

Diocese of Lansing. These are just a few examples of Sister Monica's unwavering devotion to her community and the entire State of Michigan.

I want to join with Sister Monica's friends and family in congratulating her on this very special occasion. She is a remarkable woman whom the state of Michigan is fortunate to benefit from. ●

TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE WELCH

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I wish to bring to the Senate's attention a milestone that has particular relevance to this body. Mrs. Frankie Welch, who is nationally recognized for her artistic and original scarf and tie designs, is celebrating 30 years of fashion design this month. Frankie was born in Georgia, but I am pleased to say she has strong ties to South Carolina, where she graduated with a degree from Furman University in Greenville. It was at Furman that she met her late husband, William Welch. One of their daughters chose to continue the family tradition and also received a Furman diploma.

Frankie Welch has designed many memorable scarves and ties. In the 1980s, she designed a patriotic scarf for the United States Senate. She has designed ties for Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, and Bill Clinton. Mrs. Welch also designed a gown for First Lady Betty Ford, which Mrs. Ford donated to the Smithsonian Institution's First Ladies Collection in 1976. Frankie and Mrs. Ford remained good friends; last month, on the occasion of Betty Ford's 80th birthday, Frankie was one of the speakers at the Ford Museum in Grand Rapids.

Frankie Welch is no ordinary fashion designer. She often employs her talents to produce patriotic garments, and her designs demonstrate an exemplary love of our country. She has produced original and widely admired fabric designs for such revered institutions as the St. Paul's Cathedral in London, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the White House, and the U.S. Capital. Frankie is also a philanthropist: she recently began the Frankie Welch Scholarship for outstanding students of fashion design.

Mr. President, I think it appropriate to honor a woman who has so often turned her talents to patriotic themes and who has attained national and international accolades. It is with great pride that I thank Frankie Welch for honoring our country and congratulate her on thirty years of success. ●

THANKING GENERAL EUGENE E. HABIGER FOR CAREER SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

● Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise to say thank you to a patriot and one of this nation's finest military leaders, General Eugene E. Habiger,

who is retiring at the end of June, 1998. Since 1996, General Habiger has served as the Commander in Chief of United States Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

General Habiger's career in the military began in 1959 when he enlisted as an infantryman in the U.S. Army. After his tour in Fort Benning, Georgia, he attended the University of Georgia earning a Bachelor of Science degree in 1963. After college, Gene joined the Air Force and upon completion of Officer Training School in September 1963, he was selected as a distinguished graduate.

Soon after leaving Officer Training School, as a young Captain and B-52 Aircraft Commander, Gene flew 150 combat missions and participated in the B-52 Arc Light operations during the Vietnam War. In the early 1980s, he commanded the 325th Bombardment Squadron and later served as assistant deputy commander for operations, 92nd Bombardment Wing, Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington.

In the late 1980s, Gene commanded the 379th Bombardment Wing at Wurtsmith Air Force Base, Michigan, and the 2nd Bombardment Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. In the 1990s, Gene's command experience served him well as vice commander, Headquarters Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; and as Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

The apex of General Habiger's career came with his current assignment as Commander in Chief, United States Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. The command has responsibility for all U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy strategic nuclear forces. These powerful forces act as this Nation's strategic deterrent.

During his command at USSTRATCOM, General Habiger made major contributions to the national security of the United States by establishing the parameters for future strategic forces and possible arms control agreements. His leading role in managing a stable drawdown of nuclear forces helped foster mutual understanding and cooperation with Russia. In addition, his cooperative efforts with the Department of Energy shaped the process by which the United States will maintain the long term safety and reliability of its nuclear weapons stockpile. As the Department of Energy's customer, General Habiger insured the Stockpile Stewardship Program is programmed and funded to develop the new tools, technologies, and concepts to ensure our strategic forces remain safe, effective, ready, and responsive to changing needs.

In addition, Gene was a premier player in shaping our strategic force structure. His team completed a very detailed analysis of United States' Strategic Force Structure options reaching far beyond START II. This unprece-

ded target-by-target scrub of the Single Integrated Operational Plan (SIOP) helped shape the conceptual and practical character of post-Cold War US nuclear weapons policy that will be instrumental in decisions for years to come.

Convinced that the Nation's security is best served by a stable strategic relationship with Russia, General Habiger was a forceful spokesman for the START II Treaty and Defense Department Cooperative Threat Reduction activities. Twice, he accompanied the Secretary of Defense to Moscow to meet with the Russian Defense Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Strategic Rocket Forces stressing the political, economic, and military importance of ratifying START II for both the United States and Russia. Gene's work on a post-START II nuclear arms control agenda was reflected in national policy, and helped form the basis for portions of the START III framework announced at the Presidential Summit in Helsinki, in March 1997.

Undoubtedly, General Habiger has been the unparalleled leader in expanding military-to-military contacts with Russian counterparts, particularly the Strategic Rocket Forces. These actions established a more stable relationship with Russian leadership. As evidence of the high regard and confidence in which General Habiger is viewed in Russia, he was the first non-Russian to enter a Russian nuclear weapons storage area. His ceaseless efforts in establishing good relations with Russia have significantly improved communication and understanding. For the first time in history, as Commander in Chief of the US nuclear arsenal, he can pick up the phone and talk directly to senior Russian military leadership.

General Habiger and his wife, Barbara, have two sons, Karl and Kurt. I am sure Gene and Barbara have ambitious plans for their life after military service and I hope they make the most of this time. From a private in the U.S. Army to a four star general in the U.S. Air Force, General Habiger has served our military and the Nation with great honor and distinction. I have the pleasure of calling Gene Habiger a friend and I want to thank him for his contribution to our nation's security. ●

DOVER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER AND NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRESS WOMEN AWARD WINNER—PATTY RICHARDSON HINCHEY

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, as we focus on improving our education system on the national state and local levels, it is my pleasure to offer congratulations to an award-winning teacher from Dover, Delaware who exemplifies excellence in education for her students, her community, my home state of Delaware, and indeed, this nation.

For the second consecutive year, Patty Richardson Hinchey received the second place award in the category of