

depth biography of this important painter whose work at the Capitol has recently been restored.

In addition to "The Apotheosis of George Washington" which adorns the Capitol dome in the Rotunda, Brumidi painted in the House of Representatives Chamber, the President's Room, the Senate Reception Room, and throughout many of the corridors of our nation's Capitol. The first floor Senate corridors of the Capitol are known as the "Brumidi Corridors."

Ms. Wolanin brings to our attention the fact that a large body of Constantino Brumidi's work is in a Catholic church in New York City. The Order of Carmelites, who serve the parish of Our Lady of the Scapular & St. Stephen's Church in the Rosehill District of Manhattan, have invested over a million dollars of their own funds to restore the exterior of their Romanesque Revival church built to the designs of the architect James Renwick Jr. in 1854 (Mr. Renwick also designed the Smithsonian Castle and the Renwick Gallery). This initial investment has halted deterioration of the many frescoes, murals and decorative elements by Brumidi on the church's interior walls.

Brumidi's mural of the Crucifixion behind the main altar of the church is believed to be the largest of its kind in the world. Brumidi's frescoes of David, the Madonna and Child and St. Cecilia on the south wall, once neglected and in danger of irreversible damage, have been restored by Constance Silver of Preservar in an effort to understand the composition of the underlying wall and the materials and techniques Brumidi used. The goal of the Carmelites is to fully restore the baroque interior of the church, which may be the only one of its kind in America.

Examples of "trompe l'oeil," Brumidi's scheme of architectural illusion which originally united all of the artistic and architectural elements of the church, have been exposed for study and may be seen on the partially restored south wall.

From the mid 1850's through the early 1870's when not working at the Capitol, Brumidi traveled to New York to work at St. Stephen's. Today, the parish serves a small and thriving community. In the 19th century, however, due to a massive immigration of Irish fleeing the Great Famine, St. Stephen's Church became, for a time, the largest and most influential Catholic parish in the United States.●

#### THE NURSING HOME RESIDENTIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1999

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, one week ago today, the Finance Committee unanimously voted to support legislation to protect from eviction nursing home residents who rely on Medicaid. Our bill, S. 494, the Nursing Home Residential Security Act of 1999, is supported by both the nursing home industry and senior citizens' advocates.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 540, companion legislation to our bill, by a vote of 392 to 12. I call on my colleagues now to join me in voting in support of this important legislation. Let us send it to the President and make it the first piece of health care legislation to become law this year.

Our legislation prohibits nursing homes that withdraw from participation in the Medicaid program from evicting the Medicaid residents who

are already in the facility. Essentially, we provide for a phase-down rather than an immediate termination of participation in Medicaid.

Sixty-eight percent of all nursing home residents eventually end up on Medicaid. Our bill protects these vulnerable senior citizens and individuals with disabilities from finding themselves evicted. The bill goes a long way toward assuring residents and their families that they will continue to receive quality nursing home care without fear of inappropriate eviction.

S. 494/H.R. 540 is a modest but important proposal that will promote the peace of mind of millions of Americans. I ask my colleagues for their support.●

#### IN MEMORY OF LOUISIANA STATE REPRESENTATIVE AVERY ALEXANDER

● Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, with the passing this week of Louisiana state Representative Avery Alexander, our nation and my state of Louisiana lost one of its most legendary and respected citizens. For most of his 88 years, Reverend Alexander gave himself selflessly and completely to the service of others—as a dedicated and caring minister, as a fearless and principled civil rights leader and as a tireless and thoroughly honorable public servant.

To those who knew him, "The Rev.," as he was called, was a nothing short of a living legend and the very embodiment of the courage, passion and vision that characterized the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. In a day and time when standing up for your rights as an American meant taking your life into your hands, Avery Alexander and his allies took to the streets and helped transform our nation. Avery Alexander and his contemporaries in the civil rights movement helped give our nation a new birth of freedom and for that we are internally grateful.

Yet long after the great civil rights marches and protests of the 1960s and well into his ninth decade of life, Reverend Alexander was still as passionate and committed to the cause of human rights as he had always been. It wasn't that long ago—three years to be exact—that the people of Louisiana were treated to the familiar image of Avery Alexander on a ticket line in Baton Rouge, protesting changes to the state's affirmative action laws that he believed were unfair and unwise. When Avery Alexander believed in something, especially civil rights, he gave it his all. And he knew better than most that the civil rights laws of the 1960s were only a beginning, not an end, of a great national journey for every citizen, black, white, Hispanic or Asian.

Whatever one might have thought about him, and however one might have disagreed with him, I know of no one who would have ever thought of questioning Avery Alexander's motives. He was a supremely principled

man, led by conscience and an innate sense of mission and morality to serve always as a voice for those who had lost or had never been given the right to speak for themselves. If you were down and out, forgotten, discriminated against, despised or rejected by society, then Avery Alexander was your friend. I have known few people who lived up to the Biblical admonition to love unconditionally as well as he did. Avery Alexander will be missed. But he will also be long remembered for the ways he taught and inspired us to love, to care, to serve and, most of all, to look beyond skin color and gender and age and creed and to see that which is best, noble and God-given in each of us. We will all miss the "Rev!"●

#### CONGRATULATING WTOP FOR 30 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of one of the area's finest news stations, WTOP, a station that has been a trustworthy and informative source of regional and national news since 1969.

In our increasingly inter-connected society where technology has increased the speed at which information is collected, disseminated and analyzed, the importance of responsible journalism has become even more important. WTOP has maintained a reputation as an accurate news source by its reporting of events from Watergate to the recent impeachment trial; from Vietnam to conflicts in the Persian Gulf; from issues regarding the District of Columbia to the politics of my home State of Maryland. In addition to news accounts on these issues, WTOP always has weather, traffic and sports reports to complete its effective coverage. Much as CNN is the leader in television news coverage, WTOP leads the way in providing up-to-date radio news 24 hours a day.

I would also like to commend the service of one individual in particular, WTOP's Congressional correspondent Dave McConnell, who has been with the station for almost 20 years. I have worked first-hand with Dave over the years and have the utmost respect for his journalistic integrity and his dedication to reporting the news in a precise yet understandable way. Indeed, his "Today on the Hill" broadcasts have provided listeners with the most up-to-date information on legislative activities on Capitol Hill by talking directly with members of Congress about the issues.

Mr. President, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize the professionalism of this station and its employees on this auspicious anniversary, and to extend my best wishes to WTOP for the next 30 years and beyond.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. OZUNA

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Robert L. Ozuna,