

of diabetes, cancer, and hypertension—common afflictions in urban areas. Still, North General did not become overnight what Kenneth Raske, president of the Greater New York Hospital Association, called a wonderful hospital. It took Eugene's dedication, vision, and compassion to see it through. When told his hospital would fail because there was no money to be made, he worked harder. The hospital became his life's passion. He appealed to banks, businesses, and political leaders for support. And he made good on his promise. North General became a thriving hospital that has never lost touch with its community. It remains the only minority-run hospital in New York State. Located at 121st Street and Madison Avenue, North General Hospital stands as a memorial to Eugene McCabe and his dedication to improving the lives of others.

With his passing much will be said of him. Those who worked with him remember a leader—self-assured and inspiring—who, despite popular motivations and trends, compelled himself and others to make affordable and quality health care a reality for many who might otherwise have gone without it. Those who loved him remember his smile, his helpfulness, and his gracious presence. Eugene McCabe's life was a blessing and we are grateful to have been touched by it.

I ask that the obituary from The New York Times be printed in the RECORD. The obituary follows:

[From the New York Times, Oct. 1, 1998]

EUGENE L. MCCABE, 61, FOUNDER OF HARLEM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

(By Barbara Stewart)

Eugene L. McCabe, a management consultant who founded and was president of North General Hospital, a thriving, minority-operated community hospital in Harlem, died there yesterday. He was 61.

The cause was breast cancer, his family said.

"He was indefatigable in putting it together," said Mario M. Cuomo, who, as Governor, approved many of the grants and loans to build North General. "His strength was his will and his total commitment."

North General, a 200-bed hospital on 121st Street and Madison Avenue, is the only minority-operated hospital in the state. Most of its trustees are black. The hospital specializes in treatment for diabetes, cancer and hypertension, which occur widely among low-income blacks. It recently built 300 units of condominium housing for low- and middle-income residents of Harlem.

"It is a wonderful hospital," said Kenneth Raske, president of the Greater New York Hospital Association. "And Gene did it through sheer dogged persistence and sharp business acumen."

When another specialized hospital moved out of Harlem in the late 1970's, Mr. McCabe, along with Randolph Guggenheimer, a lawyer, developed the idea for North General: a community hospital to serve the impoverished, medically deprived area.

"It became his passion, his life work," said Livingston S. Francis, chairman of the board of North General.

Mr. Cuomo, who described the hospital's creation as "a miracle," said it took all of Mr. McCabe's persuasive powers to talk him and others into approving the necessary

loans. At the time, many small community hospitals, overwhelmed with the unexpected demands of AIDS patients and crack addicts, were being closed. "It didn't make financial sense," Mr. Cuomo said. "But he made a case for that hospital. He was always entreating. He was never offensively pushy, but he was insistent."

As a result of Mr. McCabe's entreaties in Albany, Washington and New York City, the state appropriated \$150 million to build the hospital. From the start, it was rooted in the community. At one early point, the union asked the hospital workers to continue working despite a missed pay period, Mrs. Guggenheimer said. With the help of banks, local businesses and politicians, it pulled through several financial crises.

As president of the new hospital, Mr. McCabe drew on the resources of the staff in unexpected ways, Mr. Francis said. Nurses helped choose color schemes, and engineers installed lighting and laid floors—tasks that would ordinarily be done by outside workers. The process was repeated seven years ago, when North General moved into its current facility, a modern brick building on 121st Street and Madison Avenue, with a bright interior decorated with art selected by staff members.

"The hospital," Mr. Cuomo said, "was his."

Mr. McCabe, who grew up in New Haven, graduated from Southern Connecticut State University.

He is survived by this wife, the former Elsie Crum, who is the president of the Museum for African Art in SoHo; their 1-year-old twins, Eugene and Erin, and a son, Kevin, from a previous marriage. ♦

GOVERNOR RACICOT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

♦ Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, Governor Marc Racicot of my home State of Montana recently wrote an op-ed on community service which appeared in the Washington Times and The Hill newspapers. For the benefit of those who haven't seen it, I ask to have the op-ed inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From The Washington Times, Aug. 31, 1998]

COMMUNITY SERVICE THAT WORKS

(By Marc Racicot)

Governors meet together and routinely stake out areas of broad bipartisan agreement that transcend the partisan struggles that have become synonymous with election-year politics. One issue that enjoys strong support from governors of both parties is national and community service. The support for service is based on a simple conviction that I share with many other governors: that every generation of young people needs to accept responsibility for its country and its community.

As a first-term Republican governor in January, 1993, I asked, and our legislature approved, a proposal to create a Governor's Office of Community Service intended to enhance the ethic of service and elevate the importance of "community," particularly among our young people. Meaningful service, we believed, would nurture productive young citizens committed to the future of our state because they had invested their sweat and labor in that future. Here in Montana, we sought to encourage service as a life-long "habit of the heart."

When the National Community Service Act of 1993 was passed, Montana was in an ideal position to move forward with the opportunity offered through AmeriCorps. The Of-

fice of Community Service's mission and the mission of AmeriCorps was one and the same: to develop opportunities for young people to provide meaningful, direct and demonstrable service to their communities. It was our hope that AmeriCorps would help us to build unique partnerships with public and private agencies by engaging young people in productive and meaningful service to their communities. These partnerships would serve as clear examples of how we could work together in Montana to improve how we, as fellow citizens, respond to pressing needs.

Now in its fourth year, AmeriCorps offers a creative, effective, and non-bureaucratic means of addressing the unmet education, human, public safety and environmental needs of our state—and our country. Indeed, AmeriCorps has become a model of devolution, where real authority and ownership for a federal initiative is delegated to the states. Through governor-appointed bipartisan state commissions, priorities are established and projects are selected to receive AmeriCorps funding.

The results are impressive. Last year alone, our locally-run AmeriCorps programs generated nearly \$1,000 hours of service to Montana communities. Their service directly benefits 50,000 children and families in Montana, and indirectly almost one-third of our state population. Nationally, similar results abound. This year, some 40,000 AmeriCorps members will get things done for more than 1,200 communities across the country.

When AmeriCorps was created, some feared it might replay the worst of the welfare state—an entrenched, expensive, Washington run program. Many feared, even more, that it would undermine traditional volunteers with yet another federal program. I can say from experience that the fears were misplaced. As a governor who tries very hard to be careful with tax dollars, I have witnessed time and again the fruits of this prudent investment in Montana.

Now, after more than five years, we have seen a tremendous rekindling of a sense of public service and civic duty, in many ways, through the programs and opportunities generated through the National Community Service Act. I am convinced national and community service promotes core values—hard work, self-discipline, civic duty, personal responsibility, the cherishing of human life—that we too often sadly find lacking. If the era of big government is finally over, certainly the era of big citizenship must begin.

I have joined twelve of my fellow governors in urging not only continued federal funding of AmeriCorps, but also reauthorization of the Act, increasing the partnership with states and the authority of directing these programs at the state level. We join with our peers from the New England Governors' Conference in urging Congress to support reauthorizing the National Community Service Amendments Act, in order to improve the laws' current language. As their resolution notes, we support the bill's "devolution provisions that add authority and flexibility to states . . . [to] provide Governor-appointed state commissions more control over program selection."

Community service is a vital element in the chemistry of our existence as a society, renewing our sense of community and civic initiative. It is the glue that bonds free peoples together. We in Montana have seen how vitally important this is, recently having completed our state Governors' Summit on Youth, and witnessing the real necessity of promoting opportunities for young people to give back to others. Through community service they learn what it's like to belong to

something good and solid and decent. AmeriCorps helps provide that opportunity and truly puts the states in the driver's seat, which translates into meaningful ownership, and impact, at the state and local level.●

ONE GUN A MONTH FORUM

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on September 2, I convened a forum on gun trafficking. Across America, it is simply too easy for criminals, particularly gangs, to purchase and distribute large numbers of guns. And more guns in the wrong hands means more murder and mayhem on our streets.

Because we must move more aggressively to stop this deadly crime, I introduced S. 466, the Anti-Gun Trafficking Act. The testimony I heard at the forum has made me even more determined to pass this sensible legislation and help stop gun traffickers.

In order to share the insights of the witnesses at the forum with my colleagues and the public, I am submitting the testimony presented for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Previously, I submitted the testimony of Mayor Edward Rendell, James and Sarah Brady from the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence and Handgun Control, and John Schuler, Kenisha Green and Quanita Favorite, three young people from the D.C. area.

Today, I would like to submit a statement from Captain R. Lewis Vass, Commander of the Criminal Justice Information Services Division of the Virginia Department of State Police. His testimony bears witness to the success of Virginia's one-gun-in-thirty-day law which was enacted in 1993. Since 1993, the number of crime guns traced back to Virginia from the Northeast dropped by nearly 40 percent. Prior to one-gun-a-month, Virginia had been among the leading suppliers of weapons to the so-called "Iron Pipeline" that fed the arms race on the streets of Northeastern cities.

Mr. President, I ask that the testimony of Captain R. Lewis Vass be printed in the RECORD.

The testimony follows:

TESTIMONY OF CAPTAIN R. LEWIS VASS,
SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

Senator Lautenberg, I am Captain Lewis Vass, Commander of the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division of the Virginia Department of State Police. I have been a sworn police officer with the Virginia State Police for the past 32 years. Since the enactment and implementation of Virginia's instant check firearms purchase approval program in 1989, I have been responsible for the administration and operation of the Firearms Transaction Center. One of the functions of the center is the tracking of multiple handgun sales and issuance of multiple handgun purchase certificates approving or denying the application to purchase more than one handgun within a thirty-day period.

I appear here today to speak with regard to Virginia's one-gun-in-thirty-day law and the impact the law has had on gun trafficking in Virginia.

Prior to the enactment of Virginia's one handgun in thirty day law, Virginia was described as one of the major source states for

illegal handguns being seized on the east coast. Information provided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms regarding firearms seized from March to August of 1991 ranked Virginia as follows: New York Project Lead—(108 Firearms), Ranked Number One; District of Columbia Project Lead—(244 Firearms), Ranked Number One; Boston Project Lead—(14 Firearms) Ranked Number Three; Total Firearms—366 Firearms.

In 1989, the Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation which created Virginia's instant background system to address the flow of firearms going to prohibited persons. This system, even though it prevents prohibited persons from purchasing firearms from federally licensed firearms dealers, does not eliminate the flow of Virginia handguns being seized in other states. The Virginia General Assembly studied this issue and amended the law to reduce the flow of Virginia handguns to other states. The law was revised in 1993, to limit the number of handguns to one that a person could purchase during any thirty day period. The law went into effect on July 1, 1993, to address the growing problem of handguns being purchased from Virginia's firearms dealers and being seized by law enforcement authorities in other states namely New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. Another issue that was addressed by enactment of this legislation was the influx of narcotics into Virginia as payment for the firearms being sold in other states. Even when cash was used to purchase the firearms from the trafficker, the trafficker in turn purchased narcotics for sale on Virginia's streets.

An example of illegal gun trafficking from Virginia to states in the north eastern corridor involved a gun shop located directly across the street from the Virginia State Police headquarters. This was a mom-and-pop gun shop favored by gun runners because of the ease in which firearms could be obtained. During an investigation into illegal gun trafficking, it was found that gun purchasers from New York would come to Virginia and solicit the help of either street people or college students possessing a valid Virginia drivers license to purchase firearms for them for a small fee. These "straw purchasers" would go into the gun shop and purchase a box of guns, a box contains ten handguns. The firearms would be turned over to the gun trafficker in the parking lot of the store. Videos captured by ATF agents during the investigation revealed that these types of illegal transactions were conducted numerous times a day almost every day of the week that the store was open.

During February 1992, the owner of the gunshop cut to five the maximum number of firearms transferred per purchase to five at the conclusion of a case in which a trafficking group moved 240 firearms from Virginia to New York, 85 percent or approximately 204 of them from this gun shop.

The investigation concluded with the arrest of the store owners and closing of the firearms outlet.

A Project Lead report released by ATF in 1992 reporting the results of firearms traced to New York from January 1, 1992 through June 16, 1992 revealed that for 501 of 805 firearms traces received the leading source states were as follows: 1. Virginia—108 firearms, 20%; 2. Florida—92 firearms, 18%; 3. Texas—39 firearms, 8%; 4. Connecticut—37 firearms, 7%; 5. Ohio—34 firearms, 7%.

A 1997 trace report released by ATF shows that the percentage of firearms from Virginia seized in New York has dropped to 12.5 percent as compared to 20 percent in 1992. While Virginia remains the leading source state for firearms seized in Washington, D.C.,

the percentage of firearms recovered in D.C. has dropped from 35.1 percent in 1991 to 26.8 percent in 1997. Additionally, Virginia has dropped from the number two source state in 1990 to number eight in 1997 for guns seized in Boston.

The law was designed to stop the flow of handguns being purchased for illegal purposes and transported out of state, but not to impede the law-abiding citizens from purchasing more than one handgun in thirty days. The statute was designed with provisions for the purchase of multiple handguns for collections by collectors, business use, personal use and estate sales. An individual desiring to purchase more than one handgun in thirty days is required to complete a multiple handgun purchase application. The application is submitted to the State Police and processed by the Firearms Transaction Center (FTC). The FTC conducts an enhanced background check on the applicant. If the applicant is approved, he/she is issued a multiple handgun purchase certificate which permits him to purchase the number and type of handguns requested in the application. The FTC has issued 2,245 multiple handgun purchase certificates from July 1, 1993 to July 30, 1998 while denying 164 applications because the applicant did not meet the multiple purchase requirements or had already exceeded the limit for the thirty-day period.

The one handgun in thirty days was studied by the Virginia Crime Commission in 1995; copy attached. The results of that study concluded that most gun control policies currently being advocated in the United States (e.g., licensing, registration, and one-gun-a-month) could, most fairly, be described as efforts to limit the supply of guns available in the illegal market. In other words, these are policies crafted to keep guns from prescribed individuals. Once enacted; however, it is important to demonstrate that they are effective. This study, which is attached, looks at the impact of Virginia's one-gun-a-month law, provides persuasive evidence that a prohibition on the acquisition of more than one handgun per month by an individual is an effective means of disrupting the illegal interstate transfer of firearms.

As a follow-up to this previous study, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms provided this Department with information on firearms seized on the east coast regarding Virginia firearms. The information revealed that of the firearms seized in 1997, 184 originated from Virginia. Of that number, 87 of these firearms were obtained after the law was enacted in July 1993. This demonstrates a significant reduction from 366 firearms for six months in 1991 to 87 firearms in 12 months of 1997.

We believe that Virginia's one handgun in thirty day law has had its intended effect of reducing Virginia's status as a source state for gun trafficking. At the same time, the law does not appear to create an onerous burden for the law-abiding gun purchaser who apply for and are granted multiple handgun purchase certificates. Even though there is not conclusive evidence that the one-gun-in-thirty-days reduced the number of violent criminal offenses occurring with firearms, the number of Murders, Robberies and Aggravated Assaults occurring with the use of a firearm has significantly dropped since 1993 the year the one-gun-in-thirty-days was enacted.●

DOUGLAS FONTAINE

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am very pleased to learn that the Mississippi Hotel and Motel Association