

has enlightened the lives of many South Dakota women and children.

This fall, the Children's Inn is celebrating its 20th anniversary of providing emergency outreach services to women and children in the greater Sioux Falls community. When the Children's Inn first opened its doors in an unfurnished two-bedroom bungalow, its primary directive was to provide emergency shelter for children who are victims of abuse and neglect. Staff members realized that an unsafe environment for children was also unsafe for adult victims of abuse, and the inn extended its outreach to all victims of domestic violence. Shortly thereafter, it became apparent that the inn's services were in high demand, and the inn moved to larger facilities and expanded its staff. Currently, the inn serves as many as 3,000 people annually and employs 39 staffers. While the inn continues to function under its founding purpose, it has expanded its services to include a crisis phone line, drop-in counseling, support groups for women and children, parenting classes, and classes for abusers.

Mr. President, the Children's Inn clearly has filled a significant void in the lives of many Sioux Falls women and children, and the 20th anniversary is a true milestone. However, none of its success would be realized today if it were not for the tireless work of Connie Kolbrek and Marlene Weires. Connie served as the first executive director from 1977 to 1984. Her dedication and commitment to children helped to transform the inn from a simple idea on paper to a mainstay in the Sioux Falls nonprofit community. Marlene has served as the inn's executive director from 1985 until present, and her selfless service has produced many of the extension services which are available to the public today. Although Marlene is planning her retirement, I am confident that she will maintain her peripheral support. The Children's Inn and the women and children of Sioux Falls were blessed with her many years of service.

Again, I applaud the Children's Inn on its 20th anniversary, and recognize the selfless work of the staff. Mr. President, I yield the floor today, knowing that the Children's Inn is a beacon of hope for many victims of abuse and neglect.●

AWARD DINNER HONORING ORVILLE AND RUTH MERILLAT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Orville and Ruth Merillat. Mr. and Mrs. Merillat are long time residents of their community, and on Tuesday, November 18, 1997, they will receive the Great Sauk Trail Council of Boy Scouts of America's Award as its Distinguished Citizens of the Year for 1997.

Orville and Ruth Merillat are great stewards to their community. In 1946, they began transforming a small business into the largest one of its kind in

the United States. Manufacturing kitchen and bath cabinetry, the Merillats have devoted their time, resources, and financial success to make the community of Lenawee County a better place to live. They have unselfishly committed all they have gained to their business, their employees, and their community.

Therefore, it is with great respect and gratitude that I extend my most sincere congratulations to Orville and Ruth Merillat. Their dedication to their community, and all of Michigan is truly inspirational. It is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Merillats as Lenawee County's Distinguished Citizens of the Year.●

IN HONOR OF THE HUGHES' 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I would like to call to your attention a most momentous and joyful occasion. Rose Marie Pitman and John Lawrence Hughes will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on November 27, 1997.

Rose Marie Pitman, daughter of Reine and Hugo Pitman, and John Lawrence Hughes, the son of Margaret and John Hughes, were wed at the Chapel of the Royal Hospital in London, England 50 years ago. Living and working for many years in New York City and Connecticut, the Hughes family includes sons Timothy and Ian, and daughter Sandra.

In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of till death do us part seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity.

Mr. President, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the entire Hughes family in recognizing the wonderful sense of achievement and happiness that marks the occasion of the Lawrence and Rose Hughes' golden wedding anniversary.●

TRIBUTE TO HENRY CARRIS

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and great Vermonter, Henry Carris. Henry died on June 25, 1997, at the age of 85. As founder of Carris Reels, a nationally recognized enterprise, Henry was the epitome of everything that is good about business.

He understood the importance of appreciating his good fortune and giving something back to the community. Henry was an active advocate for improved educational opportunities in the Rutland area. Accordingly, he served on the Rutland School Board and was instrumental in developing the Rutland Area Art Association.

In addition, Henry was a member of the board for Rutland's Regional Medical Center and was selected to act as

president for the local chamber of commerce. In light of his outstanding achievements and dedication to the people of Vermont, Henry was named "Man of the Year" for Rutland and "Citizen of the Year" for the State.

At a ceremony recognizing his achievements, he stressed the importance of family and friends. Henry clearly understood the secrets to success and was more than willing to share the wealth of his wisdom.

For those of us who had the good fortune to know him, Henry Carris' energy and enthusiasm left an indelible impression. He exemplifies what all of us should strive to achieve. I would like to extend my condolences to his family and friends.●

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS BILL

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, on Sunday evening, the Senate completed its work on H.R. 2607, a bill providing appropriations for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 1998.

I have serious concerns with several provisions of this bill—provisions which I, in good conscience, cannot support.

Perhaps these problems could have been resolved had this bill been considered early and passed on time. There is a time to debate, however, and a time to act. This session of the 105th Congress is nearing a close, and that fact means that we must enact a D.C. funding bill—now.

One of my concerns centers on a provision included in the bill that will grant permanent residence to almost 250,000 nationals of Central America and Eastern Europe. Those covered by the provisions, including Nicaraguans, Cubans, Salvadorans, and Guatemalans, fled to the United States and sought haven during the civil wars in Central America in the 1980's. These individuals have been allowed to remain here temporarily under various Government immigration programs and court settlements.

The 1996 Immigration Act, however, denied recourse to permanent residence for most of this class. This provision grants permanent residence to these nationals on a case-by-case basis if their return would pose unusual hardship.

While I support this provision, I must once again state for the record my strong objections to the decision by the conferees to exclude approximately 18,000 Haitian refugees from this provision. This exclusion was not only patently unfair, but suggests almost a tin ear on the racial implications of this action. In the absence of a good reason for this exclusion, I can see no other justification for denying these individuals equal relief. I am certain that this is not the signal this body intended to send.

I am heartened, however, that an agreement has been reached with the Justice Department that will allow