

and most of all for you and KENT being the good friends you have been to Landra and to me.●

TRIBUTE TO R. GENE SMITH

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and philanthropist, R. Gene Smith.

I have had the privilege of knowing Gene for many years, and have always been able to witness his compassion for others on numerous occasions. Gene has a kind heart and a giving spirit, and constantly thinks of ways to help those less fortunate than himself. Eight years ago, he offered another of his generous gifts to a fourth grade class in Louisville. In a spectacular show of kindness, Gene promised an all-expense paid college education to 58 students at Jefferson County's poorest school, Engelhard Elementary. The students' part of the deal entailed completing high school and gaining acceptance to a post-secondary college or university. As fourth graders, these children probably couldn't grasp the incredible opportunity they were offered then, but they certainly understand it now.

As Gene often does, he went the extra mile on his promise and committed to helping each of the 58 students graduate from high school. He created the R. Gene Smith Foundation to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of each child. Over the students' eight-year journey to graduation, the Foundation served as a haven for the children and facilitated learning and personal growth opportunities. In spite of numerous obstacles, Gene and his students exceeded expectations and recently celebrated the graduation of 31 of the original 58 students.

Gene gave an amazing gift. Not only did Gene provide a free college education, but he provided each of the students and their parents with compassion, motivation, and peace of mind over the last eight years. He prevented 31 sets of parents from having to worry about whether they would have the money to pay for their child's education. He provided 31 students with hope for a bright and successful future.

Although this latest act of compassion is extraordinary, it is only one example of Gene's generosity. Gene chaired fund-raising efforts for Neighborhood House, a community center in a poverty-stricken area of Portland, Kentucky. He supports a preschool program for underprivileged children in Kentucky, called Jump Start. Additionally, he donated \$1 million towards redevelopment of the Louisville waterfront. Gene also lends his support to such civic groups as the Speed Art Museum, the Cathedral Heritage Foundation, the University of Louisville Hospital Foundation, and Greater Louisville, Inc.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the United States Senate, I offer heartfelt thanks to Gene for his

continuing commitment to helping others and a hearty congratulations to the 31 hardworking high school graduates.●

MARIA'S CHILDREN AND RUSSIAN ORPHANS

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to advise our colleagues and their staff, and their constituents visiting Washington, of an educational exhibit in the Russell Rotunda next week. The exhibit will include examples of colorful murals used by the volunteer group, Maria's Children, a Moscow-based arts rehabilitation center, as arts therapy and training for Russian orphans with learning difficulties. This therapy has produced encouraging results.

Maria's Children is a Moscow-based foundation, with U.S.-based Board members and volunteers, established to help children in Russian orphanages recognize their creative potential, thereby developing their talents and self-esteem so as to improve their chances of successful integration into Russian society. Created in 1993 by Maria Yeliseyeva, a local Moscow artist, and her friends, the project quickly found that through art, these orphans could come to express themselves in ways they had not known before, improving both their social and psychological development. Through a combination of arts therapy and exposure to normal family life, Maria's Children have literally given these children a second chance. The program has expanded over time and has started a summer art camp for orphans and is associated with Dr. Patch Adams annual clown tours of Moscow. The art work of the children has been featured in several Moscow exhibits and is helping to change Russian attitudes and views of what orphans are capable of achieving.

The exhibit will show in the Russell Rotunda from July 3-7. From there, it will move to the Russian Cultural Centre, here in Washington, and will be on display from July 8-21. The exhibit will also show across the United States throughout the summer, appearing in New York City at the National Art Club from July 28-August 6; at the Edina Southdale Court in Minneapolis from August 11-19; and at the Bumbershoot Festival in Seattle from September 1-4.

I invite our colleagues and their staff to visit this exhibit and learn about the important work that is being done by Maria and her colleagues to improve the opportunities for orphans in Russia.●

IN MEMORY OF MR. ARTHUR SALTZMAN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in honor and in memory of a dear friend of mine, Mr. Arthur Saltzman, of Franklin, Michigan, who passed away on June 18, 2000, at the age of 79. Mr. Saltzman was not only a friend, but an inspiration—a man who

dedicated much of his life to improving the State of Michigan.

Born in New York City in 1920, Mr. Saltzman came to Michigan to work for Ford Motor Company, where he was in charge of training/management programs for salaried employees.

After Mr. Saltzman retired from Ford, he worked for the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce, was a consultant with the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, DC, and was Director of the Michigan State University Advanced Management Program in Troy, Michigan. He also was Director of the Michigan Economic Opportunity Office and a member of the Oakland University Charter Board of Trustees.

Mr. Saltzman earned his Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees from New York University. During World War II, he was with the Army Specialized Training Program, serving in both the Philippines and Tokyo.

Surviving Mr. Saltzman are his wife, Florence, with whom he celebrated his 50th Anniversary on January 30, 1999; daughters Amie R. Saltzman and Sarah Saltzman; his sister, Doris Chartow of Syracuse, New York; grandchildren, Joshua and Joanna; five nephews and four nieces.

Mr. President, Arthur Saltzman was a leader in the Michigan Republican Party at both the State and County level. I had the privilege to work with him on many occasions, and I found it to be a wonderful experience each and every time. Arthur was a man who truly enjoyed life, and his love for living was infectious. I am sure that he will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him.●

CHILD HANDGUN INJURY PREVENTION ACT

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced legislation, along with my good friend from Ohio Senator DEWINE, that will set minimum standards for gun safety locks. There has been a lot of discussion swirling around the U.S. Congress and in State legislatures throughout the country about the use of handgun safety locks to prevent children from gaining access to dangerous weapons. In fact, just last week New York became the latest State to require that safety locks be sold with firearms. Seventeen states have Child Access Protection, or CAP laws in place, which permit prosecution of adults if their firearm is left unsecured and a child uses that firearm to harm themselves or others.

An important element that is largely missing from the debate over the voluntary or required use of gun safety locks is the quality and performance of these locks. Mr. President, a gun lock will only keep a gun out of a child's hands if the lock works. There are many cheap, flimsy locks on the market that are easily overcome by a child. In fact just last week in Dale City, VA there was an absolutely heart-wrenching accidental shooting of