

PITNEY BOWES

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge an important milestone by an important institution in my home state of Connecticut—Pitney Bowes. For the past 78 years, Pitney Bowes has been at the forefront of technological innovation. The postage metering mechanisms that the company patented more than seven decades ago have faithfully performed their everyday task of metering postage.

Twenty years ago Pitney Bowes introduced a postage by phone system, which allowed businesses to refill their postage meters over the phone. This technology has just passed a major milestone. Recently, Pitney Bowes announced the signing of its one-millionth active postage by phone customer. Connecticut's Governor, John Rowland, was on hand to commemorate this event and presented the company with a proclamation noting that nearly three quarters of a billion dollars in time and labor have been saved since the postage by phone system was implemented.

Together with numerous mass mailing machines developed over the years, Pitney Bowes has changed the face of commerce. They enabled mass mail marketing and created millions of jobs. Indeed, every member of this body has had a campaign that depended on the mass mail systems developed by Pitney Bowes.

However, Pitney Bowes is not just postage meters. It's not just faxes, copiers, software, business services, financial services, or cryptographic security for cyberspace transactions and communications. It is not just PC postage metering which makes it possible for businesses to print postage using only a PC and a standard printer. It is not just the \$100 million in R&D it spends each year or the dozens of new patents that Pitney Bowes receives annually. It is not just cutting-edge technology.

The spirit of Pitney Bowes is found in its people. More than one million customers, mostly small businesses, use Pitney Bowes products to efficiently conduct their business. Tens of millions of our citizens benefit from the company's mailing and messaging systems. More than thirty thousand employees—seven thousand of these in Connecticut—are dedicated to making all of our jobs easier. It is this spirit that has resulted in Pitney Bowes being repeatedly listed as one of the 100 best companies to work for in America, recognized as providing meaningful opportunities for women and minorities, and respected as a leader in the Connecticut business community.

Congratulations to the Pitney Bowes workforce on this new milestone.●

DR. ROBERT F. FURCHGOTT

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Robert

F. Furchgott of the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn on winning the 1998 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Dr. Furchgott, along with Dr. Louis J. Ignarro of the University of California at Los Angeles, and Dr. Ferid Murad of the University of Texas, were awarded the Nobel Prize for their discoveries of how natural production of nitric oxide can mediate a wide variety of bodily actions. Those include the regulation of blood pressure, widening blood vessels, preventing the formation of blood clots, fighting infections, reducing sexual dysfunction, and functioning as a signal molecule in the nervous system.

The bestowment of this prestigious honor to Dr. Furchgott brings long overdue recognition to the medical research conducted at "SUNY Downstate". I commend Dr. Furchgott and the entire staff of the State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn for their many contributions to the field of medicine.

Mr. President, I ask that the article on Dr. Robert F. Furchgott from the New York Times be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

RESEARCH HONOR GOES TO THE BROOKLYN SIDE

(By Jennifer Steinhauer)

The State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn has always been a bit of an underdog among the city's medically elite institutions. In spite of its groundbreaking work in the study of AIDS, alcoholism and other illnesses, kudos most often went to hospitals and research centers on the other side of the Brooklyn Bridge, like Mount Sinai and New York University.

But yesterday, SUNY Downstate, as the science center is known, earned its boasting rights over Manhattan when Dr. Robert F. Furchgott, a distinguished professor of pharmacology there, received a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, the highest recognition possible for a body of work that most Americans would recognize only in the form of Viagra.

Dr. Furchgott, 82, is in many ways a quintessential representative of Downstate, which had never received that Nobel Prize and is better known to most New Yorkers as the college that provides doctors to Kings County Hospital Center, one of the city's busiest and perhaps most embattled hospitals.

Colleagues described Dr. Furchgott as modest, spending nearly every day nibbling sandwiches and eating yogurt in his office while poring over scientific journals, or toiling in his laboratory, pondering the mysteries of nitric, pondering the mysteries of nitric oxide.

"His personal modesty stands in marked contrast to his magnificent achievement," said Dr. Eugene B. Feigelson, the college's dean of medicine. "It is a source of pride for the entire institution and to Brooklyn and is a further distinction for us and for the State University of New York."

When asked to reflect on his honor, Dr. Furchgott seemed almost dismissive. "I was kind of surprised," he said in a telephone interview from his home in Hewlett, N.Y. "My work is sort of old-fashioned pharmacology.

"Is it the highlight of my career? I guess in a way, though you don't do research to win

prizes. You do it because you're curious about what makes things tick."

Sure, international attention, television cameras planted on the front lawn, phone ringing off the hook with calls from reporters struggling mightily to understand the subtleties of his work—these things have tickled him.

But his favorite moment in his entire career, he said, "was when we discovered that endothelial cells were necessary for relaxation of arteries."

"Then," he said, "it was finding that the endothelium-derived relaxing factor was nitric oxide. There have been lots of fun things."

He is, by admission of his admirers, a serious man of research.

"His lectures were dull, onerous and droning on," said Eli A. Friedman, a distinguished teaching professor of medicine at SUNY Downstate and a former student of Dr. Furchgott. "But the content of his work was profound and inspiring. So if one could get past the fact that he was less than electric competition for Jackie Gleason on television, he was very exciting and moving."

Dr. Furchgott, who holds a doctorate in biochemistry and is a professor emeritus at Downstate, won his prize for discoveries of new properties of nitric oxide. With colleagues, he was able to demonstrate that the gas nitric oxide can act as a messenger molecule that tells blood vessels to relax and dilate, which lowers blood pressure. The discovery was vital to developing the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

In 1996, he won an Albert Lasker Award in basic medical research, which is often a precursor award to the Nobel Prize. "Everyone here will walk a little straighter and hold their head a little higher because he is here." Dr. Friedman said.

Dr. Furchgott was born in Charleston, S.C., and received a B.S. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina in 1937 and a doctorate in biochemistry from Northwestern University in 1940.

When asked what else he would like known about his career, Dr. Furchgott said: "Nothing really. I would like to get myself some lunch now."●

GRACE M. AMODEO

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, communities are not defined by physical borders. They are defined by people. People who are concerned for the well-being of their neighbors, even if they do not know them. People who want to make their town a good place to raise children. People who recognize the importance of being a part something larger than themselves. Today, I want to speak about one such person who has worked tirelessly to make Rocky Hill, Connecticut a true community: Grace M. Amodeo.

Born in Italy, Grace Amodeo has lived in Rocky Hill for 44 years. Grace is a political pioneer in this town. In 1971, she ran for Mayor of Rocky Hill and earned the nomination of the Democratic party, the first woman to ever do so. Although she didn't win, she did not let that set-back deter her from actively serving her community throughout her life.

Grace Amodeo was a member of the Board of Education for eight years, and she served as the secretary for four years. A woman of strong faith, she was a Eucharistic Minister at St.

James Church. And Rocky Hill has known no stronger advocate on behalf of seniors. Grace was a long-time member of Rocky Hill Seniors and served as their President from 1978 to 1980. She also served on the fundraising committee for the Senior Center. In fact, she was named Rocky Hill's "Senior of the Year" in 1983.

Grace's contributions to the community are all the more remarkable when you consider that she and her late husband Tony also raised eight children.

In addition to possessing a commitment to her community, she had a passion for politics, as evidenced by her run for mayor. Grace has been active in local Democratic politics for years, and I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with her. This Friday, the Rocky Hill Democratic Town Committee will bestow upon Grace their Chairman's Award in gratitude for her work for the party. This award is well deserved, and I congratulate Grace on this honor.

But, as I stated earlier, Grace Amodeo's devotion was not to a political party, it was to a community. And thanks to Grace and people like her, Rocky Hill, Connecticut remains a tightly knit community with its own identity. It is a place with a strong sense of history that people are proud to call home. I thank Grace for all that she has done for the people of Connecticut, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. ●

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW SHEPARD AND HIS FAMILY

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a young man who was wrongly, viciously struck down in the prime of his life. Matthew Shepard was an innocent, kind, young man pursuing his education and enjoying the life of a college student. Tragically, he is now a reminder of what happens when we do not stand up to hate and bigotry.

On Monday night in Seattle and Spokane, Washington, hundreds of people from all walks of life came together to remember Matthew and to call for action to end hate crimes. Many people in Washington were outraged and shared in our nation's sorrow. I was touched by this response and join with so many others in expressing my own deep sense of hopelessness. I know that this was not just an isolated incident. Hate crimes are a real threat. We cannot be silent any longer.

A week ago today, I joined many of my Colleagues down at the White House in celebration of the signing of the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. I was proud to be there to call attention to the importance of this Act. I was proud that the legislation increased opportunities for young students and improved access to quality education for all students. I thought about how important it was for us to be focused on the needs of young Americans and their families striving to achieve a higher education.

I thought of the many college students and high school students I have met who would benefit from these opportunities. I thought about my own college age children and the opportunities they would have. I knew this was a big accomplishment.

Today, my thoughts are with another young college student who will never experience the opportunities and improvements we worked so hard to achieve. My thoughts have gone from improving opportunities to how to prevent the terrible heartache that Matthew Shepard's family and friends are now experiencing.

When I first heard of this horrible crime I immediately felt deep sympathy for Matthew's parents. How frightening it must have been for them to fly half way around the world to be with their child who was almost unrecognizable because of the violent attack he suffered. I can't imagine the pain they must be experiencing. There are simply no words that I could offer in comfort.

I then felt deep sorrow for the community and the University. To know that those who committed this violent and hateful crime are part of their community must be unbearable. This community will never be the same.

I now feel sorry for our nation. What we have lost? A young man with so much potential. What might Matthew Shepard have become? We know that he was interested in political science and very interested in this field of study. Could Matthew have become a U.S. Senator?

I think now that maybe Matthew can teach us all. We need to use this tragic and despicable crime to attack hate as we attack any other disease that kills. We must treat hate crimes as the deadly threat that they are and do more to prevent them. Hate is nothing more than a cancer that needs to be stopped.

S. 1529, Hate Crimes Prevent Act, offers us that opportunity. I am pleased to have joined with many of my Colleagues in cosponsoring this important legislation. The bill would expand the definition of a hate crime and improve prosecution of those who act out their hate with violence. No one beats a person to death and leaves them to die without being motivated by a deep sense of hate. This was no robbery. The motive was hate.

The immediate response of local law enforcement officials illustrates why we need to strengthen federal Hate Crimes laws and why the Federal Government must take a greater role in ending this violence.

I urge all of my Colleagues to think about the many Matthew Shepard, we have all met. Kind and hard working young adults. Let us act now to prevent any more senseless violence and deaths.

It is often said that from tragedy we can learn. Let us learn from this tragic event and make a commitment that we will act on Hate Crimes Prevention legislation. Let our actions serve as a

comfort to Matthew's parents and the hundreds of other parents who fear for their children.

There are so many tragedies that we cannot prevent. Another senseless, brutal attack like the one experienced by Matthew is a tragedy that we cannot prevent. We spend millions of dollars a year seeking cures for deadly diseases that strike the young and old. We simply cannot accept a disease that strikes without warning and takes the life of a precious vulnerable child. We need to treat hate the same. It cannot and will not be tolerated. ●

DESECRATION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to express my disappointment that we will not have the opportunity to vote before the end of this session on passage of S.J. Res. 40, the Constitutional amendment to protect the flag of the United States.

Recently, the Majority Leader made a reasonable request for time for debate and then a vote on this amendment. However, the minority unfortunately would not agree. There is not time for extended debate on this issue in the last days of this session, but extended debate should not be necessary.

We have considered this issue in the Judiciary Committee and on the Senate Floor many times in the past. In fact, we have been debating this matter for almost a decade. I have fought to achieve Constitutional protection for the flag ever since the Supreme Court first legitimized flag burning in the case of *Texas v. Johnson* in 1989. We have held numerous hearings on this in the Judiciary Committee, most recently this past July.

In our history, the Congress has been very reluctant to amend the Constitution, and I agree with this approach. However, the Constitution provides for a method of amendment, and there are a few situations where an amendment is warranted. This is one of them.

The only real argument against this amendment is that it interferes with an absolute interpretation of the free speech clause of the First Amendment. However, restrictions on speech already exist through Constitutional interpretation. In fact, before the Supreme Court ruled on this issue in 1989, the Federal government and the states believed that flag burning was not Constitutionally-protected speech. The Federal government and almost every state had laws prohibiting flag desecration in 1989.

Mr. President, flag burning is intolerable. We have no obligation to permit this nonsense. Have we focused so much on the rights of the individual that we have forgotten the rights of the people?

During moments of despair and crisis in our history, our people have turned to the flag as a symbol of national unity. It represents our nation, our national ideals, and our proud heritage. It is much more than a piece of cloth.