

Iraqi Freedom, General LeMoyné ensured that the Army's personnel challenges were met.

Throughout his career, General LeMoyné has distinguished himself in numerous command and staff positions both overseas and in the United States. In Vietnam, he commanded an infantry company, where he was recognized for his heroism and received a Purple Heart. In Europe, his assignments included command of the 3rd Battalion, 30th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division; Operations Officer and later Chief of Staff for the U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army. General LeMoyné's stateside assignments included serving as the Commander, 1st Brigade, 24th Infantry Division and Commanding General, U.S. Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, GA. While in command of the 1st Brigade during Operation Desert Storm, General LeMoyné's unit led the famous "Hail Mary" into the Iraqi Army's rear which contributed to the quick end of hostilities and the defeat of the Iraqi Army in Kuwait.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking General LeMoyné for the leadership he has provided, for the care and concern he has demonstrated for our soldiers and their families and for his dedicated and honorable service to our Nation and its Army. As he returns to Gainesville, we wish him, his wife Marion and family Godspeed and all the best in the future. ●

RAJESH (RAJ) SOIN 2003 ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Raj Soin of Beavercreek, OH as a 2003 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient.

The prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor award is presented annually to "remarkable American who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives," and "who have distinguished themselves as citizens of the United States, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage."

Mr. Soin was born in New Delhi, India in 1947 and graduated from Delhi University in 1969 with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, he came to the United States with barely enough money to make his way to Bradley University, where he earned a Master of Science degree in Industrial Engineering in 1971, while working as a research assistant. Mr. Soin continued his post-graduate studies in business and finance, at Bradley University, Illinois State University, and the advanced management programs at Harvard University and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Raj Soin and his wife, Indu, became proud citizens of the United States in 1978.

In 1984, Raj Soin created his company, Modern Technologies Corpora-

tion, MTC, on a dream. MTC was founded with the idea of proving engineering and technical services to the Department of Defense, but quickly became an incubator that has spawned numerous businesses in a variety of industries. From its inception, MTC has grown at an exceptional rate and was hailed as one of the fastest growing companies in the United States by Inc. magazine for 4 consecutive years. In June 2002, MTC Technologies was listed on NASDAQ. Today the company has sales in excess of \$140 million and employs over 1100 people in 25 cities and 18 States.

With the success of his company, Modern Technologies Corporation, he could have chosen to channel his energies solely toward his business. Instead, he believes in contributing to the community that has given him so much. And the one area in which Mr. Raj Soin has made a particular difference has been in the area which has had such an enormous impact on his own life—education.

When I was Governor of Ohio, one of the goals that I set for my administration was to celebrate the cultural diversity of our State by seeking out individuals from non-traditional ethnic groups and giving them an opportunity to serve.

I was so impressed by Raj's devotion to education, that as Governor, I appointed him to Wright State University's Board of Trustees in 1993. One of the main reasons that I asked Raj to serve on the Board of Trustees was that he constantly mentioned the fact that we needed to do a better job in higher education, that we needed to do a better job in secondary and primary education.

He has served with great distinction and is held in the highest regard by his colleagues. More important is the fact that through his work on behalf of Wright State University, Raj has directly touched the lives of so many. Raj Soin has truly made a difference on behalf of the citizens of Dayton, the State of Ohio and thousands of Wright State University graduates.

Because of his commitment to higher education and in honor of his accomplishments and support of the University, in 2000, the business college at Wright State was renamed the Raj Soin College of Business and I was delighted to be on campus in Dayton, OH, for the dedication ceremony.

Raj's determination, his hard work and his selflessness are traits that all of us should strive to emulate, not only in business, but in life, because there are rewards that are greater than money—particularly, the ability to make a difference in the lives of one's fellow man.

For example, Raj is the founding trustee and first president of the Ohio-India project. Two of the local projects of the Ohio-India Project are the Ghandi House, a transitional house for women in need and the Annual Day of Caring, which started as a local event

and is now conducted in several states with expectations of becoming a national program.

Additionally, as Governor, we led a trade mission to India in April of 1996, and I had the chance to see Raj Soin in action when his company, Modern Technologies Corporation and CMC Limited announced their joint agreement to, among other things, greatly expand India's access to the Internet.

Mr. Soin's company, MTC Technologies also supports many community projects through the MTC Foundation. MTC not only provides part of the funding for the Foundation, but permits and encourages employers to spend company time to help with the Foundation's work.

Raj Soin serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Victoria Theatre Association, and on the Board of Directors of the Kettering Medical Center Network. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees of Wright State University, the Advisory Board of KeyBank, and Dayton District. He is a founding trustee and past president of Asian Indian American Business Group. He has also served as a member of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees; member of the Ohio Business Roundtable; Co-Chair of the Center for Information Technology in Dayton; member of the Board of Dayton Council on World Affairs; and member of the Board of the Dayton Air and Trade Show.

Mr. Soin has received many awards, including: The National Conference of Christians and Jews Humanitarians Award, Ernst & Young's Master Entrepreneur, and Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

Even with all the business success he has enjoyed and all the charitable and philanthropic acts that he has undertaken, perhaps what best exemplifies Raj Soin is the fact that he is a loving husband, devoted father and caring son. I have been to Raj and Indu's home and I have been with them at other occasions and observed the genuine love and admiration they have for each other and their pride in their two sons.

Raj understands, as so many Asian Indians do, that the family is the backbone of our society.

I remember also on our business mission having the pleasure of meeting Raj Soin's father. You could not help but see how proud he was of Raj. And that love and respect was mutual; for Raj is the main benefactor for the Sukh Dev Raj Soin Hospital which is being built in memory of his father in India.

Raj has been a role model in every sense: in terms of his family, in terms of his contributions to his "extended family" in the community, and in terms of his success in business.

Raj Soin is indeed a remarkable American of the highest integrity in both his personal and professional life.

He has made many outstanding contributions to the Asian Indian community, to his local community in Dayton, OH and to American society.

Raj Soin is a man who came to our shores in search of a dream, who started from scratch and became a success in his adopted country, and then he went back to his homeland to help millions of people join the information age. There is just one way to describe it—only in America could such an opportunity arise to be successful and to serve.

I am proud to recognize my friend, Raj Soin, and congratulate him on this wonderful honor.●

THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF VERONICA MARRON AND ELIZABETH MARRON

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the upcoming birthday of two native Nebraskans—both fine educators, loving mothers, and devoted wives.

Veronica and Elizabeth Marron were born Oct. 14, 1933, to parents Harry and Pearl Marron, in Waterbury, NE. They were the last children of five, including Joe, Leonard and Gene. Fraternal twins, the girls were called Bonnie and Betty from childhood.

The twins graduated from Newcastle High in 1951, with Betty earning valedictorian and Bonnie salutatorian and Girls' State honors. Although just 17-years-old, both quickly earned teaching certificates and started work in Dixon County's country schools.

That was just the beginning of two lifetimes dedicated to education and twin, true passions for teaching. Both women taught for more than 30 years, with Bonnie ending her career at the O'Neill Public Schools and Betty at Falls City Elementary School.

Bonnie married Jim Lowe of Ponca and had four children, Peggy, Paula, Ann and Patrick. Betty married Phil Slagle of Falls City and also had four children, Scott, Todd, Jeff and Jay.

On October 14, 2003, Bonnie and Betty will celebrate 70 years of living "the good life" in Nebraska. I join their family and friends in wishing them a very happy birthday, and many more.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT ELEMENTARY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I would like to honor William Howard Taft Elementary School in Boise, ID, on receiving the prestigious No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Award. The Blue Ribbon Schools Award is highly sought after and is awarded to schools that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. Taft reflects our Nation's commitment to high academic standards and accountability. Taft teachers, parents, and students have demonstrated they are "deeply committed to establishing and upholding high standards of learning." This is reflected in the success of their students.

Of course, improvement and achievement do not happen in a vacuum. Behind this award lie days, weeks, and months of hard work by dedicated individuals who have been actively involved in the teaching and learning process. Dr. Susan Williamson, Taft's Principal, and her staff have reaffirmed our commitment to high-quality education in Idaho. I am pleased to commend Dr. Williamson, as well as the teachers, parents, administrators, community members and all 353 students who have helped make Taft Elementary such a great place to learn. As a recipient of The Blue Ribbon Schools Award, William Howard Taft Elementary, you do Idaho proud.●

TRIBUTE TO THE SENTINEL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I honor North Idaho College's student newspaper The Sentinel for over 70 years of exceptional journalism. Since the 1930s, North Idaho College has published a student newspaper in Coeur d'Alene. The Sentinel has a remarkable record of honors, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, in addition to several regional and national first place awards in various competitions. It is perhaps the newspaper's most recent awards that demonstrate most clearly the tremendous passion and dedication to excellence that exists at the Sentinel.

At this year's Society of Professional Journalists' national convention, The Sentinel received first place in general excellence for nondaily newspapers, and first place in the online newspaper category. In both competitions, North Idaho College, a 2-year school, was chosen over 4-year schools with much larger enrollments.

North Idaho College, former Sentinel Managing Editors Betsy Dalessio and Jerry Manter, advisor Nils Rosdahl, and all members of The Sentinel staff past and present are to be commended for their hard work in creating a newspaper of distinction. They, along with all of the citizens of the State of Idaho, can be proud of North Idaho College's award-winning student newspaper, The Sentinel.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID BROWN

● Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of one of my constituents, David Brown. I rise to commend him for his tenure as president and CEO of the South Carolina Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce as he leaves after 9 years of service.

Under David's leadership the chamber has received capital investment commitments exceeding \$3 billion, resulting in 15,000 new job opportunities in the Greenville area.

During his tenure, the chamber has become instrumental in infrastructure development, education reform, and workforce development, creating the

Corporate Partnership for Operational Excellence and the Carolina First Center for Excellence. Other major projects under David's leadership include the Southern Connector, Bi-Lo Center Arena, and several industrial parks.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, David has served as the president of the Monroe County, Michigan Industrial Development Corporation and the president of the Fort Wayne, IN Chamber of Commerce. David and his wife, Maggie, have two sons: Gregory and Elijah.

I invite you to join me in thanking David Brown for his service in the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce and his dedication to the State of South Carolina.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2691) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, and agreed to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following members as the managers of the conference: Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. REGULA, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. DICKS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. OBEY.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1260. An act amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a program of fees relating to animal drugs.

H.R. 1276. An act to provide downpayment assistance under the HOME Investment Partnerships Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2608. An act to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3034. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry, and for other purposes.