

as a man whose faith has always been central to his life, he has served his beloved United Methodist Church in Calais as a trustee for many years.

Not surprisingly, Francis has been recognized with many awards over the years, including the Arlo T. Bates Award for Outstanding Community Service from the Calais Chamber of Commerce, the prestigious Jefferson Public Service Award, and the University of Maine Presidential Achievement Award.

And just as predictably, Francis has never been very impressed by all the recognition and adulation. For him, good deeds are always to be done for their own sake. Acts of kindness are made because that is simply the proper way to live one's life, not because they may bring personal glorification. Indeed, Francis is one of the most genuinely decent and humble people I have known.

Most of all, he is quite simply a wonderful person to be around. I would dare say there was never a person who has met Francis who does not like Francis. His generous spirit could warm even the coldest Maine day, and his humor could shine good cheer into the darkest of times. How thankful we are for such gifts as those he has so selflessly given to us.

Today, it is our turn to return the favor. With Francis having fallen ill in recent times, the hearts of many go out to him as do our prayers. It is not likely that any of us will be able to fully repay the debt of gratitude we feel to this beloved friend, neighbor, and fellow Mainer. But we certainly feel compelled to try.

The great American author Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived—this is to have succeeded." By that measure, Francis Brown is unquestionably one of the most successful people I know, and I want him to know that I am proud to call him a friend.●

THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF ST. CLEMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CENTER LINE, MICHIGAN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize St. Clement Catholic Church in Center Line, Michigan, which will celebrate 150 years of service to the Warren and Center Line communities with an anniversary mass on October 15, 2000. The story of St. Clement is one of continual adaptation and growth, but through it all the spirit that existed in 1850 remains today, for the church has never strayed from its original purpose of teaching the timeless lessons of faith and love.

The perfect illustration of how important St. Clement is to the Warren and Center Line communities can be seen in how many times it has been forced to be reconstructed. In 1857, a school was added to the church. After expansions to the original building in 1868 and 1879, the growing size of the

congregation forced a new building to be constructed in 1880. In 1922, a new school had to be built to accommodate the growing number of students, and, ultimately, another school was constructed anew in 1953. In May of 1960, ground broke on the present church building. It is an extraordinary piece of architecture, a Cruciform-shaped structure with a 65 foot high vaulted ceiling, gables that form a cross, hundreds of stain-glassed panes, a main altar of imported marble, a seating capacity of over 1,600 worshippers and two cry rooms.

An essential part of the success of St. Clement Church has been its leadership. From 1868-1890, Father William Hendrix guided the growing church to the point where it had firmly established its presence as the center of social activity in the Warren and Center Line communities. From 1890-1929, Father John Kramer's devotion to improving education was essential not only to having the new school be built, but also to filling it with nearly 400 students. Father Alexander Mayer guided the parish through the Depression, World War II and the Korean War, and his leadership enabled the church to make it through years of financial hardship.

Father Timothy Edward Murray oversaw the building of the third St. Clement Church, as well as set up a program where St. Clement Schools became involved in a shared-time program with Center Line Public Schools. In 1976, Father James Murphy returned a warmth and camaraderie to the parish. From 1992-97, the Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Jacobi, Jr.'s many skills both as an educator and as a professional businessman helped to lead St. Clement both spiritually and financially. And today, Father Ron Victor continues in this strong tradition of leadership, overseeing the growth and adaptation that is a necessary part of any church's history, while at the same time shepherding his parish on its continuous mission of faith and love.

For 150 years, St. Clement Catholic Church has been an essential part of the Warren and Center Line communities. It has been a constant source of leadership within these communities, and has guided them through both good and bad times. It has also provided thousands of children with a solid foundation upon which to grow and become upstanding members of their own communities. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate St. Clement Catholic Church on 150 successful years of leadership and growth, and wish the church continued success in the future.●

OLYMPIC SWIMMER B.J. BEDFORD

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor B.J. Bedford, a gold medalist for the 2000 United States Olympic Swim Team and originally from the town of Hanover in my home state of New Hampshire. B.J.

has been a competitive swimmer in national standings for years. She competed in the 1988 Olympic trials when she was just 15 years old. After three Olympic trials and a successful 12 year career in domestic competition, B.J.'s hard work has paid off this year as she secured a spot on the U.S. Swim Team for the 2000 Summer Games.

B.J.'s participation in the XXVII Olympiad certainly adds to a long and illustrious career in swimming. B.J. Bedford has qualified and competed in four Olympic trials, winning the 100 meter backstroke this year, set an American record in the 50 meter backstroke, and won seven U.S. National Titles in the 50, 100 and 200 meter backstroke and two gold medals for relays at the 1998 World Championships. On September 23, 2000, B.J. Bedford became the holder of a new world record. Swimming the backstroke leg of the 4 x 100 meter medley relay, B.J. and three of her teammates won gold in Sydney and smashed the previously held world record by an incredible three seconds.

Her outstanding work in the pool, along with her display of dedication to her sport and her country, have helped to make the U.S. Swim Team more successful than any other country at the Sydney Games. The United States won 33 medals in swimming, tying its highest total since 1984. B.J. Bedford was an important part of this overall team victory, as her experience undoubtedly made her a leader in the pool. B.J.'s athleticism, drive and determination have allowed her to claim her place in history. She has made both New Hampshire and the country proud, and I am confident that B.J. will be successful in all that she chooses to do.

I would like to congratulate B.J. for her fine work at the Olympics, for the excitement that she brought to Americans this summer, and for her gracious representation of the United States. She is a positive role model that will be looked up to by younger swimmers, and for that, she should be proud. We wish her nothing but the best in all of her future endeavors.●

IN RECOGNITION OF CORE CITY NEIGHBORHOODS IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Core City Neighborhoods of Detroit, Michigan, which will hold its 16th Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 12, 2000. In its sixteen years, Core City Neighborhoods has been a leader in the field of community development, serving and supporting the residents and small businesses of Southwest Detroit in an exemplary manner.

The mission of Core City Neighborhoods is to strengthen the social and human development of the Southwest Detroit community while at the same time helping to spur the physical and economic development of the area. The organization does this through a variety of programs, focusing on such