

TRIBUTE TO HERSCHEL CREASMAN

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Herschel Creasman, who after more than four decades of dedicated service to spreading the gospel to various organizations and in performing community services retired on Sunday, January 18, 1998. He is an outstanding example to his family and friends, and has been an asset to the many communities that he has touched over the years including Coral Springs, Florida, where he currently resides; Athens, Tennessee where he was born; and numerous others across the South and abroad.

Herschel chose to follow in his father's footsteps by becoming a minister. He first graduated from Carson Newman College and then went on to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, which marked the onset of more than 45 years of faithful leadership in Texas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Florida and even five years in Brazil. Herschel has preached in more than 20 countries and has served as an instructor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He fostered an environment within his churches that welcomed many new faces, from differing religions and communities, who come to hear his wonderfully inspiring sermons.

Many would think that with this busy schedule and his devotion to his wife Joanne, their two daughters and one son, and four grandchildren, Herschel would not have time for much more, but this is definitely not the case with this extraordinary individual. Over the years he has received several honorary doctorates, including a Doctorate of Theology and Doctorate of Philosophy from the Great Commission Seminary in Kentucky and a Doctorate of Divinity from Freedom Seminary in Jacksonville, Florida. He has also represented his community by serving on the Ethics Board and Community Relations Committee for the Coral Springs Medical Center and on the District Review Board for the North Broward Hospital District.

As many people who know him well are aware, he is an avid golfer, and as he enters this next stage in his life, I wish him the best of luck on the greens, which I'm sure he'll finally have the time to truly enjoy and perhaps master!

Mr. President, I would like to honor and commend Herschel Creasman for his outstanding and innumerable contributions over the years to the many communities and churches that he has dedicated his life to inspiring and improving, and ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and congratulating Herschel Creasman on his retirement.●

PHOEBE PUTNEY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I would like to commend Phoebe Putney

Memorial Hospital in Albany, Ga., for being named one of five national 1998 American Hospital Association (AHA) NOVA Award winners. The award recognizes innovative AHA member hospitals for their outstanding progress toward restructuring the health care system with a focus on community health.

Phoebe Putney, the largest hospital in southwest Georgia, is being honored for its Network of Trust program for pregnant and parenting teens. The program was established in 1994 through a community collaborative, in partnership with Phoebe and the school system, to address the teen pregnancy problem in Albany/Dougherty County. The goals of the program are to (1) promote healthy mothers and babies; (2) decrease child neglect and teen drug abuse; (3) increase self-esteem and; (4) prevent school dropouts.

In 1994, the rate of birth to teens in the U.S. was 59 per 1,000; the rate in Georgia was 72 per 1,000; and in Albany/Dougherty County, the rate was 91 per 1,000. More than 400 babies were born to teenagers at Phoebe in 1994, with 18 percent of those babies requiring treatment in the high risk nursery and 25 percent of the mothers delivering for the second or third time.

Network of Trust is based on the concept of teens as peer counselors. The program is implemented in the school system in three phases. Phase I involves early identification to offer prenatal care and education on-site at the school. This is designed to reduce school dropout rates, build self esteem, promote parenting skills, reduce fears related to childbirth and teach anger management.

Phase II targets teen mothers after delivery to discourage repeat pregnancies. Mothers are encouraged to maintain competitive grades and are provided training to alleviate parental frustrations that often lead to child abuse. Phase II teen mothers also act as mentors to Phase I pregnant teens.

Phase III offers a summer internship at Phoebe Putney Memorial for selected Phase II participants to enhance self-esteem and decision-making skills. Interns are matched with hospital staff mentors and the participants are encouraged to pursue future education, with an educational stipend given to each teen that successfully completes Phase III.

Network of Trust also includes a component for teen fathers with weekly classes taught by instructors with special training and school counselors. Students utilize infant simulator dolls that are computerized to record the type of treatment they receive from their "parents."

The program's immense success can be measured in many ways. Participation has increased steadily each year, with 38 students participating in the 1994-95 school year, 241 in the 1995-96 school year, and approximately 273 students in the 1996-97 school year.

The program has also greatly reduced the number of repeat pregnancies. In

1994, 22 percent of births to teens in the U.S. were repeat pregnancies. Of the 38 participants in the Network of Trust in 1994, there were only two repeat pregnancies, or 5 percent. In 1995-96, only 3 percent of participants had repeat pregnancies. And in 1996-97, there were only 1.5 percent repeat pregnancies.

The high school dropout rate decreased significantly. In 1994, the dropout rate for Dougherty County was 45 percent. In 1995-96, only 8 percent of the participants dropped out of school and, in 1996-97, just 1.4 percent.

Also, for the first time in the 90s, the number of low birth weight babies born in Dougherty County dropped. The economic impact of the students who graduated from high school produces an additional \$830,000 in anticipated income for those students as workers.

Phoebe will receive the AHA NOVA Award on Monday, Feb. 2, in Washington as part of the AHA's Annual Membership Meeting. I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital on this important achievement in improving Georgia's community health.●

TRIBUTE TO MORT SILBERMAN

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a very, dear friend of mine, Mort Silberman. He has recently been elected into the National Academies of Practitioners as a Distinguished Practitioner for his contributions to the cattle industry and laboratory animal medicine. It is one of the greatest professional honors, and I am delighted that he was awarded in such a way.

Mort's achievements are endless. In the academic field, Mort currently serves as an adjunct professor at several universities including the University of Georgia and Auburn University. He is the assistant director and the university veterinarian of the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center at Emory University. He is also consulting veterinarian at the New York Zoological Park, and the White Oak Plantation in Yulee, Florida.

For over 20 years, Mort has hosted a variety of seminars, lectures and workshops. He is the author of numerous published medical writings. In addition, he has been directly involved with the design and construction of many animal facilities in Georgia and elsewhere in the country—from the animal facilities of the Atlanta Humane Society to the clinical space and animal holding areas at Georgia's Stone Mountain Park.

Mort Silberman is not only a leader in the veterinary field, but also an active community member and dedicated husband and father. Mr. President, I ask that you and all of my colleagues join in paying tribute to my dear friend, Mort Silberman, for his recent honor.●