored by the Arkansas Governor's office for providing resources to help their workers balance work and family life. As the mother of twin boys, and like every working parent, I find it can be a challenge to balance family life with my work responsibilities. I commend these Arkansas employers for providing resources that support employees in balancing the needs of both work and family.

The winners, based on number of employees, were:

LARGE COMPANIES

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Gold
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Silver
Ernst & Young, LLP, Rogers, Bronze
Fayetteville Public School District, Fayetteville, Bronze

MEDIUM COMPANIES

Winrock International, Little Rock, Gold
Arkansas Educational Television Network, Conway, Silver
Delta Dental of Arkansas, Sherwood, Bronze

SMALL COMPANIES

Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon & Galchus, P.C., Little Rock, Gold
Arkansas Power Electronics International, Inc., Fayetteville, Silver
White River Planning & Development District, Inc., Batesville, Bronze

The Work-Life Initiative also announced Spotlight Award winners, honoring organizations that provided exemplary strategies that support a healthy work-life balance. They were:

Arvest Bank, Ft. Smith and River Valley Region, Ft. Smith
Bell & Company, PA, North Little Rock
Friendship Community Care, Russellville
Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center, Bentonville
McKee Foods Corporation, Gentry

The Mature Worker Award also recognized three companies for their ongoing efforts to provide a work environment friendly to mature workers. The winners were:

Arkansas Educational Television Network, Conway
Bank of the Ozarks, Little Rock
Saline Memorial Hospital, Benton

Mr. President, I congratulate each and every member of these organizations for their dedication to their families, work life, and our great State of Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING BLACK DINAH CHOCOLATIERS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize Black Dinah Chocolatiers, a rare treasure of a company found on the tiny, remote Maine island of Isle au Haut in Penobscot Bay. While this small business may be nestled on a small island, it is no secret to the world. Featured in Martha Stewart Living and various other publications, chocolate lovers travel from near and far to take the 45-minute ride by mail boat or ferry from the mainland to indulge in the rich, delightful taste of Black Dinah's specialty handcrafted chocolates.

The history behind this tasty small business is a tale of adventure and creativity. Black Dinah Chocolatiers' founders Kate and Steve Shaffer fell in love with the small fishing and lobstering community of Isle au Haut after moving there in 2004. Not seeking employment in the island's traditional trades of lobstering and carpentry, Kate and Steve designed an alternative business plan that consisted of a product that could be marketed and shipped off the island year-round to compensate for cold Maine winters and a sparsely populated customer base on the island. Their solution was chocolate.

With Kate's years of experience in the restaurant industry, Steve's experience in the computer repair business, and some assistance from one of Maine's exceptional women's business centers, the Shaffers launched Black Dinah Chocolatiers in July of 2007. Today, thousands of chocolates are shipped off the island to every State during holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Mothers Day. In addition to an active mail order business, the Shaffers supply their artisan chocolates to Maine gourmet food stores, wine shops, and florists. They also run an organic bakery and coffeehouse from May through September for tourists and locals alike. This small business has a tremendous impact on the island's community—not only through its satisfying contribution of extraordinary chocolate but as a profitable venture that is helping to sustain its local economy through sales that have doubled each year since its inception.

Black Dinah Chocolatier further assists the regional economy through its