

camping and scenic views, the young girl scouts found themselves inspired by this natural habitat while learning lessons on the environment and work ethics that would accompany them on their future endeavors.

For the alumnae from 12 States as far away as California, Camp Natarswi will forever be a place where friendships flourished and lessons were learned about life and the importance of our natural resources. Most of all, these women were instilled with the Girl Scout tradition, something they have passed down to their children and grandchildren. I am pleased to recognize the 60th anniversary of this very special place for so many of my fellow Mainers.●

PEACETREES VIETNAM

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to describe a project being undertaken by a remarkable organization in my home State of Washington. PeaceTrees Vietnam, the 20th international PeaceTrees Program sponsored by the Earthstewards Network, represents the dedicated work of individuals working to promote peace on a local and global scale.

For over a decade, Earthstewards has worked around the world to foster dialog between peoples of various countries, and to contribute to communities around the world. Earthstewards has organized PeaceTrees Programs in many communities, including Capetown, South Africa; Auroville, South India; Bluefields, Nicaragua; and Tacoma, WA. Now, this organization is embarking on a project in Vietnam.

Every week in Vietnam, a child is killed or maimed by the explosion of an antipersonnel landmine. At this time, there are over 58,000 leftover landmines and unexploded ordnance in the Quang Tri Province of Vietnam, the DMZ during the Vietnam war. PeaceTrees Vietnam seeks to eliminate the threat of these devices by removing landmines, planting trees, raising community awareness, and reducing the dangers of landmines in Vietnam and across the globe.

This important program has several phases. First, beginning this summer, landmines will be removed near the old Khe May military base in the town of Dong Ha in Quang Tri Province. American and Canadian retired military experts as well as Vietnamese local militia will extract these destructive weapons of war. Then, in November, a Friendship Forest will be planted in this area. Not only will this serve as a cooperative effort of the Westerners and Vietnamese who plant these trees, it will help set up a buffer to stop the dry, hot winds from Laos and restore life to deforested terrain.

Next, construction of a Landmine Awareness Education Center will begin. Educational displays will be created, so children and adults may understand how to identify potentially unsafe areas, and what to do if a land-

mine is encountered. Mine clearance will continue through 1997 in the thousands of hectares of the surrounding farm and forest land. This will allow citizens to productively and effectively utilize the land again, and will help reforest the area.

As a member of the PeaceTrees Vietnam International Advisory Board, I am pleased to have the opportunity to assist efforts to make this landmine-ridden area safe again, and to raise awareness of the global problem of landmines. I applaud the work of all those who have helped organize and implement PeaceTrees Vietnam. Efforts such as theirs truly make a difference in the lives of countless individuals around the world.●

CELEBRATE HOSIERY WEEK— AUGUST 5–11, 1996

● Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, next week, August 5–11, marks the 23d annual observance of Celebrate Hosiery Week. It always gives me great pride to join in recognizing an industry which has contributed so much to the free enterprise system of our country and so much to the economy of North Carolina.

Mr. President, National Hosiery Week is of special importance to me because North Carolina is the leading hosiery State in the Nation. North Carolina is proud of the leadership of the hosiery industry and the fine quality of life that it has provided for so many people.

In fact, the hosiery industry plays a substantial role in the economy of more than half of the States of the Union. There are 343 companies in the hosiery business, operating 456 plants employing 62,300 people in 28 States. The statistics are staggering: these 62,300 people produce and distribute 22 million dozens pairs of hosiery a year. They contributed a record \$7.2 billion to the U.S. economy in 1995.

The hosiery industry has made great strides in improving productivity and the quality of its product. These efforts to make the hosiery industry more competitive have resulted in significant technological and design improvements in the manufacture of hosiery.

As a result, the hosiery industry has likewise made enormous gains in the area of foreign trade. Exports in 1995 grew by 9 percent over 1994 levels to 22 million dozen pairs—and that, Mr. President, is a lot of hosiery exports.

Mr. President, my hat's off to the hosiery industry because it is making a real difference in many small communities where the hosiery plant is often the main employer, providing good, stable jobs for its employees.

I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to the hosiery industry and to its many thousands of employees for their outstanding contribution to our State and Nation.●

HIGH RUSSIAN HONOR TO IOWAN JOHN CHRYS TAL

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, John Chrystal, an outstanding Iowan, is one of only two Americans to be awarded the Order of Friendship, the highest honor that the Government of Russia can bestow on a noncitizen. This award, which was given at the behest of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, was presented at a ceremony in Des Moines, IA, by the Russian Ambassador to the United States, Yuli M. Vorontsov. It has been my privilege to have John as a close personal friend for many years, and I am extremely proud of his achievement in receiving this high and well-deserved honor.

Under Russian law, the Order of Friendship, which was established in 1994 by President Yeltsin, "is awarded to persons for significant contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between nations and nationalities, for helping the development of the Russian economy, for especially fruitful activities in scientific development, for bringing together and mutually enriching the cultures of nations and nationalities, and for strengthening peace and friendship between nations." John was honored for all of these reasons and in recognition of his 70th birthday, which was December 11 of last year.

John has had a long and distinguished career as a farmer and banker, and is recognized as a leading expert on agricultural, trade and economic matters involving the former Soviet Union. He has long worked to improve trade relations between our nation and the countries of the former Soviet Union and to help those countries modernize and restructure their agriculture and food systems. As a farmer himself, John has real credibility when he talks with farmers in Russia, Ukraine or one of the other countries of the NIS.

John has traveled to Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, and other nations of the former Soviet Union some 50 to 60 times since 1959, representing our State of Iowa and our Nation as a private-citizen ambassador of good will and understanding. In addition, he has been remarkably generous in hosting many exchanges and delegations from those countries to our Nation and our State of Iowa. John has known personally all of the recent leaders of the Soviet Union and Russia and is well known among farmers and policy makers in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

We Iowans are tremendously proud of all the good work that John Chrystal has done over the years to help improve food and agriculture systems in the former Soviet Union and to foster stronger ties and a deeper level of understanding among our peoples.

Mr. President, I ask that a number of articles pertaining to the awarding of the Order of Friendship to John Chrystal be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Carroll, IA, Daily Times Herald,
June 24, 1996]

CHRYSTAL EARNS HIGH RUSSIAN HONOR
(By Butch Heman)

John Chrystal jokes that dozens of times he's gone to Russia, "one of the few major nations in the world that we've never had a war with," and apparently hasn't angered anybody there yet.

Russia honored the rural Coon Rapids man today with its highest honor bestowed on a foreigner: the Order of Friendship.

Russia's ambassador to the United States, Yuli Vorontsov, presented the award during a ceremony at The Des Moines Club in Des Moines.

President Boris Yelstin established the Order of Friendship in 1994. It is awarded to persons for significant contributions toward "strengthening friendship and cooperation between nations and nationalities, for helping the development of the Russian economy, for especially fruitful activities in scientific development, for bringing together and mutually enriching the cultures of nations and nationalities, and for strengthening the peace and friendship between nations."

The Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C., said Chrystal was being honored for activities in all those areas, according to a press release.

The other American to receive it was astronaut Norman Thagard, the first U.S. citizen to live aboard the Russian space station Mir.

Chrystal, who has been visiting Russia, the Ukraine, Georgia and other parts of the former Soviet Union for 36 years, was chosen for the award at the urging of Yeltsin.

Since 1959 he has been helping those countries modernize farming and agriculture infrastructure.

Chrystal has known all Russian leaders—from Nikita Khrushchev through Yeltsin—and most of their agricultural ministers.

"I've traveled from the Baltic States to Vladivostok, from the permafrost to palm trees. I'm more widely traveled in Russia than I am in the U.S.," he said with a chuckle.

He observed the evolution from collective state-owned farms to "a modern attempt at democracy that has not yet been achieved."

Chrystal teasingly says he's done more criticizing of Russian agriculture than assisting.

"I've always been anxious to better our relations with Russia because I think it can become an economic partner with the U.S.," he said.

Russia is not a third world nation by any means. Chrystal said, describing it as a place with vast natural resources and a very well-educated populace that survived 1,000 years of autocracy under the czars and communism.

The country has some grave faults, mainly no management of culture by competitive ideas and no cash, he said.

"And they are having a social, political and economic revolution simultaneously and without blood, which is certainly one of the first times in the history of the world," Chrystal said.

A big problem for Russia is that change has to happen quickly, he said.

"When I was growing up on the farm we had a two-row planter, and when the neighbor had a four-row planter, boy that was a big deal and we had to have one too," Chrystal said.

"Imagine these 44-row planters we have today and a satellite that tells you when to increase fertilizer. It's the beginning of a new era, and the Russians are going to have to run faster if they want to be in the same

place. It's a really difficult but exciting time for them."

"I suppose it will be another decade or generation before they achieve the goals that I hold dear, but I have no doubt they'll achieve them."

Chrystal said that despite the fall of communism, less stability exists in the region. Communism, although a government by edict, maintained control, he said.

"That's not to say this isn't a much better situation," he said, noting that while the Soviet Union might be dead but economic relationships among its former members exist.

America has an opportunity to form friendly relations with the newly independent countries, and Iowa, because of its agriculture, has a special chance, Chrystal said.

His goals are to have the federal government encourage American business to form joint ventures with Russian firms. Chrystal already services on the Overseas Private Investment Corp., a government agency that helps developing nations.

"I think our foreign aid ought to be practical rather than theoretical," he said. "Countries that are hard-up think less about democracy than they do about tomorrow."

Chrystal recently spoke about agribusiness at a seminar in Moscow.

"I detect already a substantial change in attitude," he said. ". . . The tone of the participants was something new. They were talking about competition, efficiencies, cropping and ventures that were either new or in cooperation with various aspects of the economy."

Even though he's visited exotic locales and rubbed elbows with international dignitaries, Chrystal says he gets the most happiness out of what he sees right here in Carroll County.

"I think the most successful thing I've done is seeing farmers in Carroll County entertain Soviets, Russians and Ukrainians. The hosts have fallen in love with these people and even traveled to their homes. That's really thrilling to see Americans develop great relationships with them," he said.

The 70-year-old Chrystal is a native of Coon Rapids. Chairman of Iowa Savings Bank of Coon Rapids and Carroll and a director at several rural Iowa banks as well as Bankers Trust Co. of Des Moines. Chrystal was president of Bankers Trust from 1984-86.

For many years he was a grain and cattle farmer and is still a partner in his family's farm operation.

Chrystal is a former state banking superintendent, former member of the Iowa Board of Regents and former president of the Iowa Bankers Association and the Iowa Civil Liberties Union. He is also a trustee of Grinnell College and a director of F.M. Hubbell and Sons Co.

"I really don't know how I was chosen for this award, but I'm very honored and I certainly haven't expected it," her remarked.

"I was always afraid I'd make the Russians mad, but obviously I haven't," he added with a laugh. "And who would've thought a fella from Coon Rapids would get to know all these Russian leaders?"

Among the other recipients of the Russian Order of Friendship is South Africa President Nelson Mandela.

Chrystal said some of the Russian officials attending today's ceremony would be staying in Iowa for several days and he hopes to bring some to a Carroll Chamber of Commerce reception Friday night at Iowa Savings Bank in Carroll.

[From the Des Moines Register, June 25,
1996]

RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP HONOR TO CHRYSTAL
(By Jerry Perkins)

John Chrystal, Iowa banker and longtime agricultural adviser to the Soviet Union and

Russia, received on Monday the Order of Friendship, the highest honor Russia can bestow on a foreigner.

Chrystal, 70, of Coon Rapids is one of two Americans to receive the award, which also has been given to heads of state such as South African president Nelson Mandela.

Yuli Vorontsov, Russian ambassador to the United States, praised Chrystal for his many years of advising first the Soviet Union and now Russia.

"This is the highest Russian civilian award," Vorontsov said. "It is for leaders of nations and leading citizens. It is highly regarded in Russia. We appreciate him very much in Russia."

Chrystal has made frequent visits to the former Soviet Union and Russia for 36 years.

In an interview at The Des Moines Register, Vorontsov predicted that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will win re-election easily on July 3 when Russians vote in a runoff election.

On June 16, Yeltsin narrowly defeated Communist Gennady Zyuganov, 35 percent to 32 percent, in the first round of voting but didn't garner enough votes to prevent a runoff.

Yeltsin has been endorsed by the third-place finisher, Alexander Lebed, who has joined Yeltsin's government, and the fourth-place finisher, Grigory Yavlinsky, an economic reformer.

Those two endorsements should deliver enough votes to give Yeltsin a comfortable 55 percent to 45 percent victory over Zyuganov, Vorontsov said.

After the July 3 runoff, Yeltsin will reshuffle his government, go to work on the social problems confronting Russia and work to make it possible for Russian citizens to own land, Vorontsov said.

A decree issued by Yeltsin to make it possible for Russians to own land has been stopped in the Russian parliament, he said.

Yeltsin hopes to be able to push the measure through the parliament after his re-election.

If he wins, Yeltsin will serve his second four-year term. Russian law prevents a president from serving more than two terms.

"Economic reform in Russia will continue, but we will not be in a rush," Vorontsov said. "We will analyze before making changes and bad things should be thrown away."

It is unrealistic to expect change to come swiftly, he said.

Five to seven years will be needed to turn around the industrial economy and 10 years will be needed before agriculture is put on track.

Chrystal said Russian agriculture reforms have been hurt by a lack of infrastructure, including credit, roads and machinery.

Vorontsov agreed.

"We've made very meager progress" in agriculture, he said. "It's not as we should have done and that's where we should concentrate now."

Developing a market-oriented economy has been slower than the Russian government has wanted, Vorontsov said, but changes have been made.

"Some seeds of a new market economy have been sown," he said.

Vorontsov said corruption is not being punished in Russia and it will be very hard to stamp out because of the well-entrenched Russian bureaucracy.

"Corruption is unpunishable now," he said. "Corrupt people should be sent to jail, but it will be very difficult. The bureaucracy is still there."

However, Vorontsov said foreign investment is needed in the Russian economy.

"Participate with us" in the Russian economy, he said.

[From the Des Moines Register, June 26, 1996]

A MARK OF FRIENDSHIP

There are corn and hogs, but a lesser known state hallmark is Iowa's long-term relationship with the former Soviet Union that has continued with present-day Russia.

The essential ingredient: people—Russians and Iowans who have moved to a productive common ground where international bridges are built from a shared interest in agriculture and progress.

Among the Iowans is John Chrystal, a 70-year-old Coon Rapids resident, Iowa banker and agricultural adviser to the Soviet Union and now Russia.

Chrystal is a charming and insightful fountain of memories about meetings with Mikhail Gorbachev, observations of Soviet communism and of Russians coming up to him just to touch the fabric of his—at the time—all-polyester wardrobe.

On Monday, Chrystal was given the highest award that Russians bestow on foreigners: the Order of Friendship.

Praised by the Russian ambassador to the United States, Yuli Vorontsov, Chrystal joins a noted group of Order of Friendship honorees that includes South African President Nelson Mandela.

It's proud recognition for Chrystal, but also for Iowa and its contribution to the futures of two great nations.

[From the Nebraska World-Herald, July 7, 1996]

RUSSIA FOUND A GOOD FRIEND IN OUTSPOKEN IOWAN

(By Rainbow Rowell)

COON RAPIDS, IOWA.—A statue of Lenin that once sat in Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev's office now sits in John Chrystal's Coon Rapids farmhouse.

It's as much of a surprise to see it there as it is to meet an agricultural adviser and friend of the Russian people in this small Iowa town.

Chrystal has spent 36 years cultivating a relationship with the former Soviet Union. Last month, Russia awarded him the Order of Friendship, the highest honor it bestows on foreigners.

Chrystal has become an expert on the affairs of the Soviet Union. He said he's an accidental expert. He never had any particular interest in the nation, never was especially interested in foreign affairs.

And he certainly didn't expect the Russians to ask for his help. Yet that's almost exactly what happened.

Chrystal folded his 6-foot-2-inch frame into a living room chair last week and started talking about the history of his unique friendship.

A Soviet delegation came to Iowa in 1956, looking for trade. They found Chrystal's uncle, Roswell "Bob" Garst, and a whole lot of seed corn. Garst visited the Soviet Union a few times but didn't feel like going when he was invited in 1960.

So Garst sent Chrystal, who never had been east of South Bend, Ind., in his place.

Chrystal thought that first visit would be his last, he said. Communist officials took him on a tour of the country's key agricultural areas and he was critical of their farming methods.

Surely, Chrystal recalled, the Soviets wouldn't ask him to return. But they did, again and again.

And after every trip, he wondered if there would be another invitation, never really counting on it.

Chrystal didn't quit his many day jobs to become a diplomat. When he wasn't visiting the Soviet Union—or later, Russia and the

other independent states—Chrystal worked as partner on the family farm, a successful banker and a Democratic party leader.

"I've been very fortunate," Chrystal said. "People that I've been associated with let me do other things. Maybe they wanted to get rid of me. That never occurred to me until this second."

Slim chance. His colleagues described Chrystal as a rare patriot, a man who is at once intelligent and humble, able and energetic. At 70, he is chairman of the Iowa Savings Bank in Coon Rapids and serves on many boards.

Bill Hess, the bank's president, said Chrystal is "Tops. Mr. Integrity, spelled with capital T's."

"He's a wonderful human being," Valentina Slater Fominykh said. "Your country must be very proud."

Ms. Fominykh, who now lives in Des Moines, first met Chrystal in 1989. She was a Soviet foreign-language professor, part of a delegation to Iowa.

She described Chrystal as a fair man who isn't afraid to express his opinions.

People respect that, Dale Dooley said. Dooley of Johnston, Iowa, worked with Chrystal to help form Iowa Transfers System, now Shazam Inc.

The company almost failed, Dooley said, but Chrystal's confidence, contacts and know-how saved it.

"It amazed me," he said, "the depth of that man's knowledge and complexity."

Chrystal has vision, Ms. Fominykh said, and that vision helped him foresee major changes in the Soviet Union.

"He was a loyal friend when friendships with the Soviet Union were not in vogue yet," she said.

Chrystal downplays any risks he may have taken by befriending the communist nation. When he talks about the Cold War, it hardly seems like enough to send Americans scrambling for their bomb shelters.

"I don't think we were ever going to attack Russia," Chrystal said. "I don't think we're an attacking country, and Russia is isolationist."

He said he never hated communists, never thought they were an evil people. He saw their empire as one on the cusp of great change.

"I never questioned what I was doing," Chrystal said. "I never questioned that they would have to change and would be an enormous market for us."

His willingness and frankness made him a valued adviser to the rapidly changing Soviet government. Chrystal is widely known and well-respected there, Ms. Fominykh said.

"People listen to what Chrystal has to say," she said.

The Soviets respected his opinion because they knew he was independent from the U.S. government, that he was speaking only for himself, Chrystal said.

That respect brought him close to leaders such as former Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and Gorbachev. He speaks easily about the two and their roles in history. He speaks with confidence and with the insight of an eyewitness.

Chrystal never counted his many visits. Some years, he didn't visit at all. Other years, he made three or four trips. He figures he has spent about a year and a half there total.

Yet he never learned to speak Russian. He has picked up some. If the conversation is about agriculture, he probably can follow along.

"I never thought that I would be going back so much," Chrystal said, explaining why he never learned. "I was a farmer and a banker and I would have had to drive to Ames to take lessons. Maybe I was lazy."

Chrystal said he sees his role as agricultural adviser coming to an end.

"I don't think I have as much to offer anymore," he said.

Russia will get along fine without him, he said. The country is becoming more and more stable. Those who predict a return to communism, he said, should consider all the nation has accomplished since the Soviet Union dissolved.

The still-struggling government needs independence, he said.

"I think they'll succeed, and I think they'll succeed on their own. The faster the better for us."

He already sees that independence growing, he said, giving as an example an agribusiness seminar he attended in Moscow in May.

"For the first time, I met young people who were talking a new kind of economic language," who were ambitious and determined.

After an hour of talking and tracing the history of his ties to Russia, Chrystal looked around his living room, at the many gifts and souvenirs from his travels—at the paintings, the carved clock and the colorful rug. He has many Russian friendships that will outlive his official relationship with the government.

"My impression is that there will be a new critic," he said, smiling, "which is fine." ●

SALUTE TO NATIONAL REHABILITATION WEEK

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the founding and success of National Rehabilitation Week which celebrates the accomplishments of people with disabilities and focuses on continuing efforts to improve the lives of people with disabilities. This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Rehabilitation Week, and as we celebrate this week, it is important that we take time to applaud the individuals who live, work, and succeed with these disabilities everyday. National Rehabilitation Week serves as a reminder that it is our responsibility, as legislators, to insure that those individuals with disabilities are able to enjoy the same freedoms and privileges as all Americans.

While National Rehabilitation Week is normally held in September, it was moved up this year to August 15-25 to coincide with the Paralympic Games being held in Atlanta. Both events bring together Americans who strive to overcome barriers and herald the victories of Americans with disabilities.

The Paralympic Games—which have coincided with the Olympic Games since their inception in 1960—were started by Dr. Ludwig Guttmann, a doctor in Post World War II London who dreamed that sports could be used to improve the quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries. It took him 12 years to achieve his goal of creating a worldwide sports competition like the Olympics for disabled men and women.

Like the Paralympics in which more than 4,000 athletes from over 100 countries will compete this year, National Rehabilitation Week will celebrate the strength of human perseverance over