

It is important to note, however, that Frostburg State University occupies a unique educational niche as the only four-year institution west of the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area. Therefore, it serves as the intellectual and cultural center for this western-most region of my State, and for nearby communities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Although the student body includes students from various states and foreign countries, it continues to draw primarily from the immediate area, and provides important employment opportunities for the residents of the region. Furthermore, Frostburg State enjoys a partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) from whom they receive federal funds for various projects that enrich the school's resources and provide further economic development to the area.

It has always been my firm belief that a democracy cannot prosper and grow without an educated populace. As the world becomes increasingly complex and technically challenging, the quality education of the individual is one of the most important tasks in our society. From its inception, Frostburg State University has prioritized education; maintaining a commitment to providing community and educational services to the entire region while, at the same time, succeeding in providing a nationally acclaimed education to its own university community.

As we celebrate this important milestone, I would like to commend the greater Frostburg State University family for upholding the traditions of community cooperation and commitment to excellence that serve to exemplify the very best that Maryland has to offer.●

SCHOOR DEPALMA

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Schoor DePalma Engineers and Design Professional Firm as it completes its thirtieth year in business, and to recognize its contributions to the State of New Jersey. This engineer and design professional firm has contributed to some of the state's largest engineering and design projects.

Schoor DePalma is one of the most widely recognized civil engineering firms in the State of New Jersey. The company's ingenuity brings forth a superior level of accountability, concern, and quality of work.

Schoor DePalma's commitment is easily also recognized through its selfless involvement with the community through entities, such as the Board of Professional Planners and the Board of Professional Engineers of the State of New Jersey and its participation in highly regarded academic programs such as the Board of Overseers for the New Jersey Institute of Technology, a variety of college foundations throughout New Jersey, and the awarding of scholarships to students in the engineering field.

One of Schoor DePalma's most recent and profitable contributions to the State of New Jersey was to enhance the economically distressed community of East Orange. Schoor DePalma was hired to conduct a comprehensive business analysis of the six main business districts of East Orange by looking at crime statistics, the labor force, the mix of businesses, infrastructure, and streetscaping needs. Schoor DePalma's innovative blue print for economic growth proved to be successful when some local establishments saw a remarkable 50 percent increase in business.

I am proud to recognize Schoor DePalma as a model corporate neighbor and I look forward to another 30 years of excellence from them.●

TRIBUTE TO FLORENCE KIRKNER

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to pay homage to Ms. Florence Kirkner. Today, we focus on Ms. Kirkner's 50 years of volunteering with the National Ski Patrol. The National Ski Patrol was formed 60 years ago as a volunteer organization that has been granted a Congressional Charter as a charity similar to the Boys and Girls Scouts. This organization formed an army division that could fight in winter weather conditions during World War II. Additionally, Senator Bob Dole was affiliated with this division which is known as the Tenth Mountain Division. This division was the only civilian run division in the Army's history. Today, the Tenth Mountain division is stationed at Fort Drum, New York.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Ms. Kirkner's participation in many other community activities such as the American Red Cross, the Girl Scouts and the YMCA.

After reviewing Ms. Kirkner's outstanding achievements, I decided an acknowledgment of her awards should be presented. Ms. Kirkner received a Citizen of the Week Award in 1996 and in 1997 she received the Citizen of the Year Award. Previously, because of Ms. Kirkner's excellent community service, she received the Merit Award in 1985 and the Volunteer of the year award in 1986. Ms. Kirkner was twice nominated for the Clara Barton Award in 1988 and again in 1990. Additionally in 1988, the Volunteer of the Year Award was acclaimed to Ms. Kirkner. Furthermore, after serving over 15,000 hours of community service, Ms. Kirkner was presented with the Service Award in addition to the 50 Year Service Award.

Ms. Kirkner has also received awards for the National Appointment #84, the Outstanding Service Award for the North Bay Region, the Patroller of the Year Award for the Western New York Region, 2 Yellow Merit Stars, the Purple Merit Star, the Avalanche Patch #82, the Eastern Division Certificate of Appreciation, the Red Cross Certificate of Merit, the Certificate of Appreciation for the Western New York Region, the Ambassador of the Slopes Award

for the Western New York Region, the Mike Reid Outstanding Instructor Award for the Western New York Region, the Canadian Ski Patrol Special Award and the Green Angel Award from the Girl Scouts.

I would also like to acknowledge Ms. Kirkner for holding numerous offices in her lifetime. She has held offices such as Co-Patrol Leader for Donner Ski Ranch; Regional Training Officer for Western New York; Regional First Aid Chairman in North Bay, California; Avalanche Instructor for National #224; ARC First Aid Instructor and Trainer; ARC CPR Instructor and Trainer; ARC Water Safety Instructor and Trainer; ARC Small Craft Safety Instructor and Shift Leader at Kissing Bridge Ski Patrol.

In addition Ms. Kirkner has managed to conduct training courses and workshops such as the Avalanche Patch Course in Slide Mt., Nevada; Sled Handling Seminars in Squaw Valley, California; the Mountain Rescue Course at the Sugar Bowl; Mountaineering at Circle M; Divisional Jr. Training Seminars for 11 years and National Jr. Training Seminars for 4 years. Moreover, Ms. Kirkner led Fall Forums workshops too numerous to count from New York City to Sacramento, from Portland, to Maine and has been an instructor every year of Patrol CPR since the beginning of Ski Patrol, CPR.

Ms. Kirkner is truly one of those unique individuals who has given a lifetime of community service. Her contributions to society will always be recognized as encouragement and hope to American citizens everywhere, and reminds us that the phrase "it is better to give than to receive" still rings to be true.●

VIETNAM VETERANS IN HYANNIS, MASSACHUSETTS

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to commend the extraordinary achievements of a group of Vietnam Veterans in Hyannis, Massachusetts. Five Vietnam Veterans from Cape Cod, Michael Trainor, Ray Pacheco, Woody Hoffman, Craig Morrison and Michael Williams, created the Nam Vets Association in 1983. Their mission, to provide human services to and improve the public image of Vietnam Veterans, has been courageously carried on, to this day, by John Eastman, Charlie Brown, John Ahern, Hank Tucker, Bill SilverRyder, and Randy Ritter. On Vietnam Veterans' Day, March 29, 1998, this group of dedicated men celebrated fifteen years of work on behalf of their fellow veterans. No organization provides more services to the veterans of Cape Cod and the Islands than the Nam Vets Association. It provides counseling services, housing assistance, a food pantry, employment programs, VA benefit information and, perhaps most important of all, a place where veterans and their families feel welcome. I know I did.

Mr. President, at the recent Vietnam Veterans of America Convention in

Kansas City, Missouri, the Nam Vets Association was selected from 700 chapters nationwide to be honored as the 1997 Community Service Chapter of the Year. This group has made a tremendous impact on the lives of many people in its community. The scholarships, youth activities, volunteer service to community events, and housing programs it provides, and the 55,000 meals it serves annually from its food pantry, give this organization great reason to be very, very proud. On its Fifteenth Anniversary, I am proud to offer my brother Vietnam Veterans in Hyannis my sincere congratulations, my heartfelt gratitude, my best wishes for further triumphs, and my promise of continuing support for their tremendous work. ●

TRIBUTE TO HURVIE E. DAVIS

● Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Hurvie E. Davis. It is an honor and a privilege for me to recognize his many outstanding achievements and to commend him for the superb service he has provided our nation and the state of Arizona.

Upon his retirement on May 29, 1998, he will have served 42 years in both federal and municipal government. Hurvie's expertise lies primarily in the transportation field, having served the federal Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., and regionally in San Diego, Portland, Oregon, and most recently in Tucson. Hurvie was the Director of Transportation for the City of Tucson for 15 years before going into the private sector as a transportation consultant.

In 1992, Hurvie became the Town Manager for the Town of Marana. As Manager, Hurvie has accomplished many difficult tasks, and in doing so, has brought Marana positive recognition throughout the Southern Arizona region of municipal governments. His leadership and commitment to excellence has put Marana in a strong financial position to encourage residential and business development.

Mr. President, Hurvie Davis has made many sacrifices during his 42 years of public service, and has contributed significantly to the many people he has worked with. I commend him on behalf of the United States Senate and wish him the very best as he begins another journey in retirement. ●

TRIBUTE TO LEO LAKIN, GREEN THUMB CENTENARIAN FROM GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, at more than two centuries and counting, America is a nation ever maturing with greater wisdom, experience, morality and humanity. For this we can thank many of our most senior citizens who continue to set proud examples of daily life, and who remind us of our rich and proud heritage as a nation of caring individuals. Leo Lakin of Gard-

ner, Massachusetts—who will turn 100 years old on May 26th—is one such American.

Millions of our friends and neighbors distinguish themselves every day as parents, small business owners, educators, and in every other personal dimension and chosen profession of American life. There are those, however, who stand out as role models for their families and their communities. Leo wears these titles effortlessly and modestly, which is one reason why our Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman, our Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, and Green Thumb, Inc. honored Leo as "an outstanding older worker" at the first Prime Time Awards Dinner on March 12, 1998 in Washington, DC.

Praise of Leo has been both modest and inspirational. In her nominating letter to Green Thumb, Inc., Marcia Hopper of Gardner's downtown association wrote that "Mr. Lakin's work ethic of kindness, compassion, generosity, and thoughtfulness to customers has brought him a loyal following based on both business and friendship. Many of his current customers are fourth generation." Pete Trudel, another long-time business owner in Gardner, said of Leo, "He's intelligent and knowledgeable. He has always kept up with the latest business trends. He's personable and loves people. He always remains calm. He's just a lovely, lovely man."

Leo Lakin was born in Boston on May 26, 1898. The Lakin family moved to Southbridge, Massachusetts when Leo was a small child. Leo became bilingual as he grew up, as the French American community in Southbridge was large, and speaking French served Leo and his family well. His father, Phillip, was able to develop deep roots into the community. Philip Lakin became known for more than owning a dry goods store. He was always helping some less fortunate person with food, clothing or a place to stay. That strong sense of community became part of Leo's life, just as a strong sense of family had been instilled in Leo from a very early age.

Leo and his 4 brothers—Celec, Louis, Eddy and Bob—were extremely close to each other. Phillip had been a widower with 5 children when he married a young widow, Annie, who had a daughter, Sarah. Leo idolized his parents. When he was about 11 years of age, he overheard his parents speaking in Yiddish, expressing the hope that some day after their passing one of their sons would be sufficiently well versed in Jewish tradition to be able to say the Mourner's Kaddish to honor and respect their memories. Overhearing this conversation had an enormous impact on Leo's life. He promised himself that he would honor his parents in this way, and the study of Hebrew and Jewish tradition was a vital aspect of Leo's youth. He has spent many, many years helping to conduct synagogue services and enjoying the richness of Jewish studies.

Leo left high school after his freshman year and went to work for the American Optical Company, one of the largest lens manufacturers in the world at that time. His career there began as so many do in America, with a summer job. Leo stayed for several years but eventually he longed for the freedom he could experience as an entrepreneur. In 1922 he and his brother Eddy opened Lakin's Brothers, a men's store located in Gardner's Webster Square. In 1933, relatives in Fall River introduced him to Ida Golis, a personal shopper at the Outlet Company in Providence, Rhode Island. They married on June 2, 1935. To this day, Leo says, "She's the best thing that has ever happened to me."

In 1935, children's specialty stores were en vogue. Gardner was a virtual boom town known as "The Chair City of the World." Heywood Wakefield, Gem Crib and Cradle, Nichols and Stone, Florence Stove, and Simplex Time Recorder called Gardner home. Two weeks after their marriage, Leo and Ida opened Lakin's Children's Shop. And just like Leo's dad had done, they observed an important ethic of treating their customers with the respect and kindness, never pressured a purchase, and made everyone feel welcome.

For the next 51 years, Leo and Ida survived every challenge from the Great Depression to the rise of shopping malls and the demise of many small downtowns. Only Ida's death in June of 1986 ended that partnership on this earth. Leo continued to run the store, and his customers remained loyal and supportive. The store has remained the cornerstone of Leo's vitality, and a force that will not be beaten. In March of 1993, Leo broke his arm at work and recovered. In February of 1994, he contracted pneumonia and recovered. That July, he broke his hip at work, had a replacement at the age of 96, made a complete recovery, and returned to work 6 days a week.

During the 6 months of Leo's recuperation from hip surgery, his daughter Phyllis ran the store for him knowing that Leo needed the promise of returning to work in order to recover. She worked full time at Harvard Medical School, but with the help of close friends Jean Johnson, Beverly Black, and Claudette Jackowski, Phyllis kept the spirit of Lakin's alive in mind, body and soul as Leo had always done: with their customers in mind. Phyllis has since decided that the family legacy of her father and grandfather will go on, and that eventually she will carry on the tradition her parents began in 1935. "As long as I'm alive, Lakin's is alive!" she says.

Leo broke his leg on Nov 3, 1997, which was why he could not attend the Prime Time awards in the Capital this March. Leo has been a tireless and courageous patient, continually amazes old and new friends alike, touches all with his faith, optimism, and kindness, and plans to return to the work and people he loves so much.