

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 Gollis, 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.