

Wisconsin's architects while providing educational, public awareness and advocacy opportunities. Wisconsin architects are at the forefront of technology, keeping abreast of energy efficient solutions that they integrate into their designs. These innovations help Wisconsin communities become more sustainable and livable, a goal we can all agree on.

Further, I am pleased to commend AIA Wisconsin for its community involvement. Wisconsin AIA provides educational opportunities through organized programs, public lectures, architectural competitions and educational summer camps in our state. I am confident that AIA Wisconsin will continue to provide these opportunities and creative design solutions to create a green economy in Wisconsin.

On behalf of our State and Nation, I thank AIA Wisconsin for a century of work that has connected and improved Wisconsin's architects, creating the landmarks we have come to recognize as part of our great State's heritage.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN PODHORETZ

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate John Podhoretz, who next week will reach one of life's momentous, and too often dreaded, milestones: turning 50 years of age. John is today best known for his work as editor of *Commentary* magazine and for his regular column in the *New York Post*, but these activities only scratch the surface of his career. While, God willing, John has many more years ahead of him and much left to do here, I believe this milestone is an opportune moment to reflect upon his many unique and influential contributions to publishing, punditry, political thought, and pop culture.

Given his iconic lineage, it comes as no surprise to me that John has accomplished so much in his first five decades. He was born of two intellectual giants, Norman Podhoretz and Midge Decter, and grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side. He studied at the University of Chicago, graduated from there in 1981, and then settled in Washington, DC, to begin his promising career.

He served as speechwriter to Presidents Reagan and George H.W. Bush and as special assistant to White House drug czar, William Bennett. An accomplished journalist and writer, John has contributed to the *Washington Times*, the *New York Post*, *US News & World Report*, and the *American Spectator*. He is a refreshing critic of film and popular culture, and he once dabbled in entertainment as a consultant to the popular political fiction show "The West Wing." He is even a five-time champion of the hit trivia game show "Jeopardy!"

John is what I would call an "idea entrepreneur." He understands that ideas have consequences and knows how to spread those ideas near and far. In 1995, together with Bill Kristol and

Fred Barnes, John cofounded the *Weekly Standard*, a conservative opinion journal which he still writes for today as a movie critic. Over the years, the *Standard* has become more than just required reading for conservative thinkers—it is read by policy and opinion makers of all political stripes, and it has enormous reach inside the Beltway and well beyond. Thanks to John's contributions, the *Standard* has become, Well, a standard of political thought leadership.

John followed in his father's footsteps by becoming editor of *Commentary* magazine, a profoundly influential journal that seamlessly tackles the most pressing questions on political, social and cultural issues. In 2007, he launched the magazine's widely read and respected blog, *Contentions*, bringing *Commentary* into the new age of media. Just as he did with the *Standard*, John continues to prove at *Commentary* that ideas are powerful.

John is unafraid to challenge conventional wisdom and he is an unabashed defender of the values that make our country great: freedom, democracy, human dignity, and economic opportunity. On top of all that, based on watching and listening to him on that great day in August 2006 when his dear friend, Jacob Wisse, married my daughter, Becca Lieberman, John Podhoretz is a surprisingly impressive dancer and singer!

So, Mr. President, I congratulate John on 50 years well done. He has enormous personality, a great sense of humor, and a lovely family. I wish them happiness on this occasion. John, Happy Birthday!●

#### TRIBUTE TO AL HAWKES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I frequently come to the floor to speak about a Maine small business that has done remarkable things in its community, or a business owner who has made a lasting impression on his or her company's employees. Today, I wish to recognize a Maine entrepreneur who has an inspiring life story that many have never heard. It is with great pride that I introduce to you a very special Maine resident and lifelong musician, Mr. Allerton Hawkes, whose amazing contributions to Maine's small business community and to the entire Nation's bluegrass legacy know no bounds.

Mr. Hawkes was born on Christmas Day, 1930, in the city of Providence, RI. Soon thereafter, when Al was 10, his family returned to the southern Maine city of Westbrook to live on an old family farm. As a young teenager in the 1940s, Al began listening to bluegrass music by tuning in to remote Southern music radio stations, and he was determined to play several stringed instruments often associated with bluegrass. He soon became friend with a man named Alton Meyers, whom he met scavenging through record bins at a used furniture store in Portland. Because of their shared love

of music, they became the first interracial duo to play bluegrass—presenting many live performances and radio shows until 1951, when both began their service in the U.S. military.

This duo remains to this day, historically, our only interracial bluegrass duo. Although Mr. Meyers passed away in 2000, Al Hawkes—now in his 80s, continues to be involved in the bluegrass movement. Fortunately for all of us, the bluegrass duo's recordings have been preserved forever by Bear Family Records which has provided the Nation's audience with a compact disc recording containing 70 minutes and 27 tracks of this special part of our American musical heritage. Furthermore, Al has been joined by several friends in compiling a CD to benefit research combating Parkinson's disease, which is forthcoming.

Al continues to live in Maine and has amassed a very valuable collection of American bluegrass and country recordings. He has been recognized by the International Bluegrass Music Museum as one of the pioneers in bluegrass at a ceremony in Owensboro, KY. Al's historical legacy is contained in a documentary entitled "The Eventful Life of Al Hawkes," which also recently aired six times on Maine's Public Broadcasting Network. His famous remark about his musical history—that he believes there is a "bluegrass gene" which he inherited—seems to reflect in his additional musical accomplishments, playing with other bluegrass and country stars throughout the years and being the recipient of 25 awards in the musical lexicon.

Beyond bluegrass, Al's deep-seated Maine legacy revolves around a huge sign of a repairman which, to this day, is a famous landmark in southern Maine. As a small business entrepreneur who ran both a TV repair and dry cleaning business in the noteworthy Hawkes Plaza, Al actually made and installed the famous icon sign of the 13-foot high repairman who once sported 385 light bulbs, fluorescent lights and moving parts which gave the illusion of a walking repairman. To residents' delight, the sign—although no longer sporting the creative lights or moving parts—still remains a treasure which sustains generational memories, nearly 50 years after Al built it in 1962. Indeed, Maine's unique character has thus been supported by Al's wonderful inventiveness on several fronts throughout the years.

Al Hawkes is truly a Maine and national treasure whose inheritance of that special "bluegrass gene" has provided us all with the rich and entertaining joy and privilege of listening to great, distinctive American music. I am proud that Al has chosen to stay in Maine, and has led such a distinguished and varied career, from small business owner and entrepreneurs, to pioneering and accomplished musician. I wish Al all the best, and thank him for his outstanding contributions to our Nation's cultural life.●