

of introducing the Safer Schools Act, along with Senators FEINSTEIN, CLELAND, COVERDELL, JOHNSON, and LANDRIEU, to send a clear message to school officials, parents, and students that guns seized from students on school premises can and will be used as evidence in a school disciplinary hearing. I hope the Congress will act on my bill soon so that the confusing messages the courts have been sending on this issue are cleared up.

We all have a role in ensuring that our children are given the ethical tools they need to make difficult choices in today's world. Quite simply, that is what the Character Counts effort is all about.

Before closing, I want to take a few minutes to highlight the Character Counts efforts that have been occurring in North Dakota. Less than two years ago, Character Counts in North Dakota was borne out of a meeting I hosted to bring together parents, educators, young people, and other concerned citizens to introduce them to what the Character Counts program is all about. In the last year, under the vigorous and capable leadership of 4-H youth leader Geri Bosch, Character Counts has blossomed. More than 800 people in North Dakota have participated in Character Counts training so that they could take this program, or a variation of it, back to their communities. Several communities in North Dakota are considering adopting a comprehensive Character Counts program. Service clubs are adopting Character Counts among their projects, and Character Counts was even used as the platform for one of our state's Miss North Dakota candidates last year. Most importantly, the lives of thousands of young people in North Dakota have been influenced for the better directly and indirectly.

I have been proud to play some small role in supporting Character Counts in North Dakota and our nation. It is through these kinds of efforts that we can build a better future for our kids, and I pledge my continued help and support for teaching the pillars of good character.●

THE LIFE OF STANLEY O. McNAUGHTON

● Mr. GORTON. "People need a vision greater than themselves. Without a vision, there is no goal. This vision has to be larger than yourself. It has to dignify you. Then, goals become the navigational stars to guide you in the vision."—Stanley O. McNaughton.

These are the words Stanley O. McNaughton lived by until his sudden death on January 19th.

Stan McNaughton was a man who rose from modest beginnings in a small British Columbia town, who would later become the CEO of PEMCO Financial Services and who would leave behind one of the greatest legacies of goodwill Washington state will ever see.

I could spend an evening recounting Stan's business successes. I could spend even greater time speaking of Stan's dedication to community service, his exceptional character, integrity and the countless personal accolades. Yet the two worlds are intertwined. The man who was once named Seattle-King County First Citizen and Seattle University alumnus of the year relied on the same values to achieve personal and professional success and improve the lives of others.

As Stan used to say, "Our security lies in our values. And from values flow principles."

Stan placed profound importance on family, philanthropy, and leadership.

Stan donated money to causes involving children and education, and often said: "A corporation is the greatest vehicle ever created to do good. Corporations have a responsibility to raise the quality of life in the communities where they do business."

I know I can speak for all of us by saying: Stan McNaughton succeeded in leaving his community a better place.

Tomorrow in Olympia, the extraordinary life of Stan McNaughton will be honored with a Medal of Merit, one of the highest awards that the State of Washington can bestow upon a citizen. To quote from the resolution: "Stanley O. McNaughton exemplified the best characteristics of an employer and community leader by his constant concern and activities for those employed by him and others in the community."

Stan had the amazing ability to see the potential in everyone, inspiring his employees, friends and family to be the best they could possibly be. There are countless "Stan stories": the woman who remembered the time Stan sent her child a birthday card; the man who lost his wallet and Stan offered to reimburse the money; the donations to charities, particularly those that benefited people disadvantaged through no fault of their own; and his special efforts to know every name of the more than 1,000 PEMCO employees.

Of course, there is the definitive "Stan story" of the great lengths he went to for one of his employees, Mark Roberts who had broken his neck and become paralyzed from the neck down. Stan could have sent a card or even a bouquet of flowers, but in true Stan McNaughton fashion, Stan went the extra mile. He assured Mark he would still have a career at PEMCO and went about changing the dynamics of Mark's job. By computerizing much of the workload, Stan made it possible for Mark to succeed and recover from what would have ordinarily been a career ending accident. Stan even went so far as to buy Mark a specialized van, for his professional and personal use.

Stan McNaughton touched the lives of so many different people. His personal philosophy of seeing life as a batting average: "You must give people enough chances at bat" represents the spirit of this great leader and sets an example for all of us to follow.

My heart goes out to his wife Clare of 55 years, his six children, and 10 grandchildren.

Stanley O. McNaughton will be very much missed.●

DAN & WHIT'S

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if there is one thing that anyone who visits Norwich, Vermont does not forget, it is Dan & Whit's General Store. Dan & Whit's is a Vermont legend, as are its namesakes, Dan Fraser and Whit Hicks, who bought the store back in 1955. Since then it has become the unrivaled nerve center of business, socializing, and political debate for Norwich and the surrounding area. Whit died a while back, Dan has since retired and his wife Eliza, known to all as Bunny, who did the bookkeeping, died not long ago. But the store has not lost any of the Vermont character they gave to it. Fortunately it has stayed in the family. Today it is managed by Dan's sons George and Jack Fraser, with the help of George's wife Susan, Jack's daughter Cheri, George's sons Dan and Matt, and a throng of loyal employees, young and old.

When you first enter Dan & Whit's you think it is just another grocery store. Of course there is a lot more Vermont maple syrup and cheddar cheese. But then you notice winter boots and snowshoes hanging from the ceiling, and boxes of nuts and bolts and nails and screws and every type of hardware. There are pots and pans, outdoor clothing, pens and stationery, guns and "No Hunting" signs. Keep walking and you pass piles of the "New York Times" and the paint mixing machine, and then you realize you have barely scratched the surface. Through a door and around a corner there are aisles that stretch almost as far as you can see, stacked high with snow shovels, horse feed, half a dozen sizes of stove pipe, sheep fence, sewing pipe, sleds, saws and axes, rakes and wheelbarrows, mail boxes, window glass, there's no end to it. You can even bring in your fire extinguishers for recharging, Jack being the Captain of the Norwich Fire Department. Thus the Dan & Whit's motto, "if we don't have it, you don't need it." Vermont author Noel Perrin once wrote, "There may be a better general store in the United States. But I haven't heard of it."

Mr. President, Dan & Whit's General Store is the unbelievable number and variety of things you can buy there, but it is also the extraordinary people who work there. In addition to the Fraser family members, it is people like Larry Smith, Linda Conrad, Al Langlois, Ron Swift, and Perry Wagner, who have been there for years and help make the store the one-of-a-kind place that it is. Dan & Whit's is people like Bill Fitzgerald, who finally retired after more than 30 years. Always in good spirits, always helpful, always finding what you need. And the one time in a million that they don't find