

Tisch's business success was but a small part of his life's achievements. His generosity and commitment to civic and charitable causes was legendary. Tisch was a tireless and influential participant in civic affairs throughout his adult life.

In Feb. 2000, he helped found Take the Field, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to renovating and rebuilding the athletic fields at New York City's public high schools. Tisch, a product of those schools who graduated from Erasmus Hall High in Brooklyn, was Chairman of Take the Field, Inc. He launched the organization with a \$1 million donation, and as of earlier this year had raised more than \$147 million in public and private dollars.

Tisch and two partners in Take the Field, Tony Kiser and Richard Kahan, believed the private sector had to play a leading role in repairing sports fields at schools throughout the city that had been slowly destroyed by more than two decades of neglect. Tisch approached then-mayor Rudy Giuliani with his idea. The city agreed to match every dollar raised by Take the Field with three of its own, and the mission was to re-do every athletic field in the city that was classified as "needy."

"Take the Field is one of the most innovative and wonderful ideas of my life in the city," said New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon, one of Tisch's best friends. "And it doesn't happen without Bob. At a time in his life when he could have just sat back and enjoyed everything he had accomplished, he went to work."

That's what Tisch did throughout his life. He was a founding Co-Chairman of Citymeals-on-Wheels, President of the Board of Directors from 1993 to 2002, and later served on the Board as Honorary Chairman. He also served as chairman of Public Private Initiative, a public private partnership that raises funds for important community programs, from 1997 to 1998.

Tisch's philanthropy continued even after he became gravely ill. His family picked a physician at the Duke University Medical Center to supervise his treatment for the brain cancer. Tisch and his family recently donated \$10 million to the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center and the school's Brain Tumor Center.

The gift accounted for the majority of a \$16.3 million package of subsidies that Duke will use to support research into the treatment of brain tumors.

"I was very, very impressed by the program at Duke, and very taken by more than just its medical approach," said Steve Tisch. "For me, there was the intangible that became so important, of the spiritual and emotional commitment that these programs and their doctors have."

Duke officials have pledged to use \$5 million from the Tisch family to underwrite the hiring of additional researchers. The medical center is matching that with \$5 million of its own money. Another \$2.5 million from the Tisch family will finance the screening of drugs that might be useful in treating brain tumors. Duke officials are now calling the treatment center the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center.

Given his many accomplishments and interesting ventures, Tisch was asked in that 2002 interview what was most rewarding to him.

"My brother (Laurence, who died of cancer at age 80 two years ago today on Nov. 15, 2003) and I took the Loews Corporation from a corporation that did about \$20 million worth of business and built it up to a \$13 billion company, which is now run by the next generation," Tisch said. "Building the company and seeing it grow has been extremely gratifying. I also enjoyed my time

at the Postal Service when I was appointed Postmaster General. People said, 'How can you stand a job like that?' I loved it. I made one mistake—I stayed two years when I should have stayed three years.

"Then, of course, my involvement with the New York Giants has been very rewarding. I've been very, very lucky in my life and what I've been able to achieve."

Everyone who knew him, worked with him or were touched by his generosity were just as fortunate.

Preston Robert Tisch was born on April 29, 1926 in New York City. He attended Bucknell University before entering the Army in 1944. After military service in World War II, he earned a B.A. degree in economics from the University of Michigan in 1948. Tisch is survived by his wife, the former Joan Hyman, and their three children, Steven, Laurie and Jonathan, and nine grandchildren.●

BELATED THANK YOU TO THE MERCHANT MARINERS OF WORLD WAR II ACT

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I join my colleagues, Senators NELSON, MIKULSKI, LANDRIEU, MURKOWSKI, BOXER, SNOWE, REED, ROBERTS, LAUTENBERG, DEWINE, SMITH, JEFFORDS, CORZINE, STEVENS, SARBANES, KERRY, LINCOLN, MURRAY, DURBIN, COLEMAN, FEINSTEIN, JOHNSON, COLLINS, SCHUMER, BAUCUS, COCHRAN, BROWNBACK, CANTWELL, CLINTON, DODD, LIEBERMAN, and STABENOW in cosponsoring S. 1272, Belated Thank You to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2005.

The contribution Merchant Mariners made during WWII have gone unheralded for far too long. The Merchant Marine is the forgotten service of World War II.

Although their numbers were small, they suffered the highest casualties of any service in World War II. Merchant mariners were responsible for transporting troops, tanks, food, fuel, airplanes and other supplies and, as a result, their likelihood of combat was extremely high. In fact, enemy forces sank over 800 of their ships between 1941 and 1944.

For more than 40 years, Merchant Mariners were denied any G.I. bill of rights benefits. In 1988, they were granted a "watered down" version of the G.I. bill of rights, but some portions of those benefits were never made available to them. In addition, they still have not received proper recognition as veterans for Social Security purposes.

This legislation would rectify that inequity by recognizing these American heroes with the status of "veteran," and it would grant a small monthly stipend to these veterans or their widows in order to offset their lost benefits.

As a veteran, I will always seek to protect the honored place of our military heroes. I cherish their service, and I will do everything in my power to support their interests. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation.●

RECOGNIZING THE NEWARK HUD OFFICE

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Newark field office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development on the occasion of its 40th anniversary in my home State of New Jersey.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, administers programs that increase homeownership, provide aid for housing for lower income people, support community development, and increase access to housing free from discrimination.

For 40 years, the staff of the Newark field office has embraced this mission and effectively partnered with faith-based and community organizations to help provide housing assistance to the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities, and people living with AIDS.

Today, under the leadership of Diane Johnson, the Newark field office is leading the way in helping more low- and moderate-income New Jerseyans realize the American dream of becoming homeowners. For example, in the city of Trenton, the HUD-designated "Homeownership Zone" is helping first-time homebuyers and minority families purchase homes.

Since its creation in 1992, the HOPE VI Program has helped transform the HUD's approach to housing assistance for the poor. In New Jersey, HOPE VI has successfully generated over \$1 billion to revitalize distressed public housing. This investment has changed the housing landscape in towns and cities throughout the State by replacing severely distressed public housing projects, occupied exclusively by poor families, with redesigned mixed-income housing.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program has grown into the dominant form of federal housing assistance, helping 65,000 low-income families in New Jersey afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

It is with great respect that I extend my warmest congratulations to the Newark field office on four decades of success and to Diane Johnson who has been a tireless advocate on behalf of HUD's programs and the people who benefit from them.●

SILVER HIGH SCHOOL FIGHTING COLTS

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, all over this great country in the last month or so, high school football championships have been won and lost. I am delighted to report that the team in my hometown of Silver City, NM, after decades of effort, has won the championship trophy in Class 4A football in New Mexico.

All who attended Silver High School—and all of us who attended it before it changed its name to that—are thrilled with this achievement. Seven