

a measure of stability. We need to help arts groups get larger.

While it is assumed that fund-raising skills are the major deficiency in many countries, in fact, marketing knowledge is minimal at best. We must teach how to develop focused programmatic marketing campaigns that help sell tickets and aggressive institutional marketing campaigns that help raise money and awareness.

We need to expand the planning horizon for arts organizations in troubled countries. Most arts organizations have planning horizons of less than 6 months. This makes it virtually impossible to build strong fundraising efforts and major touring programs. But we also have to help train arts entrepreneurs. In my experience, there is no conflict between planning and entrepreneurship but this is not evident to everyone.

We must encourage artists to collaborate with administrators. One of my students in Mexico experienced a total life change when he handed over to an administrator the things he did not know how to do and focused exclusively on his role as artistic director. Today, he has two years of his budget in the bank!

The training we offer must be practical and hands-on. While our goals are idealistic, our training techniques must be immediately implementable if our students are to make change.

And finally, we must work hard to encourage arts organizations not to waste anything. While this is true for arts organizations throughout the world, those organizations in challenging environments must use every dollar and every hour to maximum advantage.

Next on our agenda is a major project with the 22 Arab countries. Again we are using our two-pronged approach to cultural exchange. We are mounting a major Arab arts festival at the Kennedy Center in 2009. But, beginning this coming spring, we are also holding annual symposia on arts management in the Arab countries. We have begun by surveying a large list of Arab arts organizations to determine their chief concerns.

Just last month I visited Cairo, Amman, Riyadh and Damascus to discuss our plans with government leaders, arts managers and artists. The response was very positive from all sectors and the press we received was encouraging. On numerous occasions during my trip I heard enthusiasm for our idea of helping Americans understand Arabs, as people rather than as political entities. And the training we are offering is seen as an act of generosity by people who do not always think of Americans in that way.

I am convinced that this project, our most ambitious to date, will have the dual benefits of educating the American public while also creating stronger cultural institutions in the Arab world. We hope this will allow these institutions to play a more vital role in their countries and will foster relationships between Americans and Arabs that will help to unite and bring understanding and peace.

This is an ambitious goal; some would call it naïve.

But it would be impossible for us not to try.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY J. ZAGAMI

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Anthony J. Zagami as he concludes 40 years of dedicated public service. Mr. Zagami officially retired on January 3, 2007, from the U.S. Gov-

ernment Printing Office with the distinction of being the longest serving general counsel in history.

In the mid-1960s, Mr. Zagami began his distinguished career on Capitol Hill as a Senate page. I first met Tony many years ago when he was working in the Senate Democratic cloakroom. Following his service in the cloakroom, he worked for the Secretary of the Senate and eventually went on to become the general counsel for the Joint Committee on Printing for 9 years. Mr. Zagami would ultimately work in the Senate for a total of 25 years in various capacities.

In 1990, Tony began his tenure as the longest serving general counsel in history. In this capacity, he oversaw an agency that is responsible for the printing and distribution of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and nearly every other governmental publication. Mr. Zagami served at a momentous time in the history of the GPO, as the agency worked to move into the digital age.

Tony is known as a diligent, thorough, and dedicated public servant, and I am honored to recognize his outstanding service. His record of service, which spans more than four decades, is tremendous indeed. I know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating Tony Zagami for his tremendous work over the years, and I wish him the best in the years to come. I hope he will enjoy his retirement as much as we have enjoyed his presence around the Capitol over the years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE OTHA LEE BIGGS

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, there are many public servants who hold office and it is not possible to make mention of the milestones in their lives; however, with Otha Lee Biggs, probate judge of Monroe County, AL, I must make an exception. His remarkable tenure is truly notable. Judge Biggs served 36 years as probate judge and as chairman of the Monroe County Commission. He has been dual-hatted, as they say.

During that time, he has been a tireless proponent of economic growth for the county and constantly worked for more and better jobs for his people. Everyone knows Judge Biggs and he knows everyone. He knows his constituents, their children, parents, cousins, and neighbors. Even knowing those who get along and those who don't. He knows how to get things done. And his word is good. That is to say, he is a master politician in the finest sense of that word.

It is a real treat to hear him tell how he worked to get the Alabama River Pulp Mill to locate in Monroe County in 1978. Make no mistake, that event has been hugely important to the county ever since. He is a friend of Monroe County's best known citizen, Nelle

Harper Lee, the author of "To Kill A Mockingbird," the most widely read book of the 20th century in the schools of America. He was a visionary behind the production of the play based on the book. A historian, a conservationist, a fabulous storyteller, and a man of family and tradition, Judge Biggs is one of a kind. We will not see his like again. He is held, to a most unusual degree, in the highest esteem and affection by the people he has served. They have given him their trust, and he has been worthy of it.

His has been a remarkable period of leadership. Constant and faithful he has been, and the people love him for it. Rich and poor, Black and White, he has served them all. He has put them and his county first.

Governors, Senators, and Congressmen have been his friend. I have been honored to be his friend, too. When I pass through Monroeville on the way to visit my homeplace in Hybart, on the northern edge of the county, I always try to stop in for a visit with the Judge. It is a special treat to peer over that pile of papers on his desk, some yellow with age, in his small modest office and to catch up on the news, to hear a good story, to take a peek at his pictures, and to learn about the important issues facing the county, our State and our Nation. For, first of all, Judge Biggs is a patriot. He loves his country and loves it truly and understands its exceptional nature. Thus, his insight is always valuable.

Now, as everyone knows, Judge Biggs is frugal. If he ran the Federal Government, the budget would be balanced—that is for sure. His style is clearly demonstrated at the ceremony at which his successor, Judge Greg Norris, was installed. At the conclusion, Judge Biggs said "I have one bit of advice. Replace the carpet in your office. It's been there 44 years."

The retirement reception for Judge Biggs, hosted by the Alabama Power Company and Alabama River Pulp Company on January 11, 2007, was a remarkable event. I am truly disappointed to have missed that wonderful time. Though my duties here kept me away, I was there in spirit and in admiration for one of Alabama's most important leaders, Judge Otha Lee Biggs. Well done, good and faithful servant, well done.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CITY OF VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the city of Valdosta, which received the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award for its outstanding administration of the 2006 Southern Hospitality Workcamp. The city of Valdosta is 1 of 11 cities from across the Nation to receive this award. I am very proud of its accomplishments, and I would like to commend all of the people involved in this effort.

The Audrey Nelson Community Development Award is presented by the

National Community Development Association in recognition of outstanding achievements and exemplary uses of the community development block grant funds. In the spirit of this program, which assists the needs of low-income families and neighborhoods, the city of Valdosta has set a goal of eliminating substandard housing by the year 2010.

Through its 2006 Southern Hospitality Workcamp, the city gathered over 350 youths from across the country to repair 46 homes for low-income and disabled individuals and families. This annual program has also earned the city of Valdosta the State of Georgia's Magnolia Award for excellence in affordable housing. The city has won this award in 3 of the past 6 years.

The honorable work by these students exemplifies the dedication the city has to its goal of eliminating substandard housing. I would like to thank the city of Valdosta for its efforts as well as encourage the city to keep working on this outstanding goal in the future.●

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT LARRY PERRY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize MSG Larry Perry of Bruce, SD, who was recently awarded the Purple Heart Medal at Camp Clark in Afghanistan for injuries he incurred while on patrol.

Master Sergeant Perry is married and has two sons. He has served with the National Guard for more than 18 years. He is a member of the 147th Field Artillery Brigade of the South Dakota Army National Guard and is currently the 203rd Regional Corps Assistance Group, RCAG, 1st Brigade Motor Officer. Master Sergeant Perry's service in Afghanistan is part of the efforts to train and mentor members of the newly organized Afghan National Army. The brigade trains Afghani soldiers in areas such as intelligence, communications, logistics, maintenance, military operations, and leadership skills. These necessary skills are allowing the Afghan National Army to operate independently as a professional force to curb terrorist attacks, provide safety and security for its citizens, and participate as an important ally in the war on terror.

On the morning of September 25, 2006, Master Sergeant Perry was serving as a gunner in the turret of a Humvee in Khowst Province when a suicide car bomb exploded alongside his convoy. The explosion sent shrapnel into his shoulder, and he suffered burns to his face and neck.

Master Sergeant Perry and his fellow soldiers face such dangers every day, and their willingness to put themselves in harm's way for the American and Afghani people is truly humbling. I, along with the citizens of South Dakota and the entire United States, owe Master Sergeant Perry a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to

repay. We honor Master Sergeant Perry for his patriotism, bravery, and selflessness, and we applaud his courage in the face of danger.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH W. WHITAKER

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I acknowledge the contributions of a dedicated public servant, Joe Whitaker. Joe currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations and Housing. This makes Joe Whitaker the most senior career civilian official in the Army responsible for military installation issues such as the construction of new facilities and housing for our soldiers and their families. Joe Whitaker's service to the Army includes both military and civilian service, and he is retiring as a member of the Senior Executive Service at the end of this month after a career of over 35 years of dedicated public service to the U.S. Army.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, I appreciate the challenges Joe Whitaker has faced over the past few years trying to modernize the facilities where our soldiers live and work. These challenges include: an Army at war; the 2005 round of base realignment and closures; the so-called modular conversion of the Army from a division-based force to a brigade-based force; and the relocation of thousands of Army personnel and dependents from Europe to the United States. This would be a significant set of challenges to deal with even if they had occurred one after the other, but Joe Whitaker and the Army have had to address them simultaneously, and I commend him for the job he has done in meeting these challenges.

As a Senator from the State of Hawaii, I have seen first hand the improvements in both military capability and quality of life that have taken place for the Army in Hawaii thanks to the efforts of Joe Whitaker and others in the executive and legislative branches. This includes the privatization and improvement of over 7,800 homes for Army families in Hawaii under the Residential Communities Initiative and the construction of facilities to stand up a Stryker Brigade Combat Team in Hawaii. Our Army forces in Hawaii are better off because of Joe Whitaker's contributions.

Dedicated career civil servants like Joe Whitaker are so important to the work of the Army and other Federal agencies. They provide the continuity, background of knowledge and experience, and relationships that the political appointees representing any administration need to get things accomplished. This is even more true in the military, where effective command during the relatively brief tours of senior military leaders would not be possible without the expertise of career civil servants like Joe Whitaker.

Finally, the members and staff of our committee have also known they could

rely on Joe Whitaker as a candid, hard-working partner in our shared responsibility for providing for our men and women in uniform and their families. On behalf of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support and the entire Senate Armed Services Committee, I express our appreciation to Joe Whitaker for his contributions, and dedication to, the soldiers of the U.S. Army and his country, and I wish him success in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO DONALD D. JUNCK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Donald D. Junck of Sioux Falls, SD. In November of 2006, Donald submitted the one-millionth Trademark Electronic Application System, TEAS, filing.

Donald currently owns two small businesses in Sioux Falls, SD: a construction company and a laser engraving company. He used TEAS to protect the name and logo of his mark, Bait Craft, which is used for his unique, handcrafted fishing tackle boxes. Fishing and other outdoor activities are an important part of South Dakota's heritage and are vital to our State's economy. Fishermen have spent \$173 million and hunters \$193 million in South Dakota over the last 5 years. TEAS has helped Donald and many others in our State achieve the entrepreneurial success that creates jobs and keeps our economy moving forward.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO, opened TEAS on a worldwide basis in 1998. TEAS is a cost-effective way to increase access and participation in the trademark process. This system allows trademark applicants, such as Donald Junck, to file an application at anytime and from any location with Internet access. TEAS has been a vital conduit in helping South Dakota's entrepreneurs protect their investments and improve their businesses.

Today, along with the USPTO and Donald Junck's friends, family, and colleagues, I wish to recognize his most recent trademark application and the milestone one-millionth TEAS filing.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by