

last 45 years he has been an essential, constant, vital part of our small town. He is a true American original, and his story is part of the bedrock upon which this Nation is built. His children have this to say about their father:

Our dad endured a childhood of poverty—the sort of poverty it's better to read about in Horatio Alger than to experience. He lost his mother while he was still a small boy, and in the midst of the depression Dad got himself through Williams College on a scholarship that didn't include money for books, so he never bought any. After graduation he spent a year working 18 hour shifts as a bell-hop to earn the tuition for medical school, and though he interrupted his studies to enlist in the Army during World War II, he was eventually able to finish his surgical internship and residency at Columbia University and the University of Chicago.

Do you measure a man's value by his work? Dad is a brilliant surgeon. He brought a level of talent, innovation and skill to our hometown that saved countless lives. Sometimes we went with him on his housecalls, helping to carry his black bag. We've heard countless stories about how he listened to his patients, demanded the best from the hospital and its staff, and never accepted any of the endless offers that came his way to practice in other places.

Or is a man judged by his courage? We've never found a braver man than our father. At the height of his career, Dad lost his sight. His surgical career ended overnight. At a time when most men are contemplating retirement and solitude, he built a new life for himself at the age of 61. He gave up the practice he loved without a backward glance, and went to work at Corning, Inc., building a first-rate medical department.

He raised the money to found a low-vision clinic, a clinic that today offers those with limited sight the practical advice and tools they need to make a full, independent life possible.

Dad eventually retired at the age of 70, and finally had time for the things he loves—fly fishing, scotch, golf, good food, good conversation, a good joke. More than anything on earth, though, he loves our mother, Anne, his wife of 37 years. A local mechanic, speaking with them about the loss of his own wife, said wistfully, "I'd like to think we had the same sort of marriage you two have," and with those words he spoke for everyone who knows our parents. They have talked, laughed, loved and occasionally fought their way through nearly four decades of marriage, and no invention of Hollywood could ever tell a finer story.

Together they raised five children, creating a secure haven of love and stability in the midst of turbulent times.

All five of us have grown and gone now, and have established careers of our own in education, business, finance, law, politics and religion. Each child has at least one degree, some have two, one is working on her third. We are making our mark from New York to San Francisco, and trying to set the same standards in our chosen fields as our parents did in theirs. It's a hard act we're following, but if you asked Dad what he takes the most pride in, we suspect he would point to our independence, even if it does occasionally drive him wild.

Mr. Speaker, those children, their spouses, and Pete's grandchildren will all arrive in Corning in a few days, to celebrate this special birthday and this special man. His has been a life of service, courage, and love. I am proud to call him my friend.

THE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 1997, DERYL MCKISSACK, PRESIDENT AND CEO, MCKISSACK AND MCKISSACK OF WASHINGTON, DC

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, each year the U.S. Small Business Administration [SBA] celebrates Small Business Week by honoring outstanding men and women as Small business Persons of the Year. The winners of this award are judged based on staying power, growth in number of employees, increase in sales and/or unit volume, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, response to adversity and evidence of contributions to community-related projects. The Small Business Person of the Year for 1997 is Deryl McKissack, President and CEO of McKissack and McKissack of Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, Deryl McKissack is a DC resident and graduate of Howard University who, in 1990, opened the Washington Office of McKissack and McKissack, the oldest minority-owned architectural/engineering firm in the Nation with \$1,000, exceptional skills, determination, and a dream. In 1995 the company was certified in SBA's 8(a) Program and has won two 8(a) contracts totaling \$9.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, today this business woman has over 35 full-time employees with an estimated revenue of \$7 million for the coming fiscal year. Her client list now includes the U.S. Department of Labor, the Department of the Treasury, the Washington Convention Center, NationsBank, Georgetown University, Howard University, Morgan State University, and Coppin State College. The firm is a leader in program management engagements and is working on three separate contracts at the historic Treasury building in downtown D.C.

Ms. McKissack has encountered closed doors and stiff competition. She overcame these obstacles with a strong commitment to excellence, a determination to outperform her competitors, emphasis on delivering outstanding work on schedule and within budget and ensuring that client's needs are met. Ms. McKissack supports a number of charitable organizations and serves the community in other ways including the DC Public Schools' Task Force on Education, Infrastructure for the 21st Century, and the Architectural Review Board.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this body join me in saluting Deryl McKissack, SBA's Small Business Person of the Year for 1997 for the Washington Metropolitan Area and celebrating the contributions of the small business community to this Nation's economic health.

LEWIS AND CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation that authorizes constructions of the Lewis and Clark rural water system.

This system, when complete, will provide much needed, safe drinking water for hundreds of communities in southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota.

I am proud of the citizens of South Dakota who have worked extremely hard on this project. They are to be commended. Nothing is more important to the health of South Dakota ranchers, farmers, and people living in towns and cities than the availability of safe drinking water. The bill I am introducing today will achieve that goal.

In this day of fiscal austerity, only projects of the greatest public benefit can be brought forward. The Lewis and Clark rural water system is the only feasible means of ensuring that future supplies of high quality water will be available well into the next century. The Lewis and Clark rural water system will provide a supplemental supply of drinking water that is expected to serve over 180,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, water development is a health issue, economic development issue, and a rural development issue. The ability of rural America to survive and grow is intrinsically related to the ability of rural and growing communities to provide adequate supplies of safe drinking water. Without a reliable supply of water, these areas cannot attract new businesses and cannot create jobs. The creation of jobs is a paramount issue to a rural State such as South Dakota. The Lewis and Clark rural water system will help assure job growth in the areas to be served.

It is extremely difficult for rural communities and residents to maintain a healthy standard of living if they do not have access to good quality drinking water. This bill authorizing the construction of the Lewis and Clark rural water system with work toward this end.

I urge my colleagues to take a close look at this legislation. Their support would be greatly appreciated.

DECLARING MAY 22, 1997, BILINGUAL FOUNDATION OF THE ARTS DAY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bilingual Foundation of the Arts [BFA] on the occasion of its 17th annual El Angel Awards ceremony, which will honor the outstanding artistic contributions of women, and to declare May 22, 1997, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts Day in my California's 34th Congressional District.

This year marks BFA's 24th season of bringing Latino world drama to both English- and Spanish-speaking audiences. Each year, more than 300,000 children and adults experience the richness and diversity of Latino culture through the presentation of plays in southern California schools and at BFA's Lincoln Heights Theater.

BFA's mission has been to bring communities together through the presentation of plays from the diverse Latino cultural and theatrical tradition. Classical and contemporary plays are presented in both English and Spanish, alternating weekly. Founded by my good friend and internationally recognized Mexican-