

THE LATE CLARENCE HOLLAND
"ICKY" ALBRIGHT

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an old friend and one of South Carolina's most public minded citizens, Clarence Holland "Icky" Albright, who recently passed away at the age of 93.

To those who knew him, Icky Albright was synonymous with the town of Rock Hill, a small and charming city in the Olde English District of South Carolina. Though a native of Laurens, Icky Albright moved to Rock Hill in 1929, shortly after graduating from Clemson Agricultural College, and became Rock Hill's leading citizen and cheerleader. He essentially spent his entire adult life working tirelessly, as both a private citizen and a public official, to promote what is a quintessential southern and American town.

Icky Albright was fiercely proud of his adopted hometown and set his roots deep there, starting with his 1934 marriage to Rock Hill native, the former Sophie Marshall. Mr. Albright was one of the Rock Hill business community's leading citizens, for years, he was part owner of a hardware store established by his father-in-law and he later started his own business, "Albright Reality Incorporated". Furthermore, he was active in any number of civic and service organizations. His passion for making Rock Hill the best place possible to live prompted him to get involved in public service, running for and serving on the City Council from 1940-1944, as Mayor from 1948-1954, and as South Carolina State Senator from 1966-1968.

Beyond the many votes he cast as a public servant, the funds he raised for charity, or enthusiastically promoting commerce, Icky Albright's most enduring legacy was the creation of the "Come-See-Me Festival" held every April and timed to coincide with the blooming of the azaleas in the city's Glencairn Garden. A modest man, Icky Albright protested that this successful festival was the idea of many, though everyone knew that he was the one who was truly responsible for this popular event that draws more than 100,000 people each year.

Though it sounds a tad cliché, it is true to say that Icky Albright lived a long, full, and rewarding life, and that through his efforts he touched the lives of many and made a significant difference in his community and our state. All that knew him mourn his passing and our condolences go out to his widow, their two sons "Bud" and Ned, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

BRIGADIER GENERAL MITCHELL
M. ZAIS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize the service of Brigadier General Mitchell M. Zais, who has dedicated the past three-decades to protecting

the security and people of our nation as a soldier and officer in the United States Army.

General Zais began his career when he graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1969 and accepted a commission in the Infantry. It was at this point in time that the American involvement in Vietnam was at its apex, and the newly minted officer quickly had the opportunity to put to the test the martial skills he had learned at West Point and Fort Benning. Heading to Southeast Asia, then Second Lieutenant Zais assumed command of an infantry platoon in the 101st Airborne Division and began what has been a long and distinguished career.

After emerging from the jungles of Vietnam, this officer held a variety of positions which were progressively more responsible and moved him up the Army's hierarchy. He has served in Asia, Europe, Central America, and the United States, has held command at the platoon, company, battalion, and brigade levels, and has held vital staff assignments including on the Joint Staff.

General Zais is currently serving as Chief of Staff, United States Army Reserve Command, but this will be his last assignment as he is due to retire from the military shortly, ending what has been an impressive career. Commendably, General Zais has decided to seek a second career which will allow him to continue to make a difference, that of an educator. I am pleased to report that this man will assume the duties of President of Newberry College in Newberry, South Carolina. I am confident that the General will enjoy his new hometown and his new job. As a former educator, I can assure him that there are few things more rewarding than working with young people.

I commend General Mitchell Zais on his many years of dedicated and selfless service to the nation and the Army, I welcome him to South Carolina, and I wish him the best of health, happiness, and success in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN
RED CROSS FOUNDING

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the American Red Cross by Clara Barton 119 years ago. This year's theme, "We Touch the World," describes the compassionate direction the Red Cross is taking locally, nationally, and internationally.

After the brutal battle of Solferino near Verona, Italy, Jean Henry Durant, a Swiss citizen, formed the International Red Cross in 1863 with the intent to alleviate suffering and promote public health. The first Geneva Convention was signed by 16 nations a year later, adopting the red cross as a sym-

bol of neutral aid. Clara Barton recognized the importance of the humanitarian efforts of the International Red Cross in Europe, and cultivated the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality into what we know today as the American Red Cross. In addition to alleviating suffering and promoting public health, Ms. Barton also envisioned a need for disaster relief and battlefield assistance.

Founded on May 21, 1881, in Washington, DC, the American Red Cross was able to lobby the U.S. Congress to ratify the Geneva Convention, providing an official basis to associate with the International Red Cross. The U.S. was the 32nd nation to sign the document, agreeing to protect the wounded during wartime. Ms. Barton then continued to serve the Red Cross as its volunteer president until 1904. Over the last 119 years, the American Red Cross has not only served Americans and our allies during wartime, but has brought help to anyone in need of aid.

Its thousands of volunteers provide the American Red Cross with the tools to carry out its vitally important task in times of need. Behind the scenes, in preparation for disaster situations, local Red Cross chapters provide their communities with CPR and First Aid classes and information on health issues, and promote blood donations to provide the medical field with an adequate supply should a crisis arise.

Just a few years ago, in my home state of Minnesota, the Red Cross left its mark by touching the lives of those affected by the floods of 1997 and the tornadoes that tore through towns in the southern part of the state. And during it all, the Minneapolis chapter was without a permanent home to help in the disaster relief. Last month, they opened their doors, the first permanent location since 1996, to a new facility that includes a blood-donor center, space to shelter and feed people in case of a disaster, and an emergency operations center with its own communications and power systems.

Mr. President, ninety-one cents of every dollar spent by the American Red Cross goes directly to programs and services that help people in need. All of the disaster assistance is free, thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers alike. The ratio of volunteer Red Cross workers to paid staff is nearly 41 to one. I am honored to have this opportunity to commemorate the dedicated work of the late Clara Barton and the contributions of all those who continue to carry out her legacy in the American Red Cross.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNI-
VERSITY OF MARYLAND UNI-
VERSITY COLLEGE OVERSEAS
MILITARY PROGRAM

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I want to offer my congratulations and