

Anybody who has met Senator Grafstein immediately recognizes him as a man of tremendous energy, deep commitment and brilliant mind. Commenting on Jerry's career, one of his Canadian Senate colleagues noted the daunting task of paying tribute "to a force of nature disguised as a person." A successful lawyer, businessman and member of the Liberal Party, he was summoned to the Canadian Senate in 1984. Jerry Grafstein's accomplishments over the next 25 years of public service are much more than I can relay here.

I do, however, want to highlight Jerry's prominent work with the 56 countries, 300 member OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Serving for 6 years as the Assembly's treasurer and then, with me since 2007, as one of nine Vice Presidents, Jerry has understood the potential of this multilateral parliamentary forum to promote human rights, democracy and tolerance. Such a vital forum, however, does not just magically appear for the world's benefit. Someone has to take the time to make it function by participating as an officer, attending countless organizational meetings and, for us and our Canadian neighbors, traveling frequently across the Atlantic to do so. Jerry was one who rose to the challenge and then some.

Even as he helped on organizational matters, Jerry Grafstein found more time than most others to focus on substance. First and foremost, he has helped to lead the charge against rising anti-Semitism across Europe and around the world. Diplomacy has a tendency to soften the criticism and downplay the negative, often until it is too late, but Jerry has helped to ensure that the OSCE did not shy away from dealing directly with this and other manifestations of hate and prejudice that dangerously confront far too many societies. Today, thanks to the vigilance of Jerry Grafstein and others, efforts to promote greater tolerance are now a solid, ongoing and vital aspect of the OSCE's work.

This distinguished Senator from Canada also found time to participate and help lead OSCE PA missions observing elections and referenda in places like Russia, Ukraine, Georgia and Montenegro. By being an international observer, he became a witness to history and, in my view, helped history forward and make the world a more democratic place.

In all his public endeavors, Jerry Grafstein has been a close friend of the United States of America. He has helped over the years to develop the bilateral dialogue between the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament. He has come here to Washington on many occasions, including as a participant in Helsinki Commission events. He has always made clear that he is Canadian and proud of the country he represents, but that has never kept him from developing areas of common interest and seeking points of agreement even on

some issues where our national views may otherwise diverge.

Jerry Grafstein has been and will remain a close personal friend as well, always concerned, always engaging, never pretentious. I wish him and his wife Carole the very best. Although he deserves some time off, I am confident that he will remain prominent in the life of the vibrant city of Toronto.

In noting the many accomplishments of Jeremiah Grafstein and thanking him for his commitment to public service, I respectfully borrow the Canadian Senate's tradition and join his colleagues in saying: "Hear, Hear!" On a personal level, I believe I speak for numerous colleagues of my own in saying that Jerry will be missed, and always welcome to come and visit.●

TRIBUTE TO TOMÁS VILLANUEVA

● Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize a very special advocate, activist, and champion for equal rights in my home State of Washington on his birthday.

Tomás Villanueva has been a farmworkers, warehouse packers, and other economically disadvantaged laborers advocate since the early 1960s. Tomás was one of the first people involved in the United Farmworkers Union in my home State and has fought for years to ensure that workers are treated with dignity, respect, and under the protections of the law.

Tomás' involvement with the human rights movement began in the early 1960s when he was inspired by UFW leader Cesar Chavez. And since that time, Tomás has fought for numerous causes and people while maintaining his reputation as a kind, generous, compassionate and humble leader.

Tomás has also been a close friend and partner of mine for a very long time. He has helped my staff and I recognize the depth of the difficult conditions that farmworkers face, and has been a consistent voice in fighting to improve conditions through the legislative process.

Farmworker housing is a moral issue, an economic issue, and a family issue. Too many workers and their families face very difficult living conditions. Some live in their cars. Others share run-down, overcrowded rooms with other families. These are not the kinds of living conditions we can tolerate in the United States in the 21st century. They are certainly not suitable for the people who help put food on our tables and who keep our State's economy strong. Tomás knows that we can and must do better.

Tomás Villanueva was 14 when his family emigrated from Mexico. After following the crops for three years, the family settled in Toppenish, Washington in 1958. Tomás spent the next several years working various jobs before earning a high school GED and enrolling in Yakima Valley College.

Hearing about Caesar Chavez's United Farm Workers movement,

Tomás travelled to California in 1967 to learn about organizing. Returning to the Yakima Valley, he helped found the United Farm Worker Cooperative, one of the very first Chicano organizations in the State of Washington.

From 1967 to 1974, Tomás devoted himself to farm worker organizing and Chicano movement activism. Out of these efforts came the Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic, the United Farm Workers Service Center, a wave of hop harvest strikes in 1969, 1970, 1971, and a successful grape boycott.

In 1974, Tomás started a construction company with his father and brothers, but in the 1980s he was back in the union movement. In 1986 he became the first president of the newly formed United Farm Workers of Washington State. Today he lives in Toppenish and remains active in State and local politics.

Tomás Villanueva continues to be a valued friend, hard-working partner, and widely-respected leader in his community. I am so pleased to recognize his lifetime of achievements on this special day.●

RECOGNIZING SUTHERLAND WESTON MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, as we approach the holiday season, we are frequently reminded of the generosity and warmth that Americans demonstrate year in and year out at this most festive time. In particular, we often hear stories of employees at local businesses who graciously donate their time and efforts to help the less fortunate. This week I wish to recognize the employees of one such company who consistently work to improve the lot of everyone in their community.

Sutherland Weston Marketing Communications of Bangor is a cutting-edge firm that specializes in a host of marketing topics, including public relations, media, and branding. Specifically, the company helps its customers design memorable flyers and mailers, effective television advertisements, and state-of-the-art Web sites, and teaches them the increased value of employing popular social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, in their marketing decisions. Since its inception in 2005, Sutherland Weston has assisted dozens of clients throughout Maine seeking ways to enhance their image and broaden their customer base. Among them are local small businesses such as Maine Wood Concepts of Guilford and Raye's Mustard Mill of Eastport; organizations like the Bangor Symphony Orchestra; and institutions such as the University of Maine.

Furthermore, members of the Sutherland Weston team participate regularly in conferences and seminars to better educate the public on how to maximize marketing strategies. One such event is the Social Media 101 seminar, held this past March, where the firm's owners—Elizabeth Sutherland