

who, in the best tradition of America, gave generously to his community." He never lost sight of his Basque values. He understood the value of hard work, and he learned at an early age the importance of honor and integrity.

The measure of this man is reflected in the mission statement for his company which reads, "We are a company committed to creating opportunities for success." Joe Cenarrusa's life was committed to helping all around him succeed. And for that, each of us who knew Joe have lived a richer life. My prayers are with his parents Pete and Freda, his wife Jean, and their two sons, Andy and Tyler.●

TRIBUTE TO THE COMMITTEE OF 200

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Committee of 200, a distinguished professional women's organization headquartered in my home State, on the occasion of its 15th anniversary the week beginning October 20.

The Committee of 200 is dedicated to promoting entrepreneurship and corporate leadership among women of this generation and the next. The committee is comprised of 370 members from the United States and abroad, representing 70 different industries. Each member is an accomplished businesswoman, including entrepreneurs whose companies generate annual revenue of \$10 million or greater and U.S. corporate executives who manage divisions that produce more than \$50 million in annual revenue.

Recognizing the needs of young women who will soon be entering the business world, the Committee of 200 established a foundation in 1986 to enhance its outreach activities. This foundation provides important assistance and scholarships for women business students and provides grants to foster entrepreneurship among young women.

The Committee of 200 exemplifies the spirit of American business, promoting entrepreneurship, corporate innovation, and community awareness. It supports the careers of young women by giving them the tools to complete effectively in an intensely competitive environment.

Mr. President, the Committee of 200 has provided critical support services over the last 15 years to business leaders and business students. It has distinguished itself as a preeminent professional organization for women. I am confident that over the next 15 years, the committee will continue to be a credit to American businesses and women corporate leaders. I want to congratulate all the members of the Committee of 200 as they celebrate this important milestone in the organization's history.●

ASTRONAUT JERRY LINENGER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jerry

Linenger and his wife Kathryn and sons John and Jeffrey as they celebrate their homecoming to Eastpointe, MI.

Astronaut Jerry Linenger has traveled a little farther than just the ends of the Earth. Having been a crewmember of STS-64 aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery* and the recent STS-81 and STS-84 missions of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, and a resident aboard the Russian *Mir* Space Station, Dr. Linenger has logged a total of 142 days in outerspace, clearly, he exemplifies the spirit of a modern-day American pioneer.

Dr. Linenger has made a profession of reaching for the stars, and now spends much of his time sharing his experience with the people of Michigan and of this great Nation. By bringing the stars to Earth, Dr. Linenger has inspired young minds to look beyond their immediate surroundings and has offered them a vision of an even greater future.

Tonight, there is no doubt a young Dr. Linenger in the audience. As a graduate of East Detroit High School, at one time walking in your shoes, he has shown us what can happen with hard work and commitment toward a goal. I encourage you to view Dr. Linenger's accomplishments with the thought in mind that you too may someday share the same experience.

With all of his educational, personal and professional accomplishments, Dr. Linenger has truly proven to be an American hero for his family, friends, all citizens of Michigan, especially the citizens of the city of Eastpointe.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I congratulate Dr. Linenger and his family and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.●

JANE ALEXANDER'S RESIGNATION FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Jane Alexander on her tenure as Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts. Just a few days ago, she announced her resignation from the NEA and her plan to return to private life. I am truly saddened that the NEA will lose such a strong and respected leader and that the Nation will lose one of its most articulate and effective champions in the effort to preserve the NEA.

I am proud to be a strong supporter of the arts. It is clear that future generations will remember us not for our gross national product or our stockpile of advanced weapons, but for the content of the artistic and cultural expression that characterizes our civilization. The arts give us an opportunity to leave our mark on history.

Jane Alexander's tenure has not been easy. Her term has spanned four of the most challenging years in the NEA's history, filled with annual fights over its survival. Each year we have seen assaults mounted on the arts and the NEA in particular. But the supporters

of the arts in the Congress have met each of these challenges and emerged victorious thanks to the leadership of Jane Alexander.

Perhaps as important as her leadership in these legislative battles has been her efforts throughout the country as an articulate voice in support of the arts and a Federal role in supporting the arts. She has visited schools and community centers as well as theaters and galleries across the country and has reminded Americans of the strength and importance of the arts.

Beyond these efforts on the national scene, she has proved an able and adept manager of the NEA. She has implemented the mandated staff cuts at the NEA and restructured the agency without compromising its mission. She has compensated for fewer resources by forming partnerships with other agencies and encouraging all arts organizations to work more closely together. In addition, under her leadership, grant-making processes have been reorganized, accountability measures have been put in place, investments in arts education have increased, and new communication tools including a website have been developed.

From the stage and the big screen to the halls of Congress, Jane Alexander has proven she is a remarkable individual, a great voice for the arts in America, and a true national treasure. I thank her for her dedication and her tireless efforts, and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.●

THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKET ACCESS ACT

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I would like to add my name as a cosponsor to S. 219, the Agricultural Products Market Access Act of 1997 and to commend Senators GRASSLEY and DASCHLE for their excellent work on behalf of American agricultural exports.

S. 219 will set up a system for agricultural trade identical to that used to identify violations of intellectual property rights—the "Special 301" procedure. Specifically, the bill requires the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to annually designate as priority countries those trading partners having the most egregious trade barriers to U.S. agricultural products. USTR would then initiate a streamlined 301 investigation of the trade practices of those countries identified to determine whether their agricultural trade barriers merit sanctions or other retaliatory actions.

As many of my colleagues know, my home State of Washington is a major producer and exporter of agricultural products. In fact, agriculture is Washington's No. 1 industry employing well over 100,000 people directly and accounting for 20 percent of the State's total exports. I and my constituents, however, are continually frustrated by the unfair and irrational barriers erected to our agricultural exports in countries throughout the world.