

ability that can make our Government work for the people in the best way possible.

Caran came to the Senate in 1987, when she joined my staff as assistant press secretary. Two years later, she became my press secretary. During this time, she dealt with a range of important issues, including the Gulf War, Supreme Court nominations, whistleblower protections, a farm bill, civil rights legislation, a campaign to apply labor and employment laws to Congress, and the budget battle of 1990. She made certain that Iowans had access to accurate and timely information through the news media and fostered a better understanding of the way in which the issues addressed by Congress affect the lives of individuals and families.

In 1994, Caran took on new challenges as a special assistant. She developed initiatives and reached out to the grassroots. Caran brought to her work a great appreciation for the people who make Iowa the extraordinary place that it is. She grew up on a farm in Western Iowa, graduated from Iowa State University, and maintains many close family ties in Iowa.

Caran is the kind of person who is always looking ahead and making a plan to improve things for others no matter what their stage and place in life. Just last week, President Bush signed into law legislation re-authorizing the Drug Free Communities Act, a bill I sponsored in the Senate. During his remarks, the President took time to recognize a coalition I launched in Iowa to address our state's growing drug problem. Called "Face It Together"—or FIT—it is the first-ever community-based, statewide anti-drug coalition. The goal is to help Iowans work together to keep their neighborhoods, schools, workplaces and communities drug-free. I hope to see this productive effort continue in the years ahead. No individual deserves more credit for making FIT a reality and a success than Caran Kolbe McKee. Her vision for the project, gift for bringing people together and dedication to making the program happen were vitally important.

In recent years, Caran also managed my correspondence with Iowans. In the Senate, I work hard to make the process of representative government work. I keep in close touch with Iowans by returning home when the Senate is not in session. And since 1981, I have conducted a meeting in each of Iowa's 99 counties at least one time every year. I am committed to an active dialogue with constituents, so at town meetings I always say representative government is a two-way street. While I have come to them for a meeting about the issues, they also have a responsibility to write to me expressing concerns and views and asking questions. Well, each and every one of these letters or e-mail messages deserves and receives as answer from me. Caran made sure that Iowans who wrote or called received a

reply that was not just a piece of paper but a substantive, informative response. In this way, she helped representative government work for the people in a fundamental, meaningful way.

Caran Kolbe McKee was a true public servant. She was a mentor to many of her fellow staff members. And she was an inspiration for the way she handled challenges—both professional and personal—with compassion, strength and courage. Now Caran has decided to spend more time with her family. She will be greatly missed, but I admire her decision and wish her the very best. Above all, I extend to her my deepest thanks.●

RETIREMENT OF NOAA SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, EUGENE PROULX

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to express appreciation and congratulations to Eugene Proulx on the occasion of his retirement as the Special Agent in Charge of the Southeast Enforcement Division of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. For over 28 years, Gene has dedicated himself to the protection of our nation's oceans and living marine resources. His service of 3 years with the United States Coast Guard and 25 years with the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) have been exemplary, and he is being appropriately honored for this service at an event to be held on December 21st in the Southeast region.

His commitment and leadership with the OLE have been reflected through his service as a Special Agent, National Training Coordinator, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Deputy Special Agent in Charge, and as Special Agent in Charge and Acting Chief. Gene's service as a Special Agent in Charge included assignments in both the Southwest and Southeast Divisions in addition to his many years of service as an agent at various duty posts in the Northeast Division as well as several assignments to Headquarters in Silver Spring as both an agent and as the Acting Chief of the Office for a period of three months.

Gene has been the example of a public servant who routinely gives 100 percent towards his responsibilities. His enthusiasm, dedication and energy level are widely known. His corporate knowledge, fisheries expertise, common sense, interpersonal skills and gracious humility are all traits that are exemplary and have facilitated his contributions to NOAA and our nation's resource missions. The accomplishments of the Office of Law Enforcement in the areas of Vessel Monitoring Systems, Sanctuaries Enforcement, Accreditation, and Cooperative Enforcement were all strongly facilitated through the support of Gene's vision and leadership.

Gene's work with the national Cooperative Enforcement program and the

State Joint Enforcement Agreements have provided a long-lasting foundation for this important program. In particular, the state of South Carolina and its fisheries resources have benefited greatly through his work. In large part, Gene was responsible for convincing South Carolina that working jointly with NMFS could serve to substantially improve protection of our fishery resources far beyond the level we could achieve working separately. His initiative led to a Joint Enforcement Agreement that is improving the management and protection of South Carolina's precious marine resources. This program has proven so successful that it is now the "gold standard" model of marine resource enforcement, and it is being established in coastal states around the nation. These cooperative programs and relationships will be the legacy of Gene's leadership.

In closing, although we hate to see him go, I once again wish to congratulate Agent Proulx on his exemplary career. Through his tireless efforts, he has made a difference in protecting the marine resources of South Carolina and the Nation.●

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE DERAN KOLIGIAN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the recent passing of Fresno County Supervisor Deran Koligian, an extraordinary public servant and Californian who died on December 11th at the age of 74, after a two-year battle with cancer.

Deran Koligian was a Fresno County icon, having served as a Supervisor for two decades. He faithfully served his constituents up until the day of his death.

Deran Koligian set a high standard of integrity and decency. He was a man of great determination and dedication who worked tirelessly for Fresno County and California and was loved and respected by so many. He was a farmer, a World War II veteran, a family man and an honorable Fresno County Supervisor. He will be greatly missed by all.

I ask that the Fresno Bee editorial from December 13, 2001, be printed in the RECORD. And, on behalf of the Senate, I extend our thoughts and prayers to the Koligian Family on the loss of an extraordinary man.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Fresno Bee, Dec. 13, 2001]

DERAN KOLIGIAN—A POWERFUL VOICE IN FRESNO COUNTY, STATE POLITICS FALLS SILENT

The odds suggest we shall not soon see the likes of Deran Koligian in public life. The longtime Fresno County supervisor, who died Tuesday at the age of 74, embodied a rare set of skills and virtues. He was a bluntly honest farmer, a man of the soil who so deeply loved his roots he lived his entire life on his family's original 40-acre homestead. He was also a talented and shrewd politician, in the very best sense: clear about his philosophy and