

information encoded in a cell's DNA blueprint is read and duplicated into what is called messenger RNA. This constitutes a significant leap forward in our knowledge of cellular mechanics and has brought us closer to identifying and rectifying the disturbances in the transcription of genetic information that is the cause of common killers like heart disease and cancer. Dr. Kornberg's work has already influenced the development of drugs and therapies for various conditions and is opening new avenues for future research.

The story of Dr. Andrew Z. Fire is equally impressive and inspirational. Although extremely modest in demeanor, Dr. Fire has demonstrated world-class intellectual ability and unquenchable drive since childhood. Having graduated high school at the age of 15, Dr. Fire attended the University of California, Berkeley, after being turned down by his other choice: Stanford. Now, at age 47, Dr. Fire has achieved the highest pinnacle of success in his field, opened up previously inaccessible areas of research with vast potential for the future of medicine, and gotten into Stanford, where he is the third Nobel laureate of the institution's proud medical school.

Dr. Fire, like Dr. Kornberg, was recognized for his years of exploration into RNA and its role in transcription of genetic information. More than 15 years ago, Dr. Fire became interested in understanding the genes involved in the earliest steps of cellular development. In an attempt to plot cellular development from the beginning, Dr. Fire designed an experiment that produced the exact opposite of the anticipated result: After injecting a worm with a piece of DNA to increase the expression of a particular gene, Dr. Fire inadvertently succeeded in suppressing the gene completely. This result would eventually lead to the discovery of a fundamental mechanism for controlling the flow of genetic information—that of RNAi, or RNA interference, which quashes the activity of specific genes. This discovery was termed the "Breakthrough of the Year" in 2002 by *Science Magazine* and has earned Dr. Fire and his colleague, Dr. Craig Mello, the 2006 Nobel Prize for medicine.

The potential benefits of the discovery of RNA interference are limitless. By using RNAi to silence one gene at a time and observing abnormalities in the behavior of cells, researchers are able to identify the function of genes, and potentially, use silencing to reduce or eliminate cellular activity harmful to human health. Dr. Fire's many achievements constitute an extraordinary contribution to our understanding of how life operates at its most basic level, and demonstrate his outstanding talent and unwavering commitment to improving the health of his fellow human beings.

Dr. George F. Smoot has for years been examining the cosmos in search of an answer to the biggest question of them all: How did it all begin? To an

amazing degree, Dr. Smoot has been answering this seemingly unanswerable question. For 50 years, scientists struggled in vain to support the Big Bang theory with hard, indisputable evidence. Dr. Smoot dealt the contentious theory a further challenge when, in 1976, he and others found startling evidence that galaxies are clustered together and not, as previously thought, spread evenly throughout the universe. This observation conflicted with temperature readings that consistently found space to be an even temperature of 2.7 degrees above absolute zero. Dr. Smoot had presented the scientific community a quandary: How could the heat be evenly distributed through the universe if galaxies were not?

It is a testament to Dr. Smoot's brilliance, ingenuity, and diligence that he, along with his colleague and co-recipient of this year's Nobel Prize in physics, Dr. John C. Mather, would clear up the confusion resulting from the establishment of a "lumpy" universe and finally cement the Big Bang theory of the creation of the universe. To achieve that ambitious goal, Smoot overcame nearly insurmountable obstacles and broke through barriers that had thwarted previous generations of researchers. Dr. Smoot was a driving force behind NASA's construction and development of the COBE satellite, which under the direction of Dr. Smoot and Dr. Mather succeeded in detecting the minuscule variations in temperature that were anticipated by the Big Bang theory and the "lumpy" nature of the universe.

As a result of Dr. Smoot's incredible achievement, we now have a much clearer picture of where we came from and where we are going. His penetrating vision challenges the limits of human comprehension, transporting us to times and places that were once unreachable. Dr. Smoot has fundamentally changed the way we view the universe and secured his place as one of the most important astrophysicists of all time.

It is with great pleasure that I applaud all three of California's 2006 Nobel laureates. Dr. Kornberg, Dr. Fire, and Dr. Smoot have made extraordinary contributions to our understanding of how the universe operates, from the microscopic level of the cell to the vast level of galaxies. Their phenomenal insights have answered questions that have long puzzled the scientific community and raised new possibilities for the research of future generations. I thank these men for the many valuable gifts they have given humanity, not least of which is the gift of unbridled imagination and the belief that anything is possible. ●

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF DON  
HORSLEY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize San Mateo County sheriff Don Horsley, who is retiring after 38 years of dedicated

service to law enforcement and public safety.

Sheriff Horsley is a San Francisco Bay Area native who was born in San Francisco, raised in Daly City, and educated in the county's public schools. He graduated from Daly City's Westmoor High School before graduating with honors from San Francisco State University in 1969.

After a brief time as a classroom teacher, Sheriff Horsley entered into a career in law enforcement that has spanned 38 years.

Beginning as a patrol officer in Daly City and later serving as a patrol deputy officer in East Palo Alto, Sheriff Horsley was elected Sheriff of San Mateo County in June 1993. From the beginning, Sheriff Horsley has been dedicated to making his community a better and safer place to live. Under his leadership, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has implemented an extensive number of innovative programs to make the community safer, including community policing, graffiti abatement, gang intelligence/investigative unit, sexual habitual offender program, high-tech task force, school resource officer program, and a youth camp for at-risk youth. Sheriff Horsley also established an after school Sheriff's Activity League to help kids succeed in school and stay out of gangs.

After the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Sheriff Horsley stepped into a leadership role and joined the FBI in a regional Joint Terrorism Task Force. He established a regional information sharing network with the nine Bay Area counties and directed the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services to take the lead to ensure that the county's first responders and public health workers had the equipment and training to respond to disasters. Sheriff Horsley also worked with regional transit agencies to establish a transit unit of deputy sheriffs to patrol bus and rail transportation within the county.

Sheriff Horsley was also a fierce advocate for the construction of a state-of-the-art forensic crime lab that is used by local, regional, State, and Federal agencies to solve crimes. Sheriff Horsley tirelessly worked with the Bay Area Congressional Delegation, including my office, to obtain funding to ensure that the forensic crime lab had the latest in crime fighting technology.

Among his many accomplishments, Sheriff Horsley currently serves as co-chair of the Attorney General and State Superintendent of Public Instruction's Safe Schools Task Force; vice chair of the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area; chair of the San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force and Vice Chair for the County Narcotics Task Force. Sheriff Horsley has also been a member of the executive board of the California State Sheriffs' Association since 1996, served as the past chair of the San Mateo County Criminal Justice Council and as a past member of the board

of directors of the California Peace Officers' Association.

Sheriff Horsley has not only improved public safety but has worked tirelessly with local elected officials, schools, and community organizations to foster a strong sense of community and improve the lives of children and families in San Mateo County.

Sheriff Horsley's service to San Mateo County and dedication to public safety throughout California is inspiring. I have been honored to work with him. I am confident that, even in retirement, Sheriff Horsley will continue to touch lives with his good will and compassion.●

#### RECOGNIZING CHARLES A. BIBBS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing entrepreneur and philanthropist Charles A. Bibbs as he is recognized by the Black Voice Foundation for his exceptional contributions to ethnic art.

Charles Bibbs is a recognized and accomplished artist, known for his representations of ethnic and cultural themes. Throughout his life, he has been lauded and recognized by numerous community and philanthropic organizations for his work in the multicultural communities and his dedication to music and art. His work has been featured in several exhibits, on the Internet, and on several local and national television stations.

Since he was a young person, Charles Bibbs has possessed a strong talent for art and artistic creation. Throughout his career, he worked in corporate America and funded his artistic cultivation through that work. In 1985, Bibbs was able to fuse his strengths in business with his passion for artistic expression and formed B Graphics and Fine Arts to publish and distribute his own artwork. Since that time, Bibbs has become a dedicated and renowned ethnic artist and has worked passionately for cohesion and unity within marginalized communities.

Recently, Charles Bibbs has spent much of his time conducting seminars and workshops to educate and inspire young people and reinforce educational institutions. He formed Art 2000, a nonprofit visual art association that works to inform local communities about art, and helps to inspire art patrons and artists themselves. From this organization has come Images Magazine, which is the first national publication dedicated to ethnic art. As well, this has inspired the traveling ethnic art exhibit "Art on Tour." Along this same vein, Bibbs' passion for jazz music led him to the creation and founding of Inland Empire Music and Arts Foundation, a nonprofit organization that has hosted an annual world-class jazz and art festival in southern California for the past 3 years.

Art and graphic representations are powerful tools that can help unite communities and inspire young people. The work and example of Charles Bibbs has

inspired countless individuals and continues to bring art and music to our Nation's youth. I applaud Charles Bibbs and look forward to many more years of cultural representation and youth enrichment from this great American artist.

#### CELEBRATING THE CITY OF LODI'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the city of Lodi, a thriving, family-oriented community located in California's San Joaquin Valley.

The city originally known as Mokelumne was founded in 1869 when Charles O. Ivory and John M. Burt established the Ivory Store, an enterprise that attracted scores of homesteaders and businesses to the area. In order to avoid confusion between the towns of Mokelumne, Mokelumne Hill, and Mokelumne City, the city's name was officially changed to Lodi in 1874. According to local folklore, the city's new name was inspired by a successful local racehorse, as horse racing was a popular activity in the area during this period. By the time its residents overwhelmingly voted for incorporation on November 27, 1906, Lodi was already one of the fastest growing communities in San Joaquin County.

In 1907, in an effort to publicize a large carnival to promote Lodi's famous Tokay grapes, a mission-style arch was erected at Pine and Sacramento Streets. The Lodi Arch, one of the few remaining Mission Revival ceremonial arches left in California, has served as an entrance into Lodi for the past century. In 1919 and 1926, the world-famous A & W Root Beer and the Supertreader, the first successful full-circle tire retreading mold, were respectively introduced to the world within a short distance from the Lodi Arch. To many people, this remarkable landmark symbolizes the city's proud history and economic vitality.

In 1956, the Federal Government officially recognized Lodi as a winegrape growing region, thus allowing vintners to label their wine as originating from Lodi. However, it was not until 1986, when the Lodi Appellation was formally approved, that Lodi began to shed its label as the wine industry's best kept secret to become one of the emerging wine-producing regions in the Nation. Today, Lodi is home to a highly regarded and vibrant wine industry where nearly two dozen wineries utilize exemplary viticulture practices to consistently produce wines that are renowned for their quality.

The city of Lodi has grown from a town of less than 2,000 residents from the time of its incorporation to a flourishing and diverse community of 63,000 that rests in the middle of one of the most dynamic regions of California. The state of the city as it turns 100 is best captured by its slogan: "Livable, Lovable, Lodi." The story of the city's

first 100 years is a testament to the value of community, vision, and optimism. As the residents of the city work together to make their city a better place to call home, I congratulate them on their centennial anniversary and wish them another 100 years of good fortune and success.

#### A LIFETIME OF NATIONAL SERVICE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, last month, the State of Idaho lost one of its distinguished citizens. Ralph Ray Harding, who served our State as the 2nd District Congressman for two terms in the 1960s, passed away on October 26 in Blackfoot. He left behind a legacy of public service and community involvement, as well as a remarkable family. Senator CRAIG and I want to take this opportunity to commend his life and send our condolences to his family and friends.

From his humble beginnings in Malad, Ralph made the most of his opportunities, graduating from college, eventually with a master's degree from ISU. He maintained a strong connection with that university, serving as a special advisor to the president for nearly a decade. He also served our country in the military as a U.S. Army lieutenant and was a life member of the American Legion and the Air Force Association.

He was first elected to public office as a member of the Idaho House of Representatives and was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, the youngest Member of Congress serving during the Kennedy administration. As a Member of Congress, Ralph worked to ensure women received equal pay, supported civil rights legislation and authored a bill to establish the Peace Corps. But his service didn't end when he completed two terms in Congress.

Ralph continued his community involvement in many ways. He was the cofounder of the Danny Thomas Memorial Golf Tournament, which has helped raise millions of dollars for cancer research and is still raising funds each year. He looked for ways to improve every community and venture he encountered. He was one of the friendliest people you could ever meet and remained in contact with friends from all over the world through his life. He was active in his church, spending time at the local LDS temple and teaching Sunday School each week. Retirement was not a word that meant much to Ralph—he had too much energy with his activities with family, friends, and other interests to take it easy. At 77, he remained active and full of life up to nearly his final day.

Ralph was devoted to his family and his Nation, and he will be deeply missed by all those who knew him. Idaho is honored to have counted him as one of her native sons. During this time, our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Willa and his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.●