

WCIL has devoted innumerable hours and incredible effort toward giving senior citizens and members of our community with disabilities the gift of independence. The WCIL was founded in 1976 during the height of the "independent living movement." Originating in Berkeley in 1970, the independent living movement has strived to provide disabled persons with the opportunity to manage their own lives. Today, centers such as the WCIL have become a vital staple of urban life across the Nation.

Through an array of innovative methods, the center allows seniors and disabled persons to become more fully integrated into our community. One such technique is the peer training system, whereby veterans of the independence training program share their tested knowledge with people who are new to the program. Such pairing instills a sense of confidence in new participants, as it lets them know that they are not alone and that others like them have succeeded in leading a more independent life.

WCIL's Advocacy Action Group works with the disabled community and elected officials to modernize existing disability legislation. The group collects the ideas and complaints of disabled people and transforms them into substantive legislation. Through true grassroots campaigning and issue advocacy, the group ensures that elected officials stay abreast of current accessibility issues in their community.

Recognizing the necessity for information regarding accessibility throughout Los Angeles, the WCIL, in partnership with UCLA, has established Living Independently in Los Angeles, LILA. LILA provides a host of useful information regarding the accessibility of public and private places, community organizations working for the betterment of those with disabilities, and advocacy groups. Thanks to LILA, numerous disabled persons are better equipped to navigate Los Angeles.

The center provides invaluable educational services, including public awareness about the Americans with Disabilities Act. Countless businesses, community organizations, and local community members credit WCIL for helping them to ensure that buildings and offices are accessible for Americans with disabilities.

I am pleased to join the thousands of beneficiaries of this important organization in commending the Westside Center for Independent Living. The Center's work has bettered the lives of countless disabled and senior citizens and has enabled them to participate more fully in our community. The center's efforts have clearly shown that "a disability need not be disabling."●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID L. CROW

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of David L. Crow. After 15 years

at the helm of the largest air-pollution control district in the Nation, he will soon retire as the air pollution control officer and executive director of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, SJAPCD. During his tenure, the district grew from a fledgling union of regional air boards into one of the Nation's most active air-pollution control districts.

After completing his undergraduate and graduate studies at California State University, Fullerton, David built a solid resume in public service before he assumed the leadership of the SJAPCD in 1991. He served as the acting city manager for Foster City, CA, budget director and director of policy development for Fresno County, as well as deputy county administrative officer for Fresno County before lending his considerable talents to improving air quality in the Central Valley.

David accepted the challenge to address and solve the air-quality issues in a region that perennially rank among the worst nationwide in summertime smog and wintertime particulate pollution. Under his stewardship, the Valley air basin has made great strides in reducing ozone exceedances, as it has seen a 50-percent reduction in the emissions from statutory sources. The SJAPCD has implemented programs such as the "Check Before You Burn" winter wood-burning restriction program; a system to reduce smoke emissions from agricultural burning, and creating cost-effective rules to encourage conservation management practices for farms.

During his tenure as the head of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, David has earned a reputation as a skilled consensus-builder who forged partnerships between interests which seldom agreed. Under his leadership, the air-pollution district has distributed over \$100 million to implement a myriad of projects to reduce serious air pollution in the region. David Crow's efforts, and those of the talented staff that he helped build, are helping to improve the air quality in California's Central Valley, one of the fastest growing regions in the Nation.

Throughout his career, David Crow has proven to be a highly effective administrator who was committed to protecting the public's health. As he gets set to spend more time with his wife Vicky and sons, Ryan and Matthew, I wish him continued success and good luck in all his future endeavors.●

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER EARL HARWOOD SCOTT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the memory of a dedicated public servant, Officer Earl Harwood Scott of the California Highway Patrol. Officer Earl Harwood Scott spent nearly 5 years with the California Highway Patrol, providing the citizens of California with safety and service. On the morning of February 17, 2006, while on motor patrol near the

City of Salida, Officer Scott was mercifully murdered in the line of duty during a traffic stop.

The California Highway Patrol was in Officer Scott's bloodlines. Officer Scott's father, Sergeant William Scott, as well as two uncles, are proud retired California Highway Patrol veterans. Officer Scott was to celebrate his 5-year anniversary with the California Highway Patrol on February 19. Officer Scott dutifully served the citizens and communities of Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties with great dedication and integrity. Officer Scott's commitment to help others, combined with his passion for law enforcement, enabled him to become a model California Highway Patrol officer. Officer Scott's colleagues shall always remember his gregarious nature and commitment to his job.

Officer Scott is survived by his father, William Scott, and his mother, Judith. When he was not on duty, Officer Scott enjoyed spending time with his neighbors, especially the children who would often play darts and watch sporting events in his garage. Officer Earl Harwood Scott served the State of California with honor and distinction and fulfilled his oath as an officer of the law. His contributions and dedication to law enforcement are greatly appreciated and will serve as a shining example of his legacy.

We shall always be grateful for Officer Scott's heroic service and the sacrifices he made while serving the community and protecting the people he loved.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANDREA BRONFMAN

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Andrea Bronfman, a respected philanthropist and a dear friend. Andrea passed away on January 23, 2006, at the age of 60.

Born in Great Britain in 1945, Andrea quickly demonstrated remarkable compassion for those in need and an ardent desire to improve the world around her. She was married to Charles Bronfman in 1982, and together they raised five children and six grandchildren. While their wonderful family was certainly one of Andrea's proudest achievements, she will also be fondly remembered for her generous nature, her passion for life, and her multitude of charitable endeavors.

Andrea's philanthropy benefited citizens of all countries and faiths, but she is best known for her activism within the Jewish community and her devotion to Israel, Jewish life, and the Jewish people. In addition to serving on the boards of several well-respected Jewish organizations, she and Charles cofounded Birthright Israel, a program that offers young adults a chance to travel to Israel and experience the roots of their ancestry firsthand. As a result of these good works and her undying devotion to Jewish life, Andrea