

credible voice for Missouri health and an advocate for a strong, unified health care community in Missouri.

His truly has been a distinguished career of health care service.●

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICK CURTIS

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine, Patrick Curtis, who is being honored next week with the 100th star on The Palm Springs Walk of Stars in Palm Springs, CA.

Patrick first set off on the road to stardom when he played Baby Beau Wilkes in *Gone with the Wind*. As a young actor working his way through film school, he worked on dozens of westerns, the Ma and Pa Kettle comedies, nearly every Tony Curtis film made in the 1950's, and even on the *Leave it to Beaver* set.

Upon graduating from film school, Patrick received a naval ROTC commission. He later served his country in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968.

Patrick has risen to become a highly successful film director and producer. He has had the opportunity to work with many legends and personal heroes of mine. Recently, he produced *Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch*, a documentary western about John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Hoppy, and other six-gun legends.

Even with his busy film schedule, Patrick has found time to give back to his community. He was asked by President Ronald Reagan to serve as president of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, an organization of successful veterans with the purpose of helping veterans who have not been able to mainstream. For his continued support of Vietnam veterans, Patrick has been awarded the prestigious Air Force Association Humanitarian Award. He has also been presented lifetime membership in The Marine Corps League, The Navy League, and The Air Force League.

In addition to his work with veterans, Patrick has worked to gather together talent in the entertainment industry to create public service announcements for groups such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving, DARE, and Activities for Retarded Children—all paid for by funds raised from the entertainment industry.

Mr. President, I would like to honor Patrick Curtis for his outstanding and numerous contributions to the entertainment industry, to America's veterans, and to his community. Patrick's selfless service to his country and community are a great example of what it means to be a great, patriotic American.●

#### RIGHT TO LIFE OF MICHIGAN BANQUET

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor those of the Region 2 Affiliates of Right to Life of Michigan for their enduring commitment and

dedication to one of today's most important social issues.

Mr. President, to those of us who are pro-life, being pro-life means protecting our families and respecting the sanctity of life. It also means maintaining the central role of the family in all our lives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of Right to Life of Michigan for their perseverance in support of those goals. Unfortunately, we still must spend much of our time in the political sphere, arguing against laws that promote the taking of unborn human lives, and I am grateful for all their efforts in that area as well.

Ending the tragedy of abortion will not be easy. But groups like Right to Life of Michigan and the National Right to Life Committee are fighting a winning battle. By their example, as well as their arguments, they are showing the power and the beauty of human life.●

#### MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the Michigan Association of Non-public Schools (MANS) on their 25 years of service to this special group of educators and students. Founded in 1972, MANS has advocated on behalf of non-public schools, established an agenda for their advancement, and given witness to the communities in Michigan regarding their immense social, educational, and economic benefit.

With the voluntary support of over 540 schools, nearly 7,000 instructors and 140,000 students of Michigan's next generation are affected by the outreach and activities sponsored by MANS. Through the Michigan Non-public School Accrediting Association, its affiliated Parent Network, and its organization of school resources, MANS works toward school improvement, encourages greater parental participation, and provides a host of services vital to bringing non-public school students the best education they can receive.

Through the years, MANS has been instrumental in promoting equal education benefits and services for all children. Regular conferences are held and have gained the enthusiastic support of teachers and administrators, with as many as 6,000 participants having attended recent gatherings. Finally, MANS maintains a role as a respected partner and resource for all levels of government whose actions impact education in Michigan.

Mr. President, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, I would like to express appreciation for the many individuals who have given of their time and talent to bring about a better community through MANS. We are thankful for their dedication to Michigan's children.●

#### ITALIAN-AMERICAN COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION (LIVONIA)

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Italian-Americans as we join to commemorate the accomplishment of the first Italian-American, Christopher Columbus. Italian-Americans came to this country with little, but have left a large mark. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate with them today, Columbus Day.

Mr. President, certainly everyone in this country is grateful for the courage, dignity, and thrill for exploration given to this Nation by Christopher Columbus. As a grandson of Lebanese immigrants, I am convinced that the various ethnic heritages people bring with them when they come to the United States greatly benefit our country. Indeed, Italian-Americans have taken over where Columbus left off, building this Nation into the great power that it is. Certainly, without the leadership, insight, and continued support of one of this Nation's most valued resources, America would face a terrible emptiness.

Many Italian-Americans have given generously of their time and energy in preparation of this celebration, and they should be commended for their efforts. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to recognize this very meaningful event in the U.S. Senate.●

#### BYRON CENTER RIGHT TO LIFE BANQUET

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor members of Michigan's Right to Life in Byron Center for their enduring commitment and dedication to one of today's most important social issues.

Mr. President, to those of us who are pro-life, being pro-life means protecting our families and respecting the sanctity of life. It also means maintaining the central role of the family in all our lives. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of Right to Life of Michigan for their perseverance in support of those goals. Unfortunately, we still must spend much of our time in the political sphere, arguing against laws that promote the taking of unborn human lives, and I am grateful for all their efforts in that area as well.

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#### DONALD J. BABB

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I stand before you today to pay tribute to Mr. Donald J. Babb. Donald recently received the 1997 Shirley Ann Munroe Leadership Development Award, by the