

and resistance to the fundamental reforms necessary, I fear that Japan may actually need a crisis if it is ever to get its economic house in order. I hope that I am wrong and that Japan will begin to take the steps necessary to boost its economy and serve as an engine of economic growth. Clearly, it is in Japan's interest to do so, as it is in the interest of Asia and of the United States. Toward this end, we must all remain engaged in encouraging and persuading Japan to move forward.

Japan faces enormous challenges in the coming months and years, as does all of Asia. The challenges, however, are far from insurmountable. And global prosperity depends on meeting those challenges head-on. As I have outlined, the road back to prosperity and growth should be fairly clear, though in some instances, politically treacherous. The good news is that most of the steps on that road require increased economic liberalization, greater transparency and reduced regulation. If that road is taken, the Asian financial crisis will have had the positive result of moving the global economy toward a new level of growth and prosperity.●

TRIBUTE TO KENNETH EUGENE GRUBE

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great journalist, but more important, a good friend: Kenneth Eugene Grube of Groton, Connecticut. Sadly, Mr. Grube recently died at the age of 76.

Ken Grube worked for 44 years as a newspaper editor and reporter, and he spent the last 25 years of his career in Southeastern Connecticut at The New London Day, where he was a managing editor and the long-time editorial page editor.

While he was at The Day, he was renowned for his emphasis on local topics, but he earned a regional and national reputation for his work. He served as President of the New England Society of Newspaper Editors and the Connecticut Circuit of the Associated Press. He was also a longtime member of the National Conference of Editorial Writers, and he edited the group's quarterly publication and served on its Professional Standards Committee.

In recognition of his outstanding career of newspaper achievement, he received the prestigious Yankee Quill Award from the New England Academy of Journalists.

The strong reputation that Ken Grube earned was based not only his journalistic talent, but also on his good will and commitment to serving his community.

In 1976, the New London County Bar Association gave him its award for outstanding public service. People don't necessarily think of journalists as public servants, but Mr. Grube showed an uncommon devotion to his community and he used his position to affect social change.

During his 15 years as editorial page editor, he would consistently focus on a particular topic, often on behalf of the poor and less fortunate, writing editorial after editorial until he had achieved the ends that he thought were best for his community and its people.

He also spent a great deal of his time away from the newspaper working with various organizations in the New London/Groton area. He was President of the Family Service Association of Southern New London County. He served on the board for Waterford Country School. And he helped found the local Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund.

He was also Chairman of the State Freedom of Information Commission, which is fitting because he was one of the leading journalists in the state who fought to pass a state law that would protect the availability of public information.

But aside from his many accolades and accomplishments, Ken Grube will be remembered as a newspaper man with a huge heart who genuinely cared about his readers. Everyone in town knew him, and he could often be seen in the restaurants and pubs in town striking up conversation with whom ever was around. For Mr. Grube, the most exciting stories didn't come from City Hall or the Capital, they came from Main Street. He believed that the primary role of any good reporter was to note the everyday events in people's lives, and he stayed true to this principle through his entire career.

Ken Grube performed countless good deeds in order to lift up others, and for that, we thank him. He was also a kind man and a good friend, and for that, we will miss him.

He is survived by four children and four grandchildren. I offer my heartfelt condolences to them all.●

THE 42ND ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today Tunisia celebrates the 42nd Anniversary of its Independence from France. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them for their many successful endeavors of the past 42 years.

Last year, Tunisia and the U.S. celebrated the bicentennial of the "Treaty of Peace and Friendship." This celebration marked the longest unbroken friendship treaty in the history of the two countries. Throughout our long relationship the United States and Tunisia have experienced cooperation based on respect and our mutual commitment to freedom, democracy, and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Despite its location in a very volatile area of the world, Tunisia has been a leader in promoting stability and peace in Africa and the Middle East. It has been a voice of moderation in the Arab-Israeli peace process promoting dialogue and improved relations. It was the first Arab State to host an Israeli delegation and to hold a multilateral meeting of the peace process. In 1996, Tunisia and Israel opened interest sections in each country and established full diplomatic relations.

Tunisia also has made impressive economic strides. It has successfully

graduated from development assistance to become a self-sufficient nation. The people of Tunisia enjoy the highest standard of living in the region. These improvements have come about through the devotion of vital resources to the promotion of its people, education, and economic reform.

In the past 12 years, the government has focused its economic development on privatizing many of the state-owned companies and reforming the financial and banking systems. As a result, Tunisians have developed a diverse and market oriented economy where they have experienced not only domestic success but increased international standing. Tunisia is a member of the World Trade Organization and enjoys duty-free access to the European Union and most Arab countries.

Tunisia has been a friend and ally to the United States for many years. I look forward to continued cooperation and friendship in the years to come. As Tunisia celebrates its 42nd anniversary of independence, I offer my sincere congratulations on their many successful accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA M. WHEELER

● Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it is my special privilege to take this opportunity to honor a woman from my home state of Illinois who has spent her career fighting to improve public education. For almost 25 years, Barbara M. Wheeler has served the students, teachers, and schools of Illinois as a champion of public education. Recently, her devotion and hard work was recognized by her peers when she was named President of the National School Boards Association.

Ms. Wheeler began her extraordinary career of public service by earning an undergraduate degree in Non-Western History from Saint Dominic College in 1969. In 1972, she received her Illinois Teaching Certificate from Elmhurst College. In 1974, Ms. Wheeler joined the Community High School District 99 Board of Education in Downers Grove, and served as President from 1976 to 1987, and again from 1994 to 1995. In 1980, Ms. Wheeler graduated from the Depaul University College of Law, and served as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County from 1980 to 1982 before going into private practice.

While practicing law, Barbara Wheeler's service to the community continued. She has been an active member of the Illinois Association of School Boards, serving in 18 different positions including President (1987-1989) and Vice President (1985-1987). Additionally, Ms. Wheeler has spoke on educational matters before convention audiences around the nation, and has advised and consulted many groups, including the Chicago Board of Education, 57 school districts across Illinois, the New York School Boards Association and the Institute for Educational Leadership.

For her outstanding leadership and achievements, Ms. Wheeler has received awards from the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, and the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Education is not the only field which benefits from Ms. Wheeler's talent and energy. She also unselfishly volunteers her time with worthwhile groups such as the Illinois Department on Aging, George Williams College, the Downers Grove Chamber of Commerce and the Downers Grove YMCA. Ms. Wheeler is also a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Barbara Wheeler commands a high level of respect from educators in Illinois and around the country, and her broad understanding of the issues and challenges facing public education demonstrates the level of excellence that she will bring to the office of President of the National School Boards Association. Her advocacy in behalf of our nation's students and schools is a model of action for all Americans to follow. I congratulate her on her recent appointment, and wish her good luck and Godspeed.●

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND SCHMITT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who, like me, called East Haddam, Connecticut home and who demonstrated a great passion and love for this little town along the Connecticut River: Raymond Schmitt, who recently died at his home in Florida.

Raymond Schmitt was a successful businessman who owned several companies that manufactured components for the aircraft industry. He was very generous with his wealth, donating money to the school system, the local historical society and many other organizations.

He will be best remembered for his association with a Victorian-era mill village in Connecticut known as Johnsonville. In 1965, he purchased the mill village and restored the old schoolhouse, general store, and carriage house. In the windows of the buildings, there were whimsical mechanized scenes that delighted all visitors. Johnsonville would open during Christmas and other special occasions, and thousands of people delighted in visiting the village. It became part of the holiday tradition for many Connecticut families.

Johnsonville has been closed for almost a decade, but Mr. Schmitt would still open it for certain events such as a fund-raiser for music students at an area high school.

Mr. Schmitt was known not only for his commitment to his community, but also to his ideas for making it better. In recent years, he came to believe that the town's selectman style of government, which has been in place since the town's inception, was too anti-

quated and in need of reform. As a result, he wrote his own town charter, which called for a 7-member town council and town government.

His charter was never adopted. But no one doubted that Raymond Schmitt loved the town of East Haddam. And it is this passion for his hometown for which Raymond Schmitt should and will be remembered.●

TRIBUTE TO STETSON MODEL SENATE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and commend the Stetson Model Senate program and the nearly one hundred college students who participated in this year's three-day session. Students from Stetson University, Goucher College, University of Central Florida, Clemson University, Lake Sumter Community College, Jacksonville University, The Citadel, and Longwood College conducted committee meetings, party caucuses, and sessions of the full Senate, portraying Senators of the 105th Congress.

This year's program marked my second year attending and speaking at the Model Senate's annual dinner. I was very impressed both with the level of student awareness of public affairs, and with the number of students and schools which participate every year.

I congratulate Stetson University, my alma mater, for encouraging these college students to learn more about this nation's political processes and history.

Mr. President, I would like to especially honor and commend Dr. T. Wayne Bailey, professor of Political Science at Stetson University and organizer of the proceedings, and Kevin Kayes, Senate Parliamentarian, who guided the students during the sessions of the mock Senate. I truly enjoyed meeting these young men and women participating in the 1998 Stetson Model Senate and ask my colleagues to join me in saluting and congratulating these college students and the organizers of this inspirational program.●

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND RAMS

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, ten years ago the Rams of the University of Rhode Island, shocked sports fans throughout the country when they beat the #3 seeded Orangemen of Syracuse and advanced to the Sweet Sixteen in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

It took a few years, but the giant slayers from little Rhody are back. Last weekend, the Rams shocked the basketball world again, defeating the indomitable, #1 seeded Jayhawks of Kansas. With a win tonight over Valparaiso, URI will advance to the Elite Eight.

But, Mr. President, don't sell this team short. They may be smaller than their opponents. They readily admit

that. But they know how to win, just ask anyone from Lawrence, Kansas.

I should add, Mr. President, with regard to tonight's game, that beyond the match-ups on the floor, there will be a contest on the sidelines. As many have commented, URI Coach Jim Harrick will do battle with his son, Jim Jr., an assistant coach at Valparaiso. At stake will be family bragging rights that will last a very long time. In this game, however, I'd bet on the elder Coach Harrick. Indeed, Mr. President, I expect to be back on the Senate floor next week to talk about the Rams and the Final Four.●

RICHARD GARDNER AND THE UNITED STATES-SPAIN COUNCIL

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I bring to the Senate's attention the distinguished service of the former United States Ambassador to Spain, Richard Gardner. Ambassador Gardner concluded his service on July 12, 1997. During his tenure, Ambassador Gardner performed his diplomatic duties with grace and distinction. As a result of his outstanding work, the relationship between the United States and Spain has been immeasurably strengthened.

The ambassador has received praise and high marks for his exemplary performance from a number of observers. For example, Spanish journalists have commented on his successful efforts to increase private donations for student exchange program, which provide expanded opportunities for cultural and academic interaction between United States and Spanish citizens. In a more formal capacity, Ambassador Gardner's efforts facilitated an improved, and mutually beneficial, trade relationship between our countries and enhanced relations between our respective governments.

One aspect of Ambassador Gardner's work of which I am very familiar is his instrumental role in establishing the United States-Spain Council. Founded in 1995, the Council has grown to become an important institution for the development and enhancement of United States-Spain relations. Its mission is to encourage understanding of our shared interests and to promote constructive relations and cooperation between the Spanish and American governments on a variety of important issues, including, trade, intellectual property rights, and education. Currently, I am the chairman of the council. Its membership includes a diverse group of business, academic, and government leaders.

Mr. President, Ambassador Gardner served his country with great distinction and conducted himself in a manner worthy of the respect and admiration of all Americans. Diplomats serve as liaisons and are the most visible representatives of their home countries. In this capacity, Ambassador Gardner exemplified the best our country has to offer. He will be sorely missed by the