

minting of a commemorative coin and the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal would be fitting tributes to the memory of Robert M. La Follette, Sr., and to his deeply held beliefs and long record of service to his State and to his country. I hope that my colleagues will support these proposals.

Let us never forget Robert M. La Follette, Sr.'s character, his integrity, his deep commitment to progressive causes, and his unwillingness to waver from doing what he thought was right. The Senate has known no greater champion of the common man and woman, no greater enemy of corruption and cronyism, than "Fighting Bob" La Follette, and it is an honor to speak in the same Chamber and serve the same great State as he did.●

#### HONORING PHILIP M. KAISER

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor the memory of Philip Kaiser, a dear family friend who was also an outstanding public servant. In a career that spanned four decades, he served as an ambassador to four countries and as Assistant Secretary of Labor for International Affairs. He was a man of tremendous accomplishment who was sought out by U.S. Presidents, from Truman to Carter, for his unparalleled diplomatic skills.

While he served as Ambassador to Senegal in the early 1960s, he brokered a critical agreement with the Senegalese President that prevented Soviet aircraft from refueling there during the Cuban Missile Crisis, in case the Soviets tried to use aircraft to break the blockade. Later, when he served as Ambassador to Hungary during the Carter Administration, he negotiated the return of a powerful national symbol in Hungary, the Crown of St. Stephen, to the Hungarians after it had been held for safekeeping in the United States after World War II.

Ambassador Kaiser received his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin and then studied at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Those experiences undoubtedly influenced his career, and, as it turns out, they influenced my career as well. It was because Philip Kaiser went to the University of Wisconsin that he met my father, Leon Feingold. They became, and always remained, good friends. As I grew up, I got to know Ambassador Kaiser, and heard so much about him from my father. As a young man with an interest in public service and foreign affairs, I looked up to Ambassador Kaiser. In fact, one of the reasons I applied for a Rhodes Scholarship was because Ambassador Kaiser had been a Rhodes Scholar himself.

I am proud to have known Ambassador Kaiser and proud of his connection to my family. I am deeply saddened by his passing, and my thoughts are with his wife, his children and grandchildren, and his many friends during this difficult time. He left a

lasting mark on this country and the world, and it is an honor to pay tribute to his memory today.●

#### HONORING KAY AND MARY KRAMER

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to honor two remarkable Iowans. Kay and Mary Kramer of Clive, IA have served their local community, our great State of Iowa, and America well. They have set an example of civic service that all people should be proud to follow.

Mary has a distinguished record of service to our country. She was the U.S. Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Additionally, she served on the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, honoring outstanding high school seniors each year for both their academic and artistic achievements.

Mary has also served her home State of Iowa well. She has done this through her work in the Iowa Senate where she was elected and reelected for more than a decade. While serving in the senate, Mary was chosen by her fellow senators to be President of the senate. Her election to this position of leadership is a testament to the respect Mary has earned from those who know her best.

Mary and her husband Kay make a great, civically-minded team. Kay was named as a West Des Moines Citizen of the Year and is an active volunteer in his community. He served on the West Des Moines Board of Human Services and is still active as an officer with the West Des Moines Rotary Club.

I am proud to call Kay and Mary Kramer friends, and I am happy to honor both of them here today. I appreciate their tireless efforts to serve Iowa and America. I hope that their good work, and lifetime of service, does not stop any time soon.●

#### HONORING CLAIRA MONIER

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, the senior Senator from New Hampshire, JUDD GREGG, and I wish to recognize the considerable achievements of Claira Monier, a Goffstown resident who recently announced her retirement after leading the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority for nearly two decades.

Claira is a gold standard public servant. A New Hampshire native, she has devoted her life to improving her community, State and Nation. Moreover, in what limited spare time she has, Claira is someone to whom Senator GREGG and I can turn for steady counsel on policy—housing tax credits, bond caps, affordable housing—and politics. She is a rare and irreplaceable friend.

Whether in the classroom or leading efforts to expand access to housing or health care, Claira has demonstrated the highest commitment to service over a 40-year period. Although her record of achievement is well-known in

New Hampshire, it is worth repeating here on the floor of the Senate.

From 1967 to 1974, she held teaching and administrative positions at New Hampshire College and St. Anselm College. Claira subsequently served for 5 years as the director of the New Hampshire State Council on Aging, completing her tenure in 1981.

Having demonstrated uncommon competence and creativity in these roles, Claira was selected as Region I Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In 1988, she began her legendary career as executive director of the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority—an organization on which she has left an indelible mark.

While working by day to support affordable housing and home ownership initiatives in New Hampshire, Claira managed to simultaneously bring her leadership skills to a number of non-profit boards.

She served as a Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston from 1990 to 1992 and was a member of its Affordable Housing Advisory Council. She also found time to serve for 2 years as chairman of then-Governor Gregg's Commission on Health Care Costs and Availability, leaving the panel in 1991. Claira was board president of the National Council of State Housing Agencies and served as cochair of the Fannie Mae Housing Impact Advisory Council.

The list goes on: past chair of the Manchester Red Cross; former Southern New Hampshire University trustee; 2003 chair of the Heritage United Way Campaign; former chair of the New Hampshire Main Street Center; chair of New Hampshire's chapter of the American Lung Association; chair of the West High School endowment fund; member of the Dartmouth Hitchcock Healthcare System's assembly of overseers; and so on.

It is not exactly clear when, or if, Claira had time to sleep.

But this much is known: Claira is one of those special people who looks at her community and is able to see how she can make it better. She is not prone to idle thoughts. Rather than stand on the sidelines saying how the order of the world should be, Claira enters the arena with vigor and inspires people to achieve difficult objectives.

The results of her work can be seen across New Hampshire. For first-time homeowners in our State—or those who thought they might never be able to own a place of their own—it is likely that Claira's leadership at New Hampshire Housing had something to do with their securing a piece of the American dream. It is difficult to imagine work that is more hopeful.

There is no question that Claira leaves behind a rich legacy at New Hampshire Housing. Her successors, no doubt, share her commitment to that organization's mission and will continue the important work she has started. It should be noted, though,