

E. DONNALL THOMAS MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I rise to pay special tribute to George and Jane Russell, two individuals who have made remarkable contributions within their business and local communities. The Russells will be presented with the E. Donnall Thomas Medal of Achievement Award at a special celebration to be held on June 14 in Seattle.

The E. Donnall Thomas Award is named after Dr. E. Donnall Thomas, Director Emeritus of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's Clinical Division and recipient of the 1990 Nobel Prize in Medicine, who pioneered bone marrow transplantation as a form of treatment for cancer. The guidance of Dr. Thomas and the work of his colleagues enables the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center to save thousands of lives each year.

George and Jane Russell truly represent the spirit of the E. Donnall Thomas Medal of Achievement: inspirational leadership in their company and community; a force for positive change; and dedication to service that puts their highest humanitarian principles into action. Together, the Russells have inspired a corporate culture of integrity, earning their company, the Frank Russell Co., the distinction of "Best Large Company to Work for in Washington State" by "Washington CEO" in 1994 and the Better Workplace award from the Association of Washington Business in 1995.

George Russell is a dynamic industry pioneer who has made an indelible mark on the investment world. As the founder of both the pension consulting business and Russell 20-20, a group providing investment opportunities for countries making the transition from command to market economies, George Russell has truly revolutionized the investment world. Jane Russell is credited as the visionary behind the Frank Russell Company's award winning success. As the director of corporate and community relations, Jane promotes a business environment based on mutual trust and respect.

The Russells' community involvement and dedication to humanitarian efforts is unmatched. Jane has been the recipient of the Tacoma/Pierce County's Community Service Award and serves on the boards of the National Center for Nonprofit Boards, Washington, DC, the American Leadership Forum and the campaign cabinet of the Washington State History Museum. George is a founding member of the Executive Council for Greater Tacoma, a group of corporate and community leaders dedicated to the revitalization of Tacoma. Together, they cochair the effort to build the \$38.8 million International Museum of Modern Glass on Tacoma's waterfront.

I commend the efforts and the inspiration provided by George and Jane Russell. By awarding the Russells with the E. Donnall Thomas Medal of Achievement, the Hutchinson Center

guarantees that their exemplary efforts are not overlooked and reaffirm our commitment to provide the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center the vital support it needs to continue its battle against cancer.●

RELIEF OF CHRISTOPH MEILI

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to explain my reasons for being an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Christoph Meili was until recently a security guard at the Union Bank of Switzerland. At about 6 p.m. on January 8 of this year Mr. Meili was making his nightly rounds, when he stumbled upon a number of crates containing bank documents. Surprised, Mr. Meili examined the documents and found them to be ledgers, letters, and statements of account dating back to the 1930's and 1940's, and pertaining mostly to Jewish clients.

Mr. Meili knew that historical documents relating to the relationship between Swiss banks and Jews during the Holocaust were an issue of international importance. For some time now my colleague from New York, Senator D'AMATO, has been investigating the role of Swiss banks in laundering money for the Nazis during World War II, and in particular the possibility that those banks reaped huge profits from property and gold confiscated from Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

In answer to the firestorm of protest over these allegations, the Swiss Parliament only 3 weeks before had passed, with great fanfare, a law specifically prohibiting the destruction of documents that might assist in the search for assets properly belonging to victims of Hitler's concentration camps. Yet here were exactly the kind of documents the Swiss Parliament presumably wanted to protect.

At this point, Christoph Meili could have looked the other way. Instead he remembered his responsibility as a civilized human being. He spent 20 minutes going through the documents, put what seemed the most important in his jacket, and took them out to his car.

We owe Mr. Meili a debt of immense gratitude for this act of conscience. But not everyone is thankful to him. He has lost his job. He has received death threats. He is uncertain of his own future and the future of his wife and two young children. His future does not look bright in Switzerland.

Yet here in America he is welcomed with open arms everywhere he goes, as he should be. In early May he was flown to New York under the auspices of the World Jewish Congress. He has been warmly received at receptions in both New York and Washington. And Mr. Edgar Bronfman, the chairman of the World Jewish Congress and president of the Seagram Co., has offered him a fulltime job.

Which brings us to this bill. Mr. Meili and his family seek permanent residency in this country. This is an unusual case, in that he requires action

on the part of Congress to achieve this status. But this is necessary because Mr. Meili does not meet the necessary criteria for permanent residency under any of the existing categories.

Mr. Meili has done a great service to the Jewish people, to this country and to the civilized world. Without thought for his own future or well-being he did what his conscience demanded, and saved valuable evidence concerning the relationship between Swiss banks and the victims of Hitler's death camps.

It seems equally clear to me that Mr. Meili has two possible futures ahead of him. In the first, we abandon him. The United States turns its back on this man of conscience and sends him back to Switzerland. There he faces unemployment, a dark blotch on his record for informing on his employer, and possibly worse. While the vast majority of the Swiss people are decent and law-abiding, some of them already have made threats against him. He would be literally a man without a country.

Alternatively, we could welcome Mr. Meili into our Nation, as so many of our people already have welcomed him into their hearts. We have the choice. We could open our doors to this man of conscience, giving him the chance to make for himself and his family a brighter future in a land that treasures the kind of bravery he has displayed.

His circumstances do not fit any of our set categories for immigration. But I am convinced that they present us with the opportunity to demonstrate our ability and willingness to recognize when noble acts render the particulars of bureaucratic regulation less important than the will to do what is right.

Mr. Meili is the kind of man I want for a neighbor. His is a family I feel would benefit any community. Our country can only be made better by his permanent residence here.●

GOOD SAMARITAN EXEMPTION

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I am pleased to report that we have made progress in our efforts to protect Atlantic large whales. As you may recall, on May 8th of this year, several of my colleagues joined with me in introducing the "Good Samaritan Exemption" to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Good Samaritan Exemption provides that the disentanglement of a marine mammal from fishing gear does not violate the "take" provisions of the MMPA. We were able to have the exemption accepted as an amendment to S. 672, and, due to the broad support for this noncontroversial amendment, I am hopeful that it will be included in the conference report.

However, during the drafting of the amendment a concern emerged that this exemption alone would not provide full protection for citizens involved in whale disentanglement efforts. On May 20th, I was notified by the administration that the necessary steps will be taken to ensure that fishermen and others who act as Good Samaritans