

Frank Sinatra rose from humble, blue-collar roots to superstardom by virtue of a God-given gift: his voice. Through hard work and determination he perfected his talent and sang his way to the top of the entertainment industry. His music dominated the charts from the 1930's through the 1960's. By the 1970's he was an American institution, surviving Elvis, the Beatles, and the rock and roll revolution. Frank Sinatra has performed for audiences around the world. He has influenced virtually everyone who is, or ever wanted to be, a singer. As Harry Connick, Jr., once said, "Frank taught everybody how to sing." A universal entertainer from the old school, he could sing with the likes of Bing Crosby, dance with the likes of Gene Kelly, and act with the likes of Burt Lancaster. From 1941 to 1984 he appeared in 59 motion pictures. In 1953, he won an Oscar for his performance in "From Here To Eternity."

But Frank Sinatra has given more to America than his records and movies. In 1945, he won a special award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for a short film called "The House I Live In," in which he stressed religious tolerance and racial equality. He had much to do with the desegregation of the entertainment industry by promoting African-American artists, most notably his friend, the late Sammy Davis, Jr.

During World War II he could not serve because of a punctured ear drum, but he performed for troops overseas and assisted the war effort by selling war bonds. As a young man, he involved himself in politics by supporting President Roosevelt in 1932. He campaigned for Democrats throughout the 1950's. In 1960, President Kennedy asked him to direct his inaugural gala. In the 1970's he supported Republicans and again hosted inaugural galas for President Reagan in 1980 and 1984. In sum, Frank Sinatra should enjoy bipartisan support from this body.

Frank Sinatra also deserves to be recognized for his work on behalf of charitable causes. He has given millions of dollars to charities and humanitarian causes publicly and anonymously. His donations have built children's hospitals, orphanages, and facilities for the mentally handicapped. In 1985 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor our Nation bestows. In making the presentation, President Reagan praised him for his generosity toward the less fortunate.

Frank Sinatra is an American institution who has had an undeniable impact on the 20th century. He is part of American culture, one of the great voices of our time. There is probably a Sinatra fan on every block in every town in America, including this one on my block. Sinatra songs have provided the backdrop of our lives for the past 50 years. For most of us, a Sinatra song has the ability to conjure up memories of certain moments of our lives. So

many of us can recall where we were when we first heard our favorite Sinatra song.

Now as he reaches the age of 80, the voice has become the elder statesman of entertainment, a comforting presence, and a source of inspiration for younger performers. He is a remarkable and distinguished American, and his art will be with us for decades to come. He did it his way, and we loved it that way. I am as great a fan of his work as anyone, and I am sure I speak for many people in Connecticut, across the country, and around the world when I wish Old Blue Eyes a very happy 80th birthday and hope there will be many more to come.●

#### JOHN TURNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LIFE INSURANCE

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, on Tuesday, November 14, 1995, Mr. John Turner, chairman and CEO of ReliaStar Financial Corp., a financial services holding company in Minneapolis, MN, became the new chairman of the board of directors of the American Council of Life Insurance [ACLI].

The ACLI represents over 600 companies that write 92 percent of the life insurance and 95 percent of the pension business in the United States. As chairman, Mr. Turner will guide the ACLI as it works with Federal and State legislators, regulators and agencies to ensure the laws and regulations we enact serve the best interest of our Nation's business and individual policyholders and consumers, as well as insurance companies.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate John on this high honor and also to recognize the many years of community service he and his wife Leslie have played in the Twin Cities. From Leslie's involvement with the Girl Scouts of America and her service on the city council of Edina, MN to John's work on issues dealing with youth and education, they have made a positive difference in Minnesota.

Professionally, Mr. Turner has been an active member of the ACLI's board of directors for 3 years, and in that capacity, he has given tremendous service to an industry that, in turn, serves this Nation so well.

Life insurance companies provide a necessary service by helping to deliver financial security and peace of mind to millions of American families and individuals. Insurance industry products allow people to keep their homes and businesses, enable children to continue their education, and help support aging parents. The industry's retirement products provide the means by which this Nation's present and future retirees can achieve their financial independence and help fulfill their financial dreams.

Mr. President, this Congress is in the process of returning power and responsibility to States, localities and, most importantly, to individuals. This un-

precedented shift in power from Washington to the rest of America was summed up by John Turner in his inaugural speech as Chairman of the ACLI when he said: "Neither Washington nor corporate America will much longer assume the financial burden of underwriting people's retirement security; that responsibility is being transferred to individuals."

As this process continues, a broad range of issues from financial services modernization to tax reform to retirement income security will take center stage. From my seat on the Senate Banking Committee, I look forward to working closely with John on these and many other important issues.

As it provides for fully one-third of this Nation's long-term savings, the life insurance industry is the foundation of financial security for millions of Americans and for our country. I am pleased to see that John Turner will be leading this effort from his new position as chairman of the ACLI.

Again, Mr. President, I would like to congratulate John Turner and the ACLI. I am confident that he will bring to his new post the same dedication, honesty, and integrity he has demonstrated to ReliaStar Financial Corp. and the people of Minnesota. I wish John all the best and look forward to working with him the year ahead.●

#### CONGRATULATING DAN MORTENSEN ON WINNING THE WORLD TITLE IN SADDLE BRONC RIDING

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a young man from my State of Montana. This young man, just last week, won his third consecutive world title in saddle bronc riding at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, NV. Dan Mortensen, I tip my Stetson to you and your dedication.

Dan Mortensen will be 27 years old in 3 days and has accomplished a rare feat in his speciality event saddle bronc riding. He is a classic bronc rider, as is apparent by his three consecutive world titles. Saddle bronc riding is considered the classic event in the sport of rodeo. If you have never had the opportunity, I would suggest that you all take the time to see this event. A good saddle bronc ride is like watching a ballet to a cowboy, as it is a fluid movement between man and beast. In this event, the contestant must stay on a bucking horse for 8 seconds using only the timing of their movement and a bronc rein to keep them in the saddle. The classic style of Dan shows the grace and beauty involved in the sport of rodeo.

The honors that Dan has to his credit are numerous and speak volumes about his dedication to the true American sport of rodeo. Dan won the regular season title for the Montana High School Rodeo Association in saddle bronc riding. In 1990 Dan was awarded the title of Saddle Bronc Rookie of the Year. Four years later, Dan won his first world title in his speciality event.