

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I congratulate my colleague from Washington State on very eloquent comments about our dear friend, Paul Coverdell. I had the chance a few days ago to make some more extensive comments than I will tonight about Senator Coverdell. But I just want to add, I had the opportunity, as many Members of the Senate did, to travel to Atlanta this past weekend to participate in that very wonderful service for our dear friend. I don't think it really hit me that he was really gone until I got back this week to Washington and started contemplating this Senate body without Paul Coverdell and all that he meant to each and every one of us. He was our friend. We loved him very much. This body, this institution, is a poorer place because he is gone.

Each one of us is richer because we were privileged to know this very gentle, this very kind, this very sweet, this very good man.

HONORING VIRGINIA "GINNY" GANO

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on a happy note, I rise this evening to honor someone who has spent the last 30 years of her life serving the people of this country, of this Congress, of the State of Ohio; specifically, of the Seventh Congressional District in Ohio.

I am talking about a dear friend of mine, Virginia "Ginny" Gano. I had the great pleasure and honor to work with her during my years as Congressman from the Seventh Congressional District in Ohio. Ginny is now in her 31st year of service to the people. She is truly an ambassador for the Seventh district and for the entire State of Ohio.

Ginny grew up in Springfield, OH. She started working for Congressman Bud Brown at a very young age in 1969. In 1982, when I was elected to the House of Representatives, I asked Ginny if she would come work with me. I became the Congressman. Ginny agreed to stay on and work in our office. During that time, Ginny Gano was really invaluable to me and invaluable to our office and to the people of the district. She had and has an unbelievable wealth of knowledge and institutional memory. If you want something done, if you want to know something, you ask Ginny Gano.

In 1991, she joined current Seventh District Congressman DAVID HOBSON's team. This evening—I am sure at this very moment—knowing Ginny, she is still at work in the Longworth Building serving the people in the district.

Ginny is one of the hardest working people whom I have ever met. With her resources, her experience, and her knowledge, she can answer any question or just about any request made of her. She never says no. She is that good. She gets the job done. She just knows how to get it done. Whatever you want, Ginny will figure out a way of getting it done.

One of the many things that Ginny has done over the years has been to work with interns in a Congressman's office. She goes to great lengths to make sure these young people who come out from Ohio to serve the people and to learn have meaningful experiences in Washington, that they feel at home, that they have someone to look out for them.

Ginny has spent the last 30 years helping people in our district and has truly gotten to know the people of the Seventh District, and they know that she cares about them. She is the one constant in the office of the Congressman from the Seventh Congressional District. Whether it was Bud Brown, MIKE DEWINE, or DAVE HOBSON, Ginny Gano has been there. Ginny Gano is making a difference.

One of the things I appreciate about Ginny so much is that she has a way about her that makes everyone feel at ease. Whether it is a group of schoolchildren from Greene County or maybe someone whom she bumps into in the Rotunda of the Capitol, a total stranger, it does not matter; Ginny is there to help them and she makes everyone feel welcome in our Nation's Capitol. Ginny is a caring and compassionate human being. Being around Ginny Gano just makes you happy. She is that type of person. Her smile, her spirit, her energy—you just feel good when you are around Ginny Gano.

Ginny has dedicated some of her free time—the little free time she has—to something she loves: music. For years she has participated with a great deal of enthusiasm in the Capitol Hill Choral Society. She also has been a driving force behind the Ohio State society's selection of the cherry blossom princess every spring.

My wife Fran and I are just so proud to call Ginny Gano a friend. I thank her for over 30 years of dedicated service to the people of the Seventh Congressional District of the State of Ohio. Ginny, thank you.

P.L. 480 ASSISTANCE IN HAITI

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I want to talk this evening about an issue about which I have spoken before on the floor of the Senate, and that is the situation with the children in the poor country of Haiti. I rise tonight to remind my colleagues of a very important feeding program that is crucial to these children. The program I am talking about, of course, is the Public Law 480 title II Food Assistance Program which, according to the USAID mission in Port au Prince in Haiti, helps feed roughly 500,000 Haitian schoolchildren and almost 10,000 orphaned children through its Orphan Feeding Program.

As we know, funding for the P.L. 480 title II program was included in the Senate fiscal year 2001 Agriculture appropriations bill, which we in the Senate recently passed. I commend and thank the chairman and ranking member on the subcommittee, Senator

COCHRAN and Senator KOHL, and also the chairman and ranking member on the full committee, Senator STEVENS and Senator BYRD, for their continuing ongoing support of Public Law 480.

I am very pleased the committee included language in the Agriculture appropriations bill that will maintain the same level of USAID resources for the Orphan Feeding Program in Haiti as were provided for our current year. I urge my colleagues in conference to continue this language and continue this program.

The reality is that the country of Haiti is a great human tragedy. The nation is in turmoil on a political, economic, and humanitarian level. Though the small island nation finally did hold its parliamentary elections in May after three previous postponements, and though voter turnout was certainly acceptable and the citizens were voting, the openness of these elections remains in serious question. The violence against opposition party members and supporters leading up to the May election cast serious doubt on the legitimacy of this election.

Leon Manus, the president of the electoral council, resigned after the first round of elections and had to flee the country fearing for his life after having accused the Haitian Government of pressuring him to approve the questionable election results.

The international community has severely and justifiably criticized both rounds of elections, with the European Union threatening economic sanctions. In spite of widespread criticism, in spite of OAS refusal to recognize the contested election results, Haitian officials proceeded with the runoff elections on July 9, and, as expected, a handful of Haitians turned out to vote, just a handful of people for the few legislative and local offices that were not already won by the ruling Lavalas Party.

Prior to these elections, I spoke on the Senate floor about Haiti's distressing political and economic situation. I talked at that time about how it was incumbent upon the political elite and the ruling party in Haiti, the Fanmi Lavalas Party, to make and to take reforms seriously. As I said then, and I have said many times before, Haiti simply will not progress until its political leaders and the elite in that country take responsibility for their situation and commit to true democratic reform.

Regardless of the recent election outcome, Haiti can succeed as a democracy if and only if the leaders of the nation, the political elite, the ruling elite, the economic elite, resolve to develop a free market system, resolve to reduce corruption, resolve to improve Haiti's judicial system and its election process, resolve to respect human rights and develop a sustainable agricultural system that can feed its people, and especially the poor children of Haiti.

Despite the success—I have seen it; and there has been success—of some