

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY,
GOVERNOR ELMER ANDERSON

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today Governor Elmer L. Anderson is 90 years of age. My sincere best wishes and congratulations. While serving in public office, Elmer Anderson has had a profound impact shaping discourse as well as public, social and environmental policy in our state of Minnesota.

Elmer Anderson is a businessman, public official and citizen—a Minnesota 20th century renaissance man. Happy Birthday, Governor Anderson.

Mr. Speaker, I submit this June 17, 1999 St. Paul Pioneer Press article by Steve Dornfeld for the RECORD.

[From the Pioneer Press, June 17, 1999]

A MINNESOTA TREASURE
(Steven Dornfeld)

Former Gov. Elmer L. Anderson has had more careers than most of folks could manage in several lifetimes—politician, corporate CEO, newspaper publisher, farmer, philanthropist and civic leader. And he's been enormously successful at all of them.

But Anderson, who turns 90 today, will be remembered most for his high ideals his innovative mind and his selfless dedication to the public good throughout a life that spanned most of the 20th century. He is a genuine Minnesota treasure.

"It would be pretty hard to quarrel with the notion that Elmer Anderson is Minnesota's greatest living citizen," says Tom Swain, a long-time friend who headed Anderson's gubernatorial staff.

The people who know Anderson best tend to speak of him in superlatives.

"He's about the wisest, the most principled, the most visionary person I have ever met," says former U.S. Sen. Dave Durenberger, who handled community affairs for H.B. Fuller Co. when Anderson was CEO of the St. Paul adhesives manufacturing firm.

Russell Fridley, a leading Minnesota historian and former director of the Minnesota Historical Society, says Anderson "exemplifies the best of the citizen politician."

The former governor is more restrained in assessing his accomplishments. Several days ago, as he reflected on his long life, Anderson said, "I cannot help but have a great sense of appreciation and gratitude. I have been very lucky to have survived for so long and to have done well in a number of different areas.

"Everyone seems so kind and so indulgent as you grow old—and of course, all of your enemies die off," he added with a chuckle.

Anderson held public office for just 12 years—10 as a state senator and two as governor. He served in the Senate in the 1950s when it was dominated by rural conservatives who saw a very limited role for state government.

Then, as now, Anderson prided himself on being a "liberal Republican." Anderson

achieved the chairmanship of the Senate Public Welfare Committee, and championed mental health and child welfare programs.

Fridley recalls one legislative session in which the DFL-oriented Liberal Caucus captured control of the House, while the Republican-oriented Conservatives held the Senate. When the major appropriations bills emerged from committee, Fridley says, a leading House Liberal complained, "You know what Elmer Anderson did? He put \$10 million more into welfare than we did."

In 1960, Anderson won election as governor, defeating DFL incumbent Orville Freeman. But the term of governor was just two years at that time and his stint as Minnesota's chief executive was short-lived.

DFLers accused Anderson of rushing the completion of Interstate 35 so he could reap the political benefits. They charged that the rush job resulted in shoddy construction that would cost the state millions to repair. The charges ultimately proved to be false, but Anderson lost to DFL Lt. Gov. Karl Rolvaag by a scant 91 votes.

The close election triggered a protracted recount in which thousands of disputed ballots were examined, one by one. But the result did not change.

Many Anderson stalwarts wanted him "to appeal it all the way" to the Supreme Court, Swane recalls. But he says Anderson did not want to appear to be usurping the office and throw the state into political turmoil, so he "gulped hard" and accepted the outcome.

"In my early years, when I was a young politician, I used to think what a waste it was that Elmer could only serve two years as governor—that the state was deprived of all that talent," Durenberger says.

But Durenberger says he has come to see Anderson's defeat as Minnesota's "good fortune"—because it freed Anderson from the constraints of partisan politics and enabled the ex-governor to be the principal statesman and civic leader he has been for the last four decades.

After leaving public office, Anderson returned to H.B. Fuller and helped build it into a Fortune 500 company—one known for an employee- and customer-centered philosophy that would be ridiculed on Wall Street today.

"I always had a philosophy at Fuller that making a profit was not our No. 1 priority," Anderson says. He believed that if a business paid attention to its customers and generously rewarded employees who did their best, profits would follow.

But Anderson did not disappear from the political scene. He took the lead in pushing two major initiatives from his term as governor—the enactment of the so-called Taconite Amendment to help revitalize Minnesota's Iron Range, and the creation of Voyageurs National Park.

In later years, Anderson distinguished himself as chairman of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, president of the Minnesota Historical Society, a leader in efforts to protect Minnesota's natural resources, a lover of books and a promoter of reading.

In 1976, after retiring from H.B. Fuller, Anderson fulfilled a life-long dream when he acquired two weekly newspapers in Princeton, merged them and began building a pub-

lishing enterprise. Today it has 25 community newspapers and 7 shoppers with \$30 million in annual sales and 475 employees.

Until recently, when he began working on his autobiography, Anderson produced two signed editorials a week for his newspapers that frequently were quoted by pundits and policymakers throughout the state.

While Anderson eyes and limbs are failing him, his mind is as nimble as ever—and he still is involved in projects like preserving endangered areas along the North Shore of Lake Superior. "I've always had projects and when I get involved in projects, I like to see them through," Anderson says.

Not long ago, Tom Swain arranged a get-acquainted luncheon between Anderson and new University of Minnesota President Mark Yudof. Swain, who was serving as a university vice president at the time, through the ex-governor and regents' chairman was someone Yudof should meet.

Swain figured the luncheon would be strictly a social occasion "But when we sat down, by golly, Elmer has his own agenda. He had four for five things he wanted Yudof to be aware of. His mind just never quits."

If Elmer Anderson has one shortcoming, it is this: the man simply does not know how to retire.

IN HONOR OF THE BANGLADESH
CULTURAL ALLIANCE OF THE
MIDWEST

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bangladesh Cultural Alliance of the Midwest on the occasion of the Tenth Annual Convention.

The BCAM was established in 1990 to unite the ethnic resident Bangladeshis of the Midwest region for preservation and promotion of Bangladeshi culture, and to promote friendship and greater understanding between the peoples of Bangladesh and America. So far seven states have taken pride in promoting this ideal. Every year BCAM organizes a cultural program that includes Bangladeshi dances, dramas and songs by participants from each state.

Bangladeshi cuisine, a fashion show, and special performances by prominent performing artists from Bangladesh are the highlights of the program. In addition, discussions on issues related to the role of ethnic Bangladeshis in the community are carried out in a friendly environment.

Promoting cultural diversity and tolerance of other cultures, BCAM is a wonderful example of how to protect cultural diversity while at the same time promoting harmony. I salute the Tenth Annual Convention of Bangladesh Cultural Alliance of the Midwest and commend its work on promoting cultural and religious diversity and tolerance among all the people in the United States.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY
REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to address an issue of great importance: fair and equal access to capital and credit. The American dream of providing for one's family and achieving happiness and security is bolstered when one is able to own one's own home or business. Unfortunately, the American dream fades away when a financial institution discriminates and unfairly denies a loan to a hardworking, creditworthy American who happens to be a minority or live in a minority or working class neighborhood.

Fortunately, blatant discrimination in lending is declining, and homeownership and small business lending is on the rise. We can attribute much of this progress against so called "redlining" to the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Under CRA, federal banking agencies grade lending institutions on how well they meet the credit and capital needs of all the communities in which they are chartered and from which they take deposits. Community organizations, Mayors, religious leaders, and ordinary citizens have a right to offer their opinions regarding the CRA performance of lenders during CRA exams or when banks ask federal regulatory agencies for permission to merge with other lenders.

In my hometown of Seattle, Washington, CRA has helped to make the dream of homeownership a reality for hundreds of low-income families. CRA negotiations between banks and community groups have resulted in housing programs like Self Help, which allows families to use sweat-equity to help them purchase their homes. The Self Help program empowers traditionally underserved families to participate in the homebuying process. The program is also a unique tool for fostering community relations, as the families who eventually will become neighbors, begin to develop relationships with each other as they build their homes. Over the years, Self Help has worked with families to build over 500 homes, and CRA has been integral in financing this process.

CRA also helps to create new jobs for the community. In the state of Washington, CRA has been a wonderful instrument by which entrepreneurs work with banks to finance loans for small businesses. As a result, The Evergreen Community Development Association—Washington state's top Small Business Administration lender—reports that CRA has leveraged over \$360 million in the past five years for small business loans, and has created more than 5,000 jobs. Furthermore, CRA provides economic opportunities for individuals without spending a penny of taxpayer money. Thus, CRA works to put valuable money and resources back into the communities in which they are located.

As the House of Representatives considers legislation to reform financial institutions, I must emphasize that I oppose any attempts to weaken CRA and thus deny communities access to much-needed mortgages, consumer and/or small business loans, and basic financial assistance.

I urge my colleagues to stand firm and not undo the significant progress that we have

made in expanding economic opportunities for all segments of our society. As we consider H.R. 10, let's continue to make the American dream a reality for millions more Americans by strengthening and preserving the CRA and data disclosure laws.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF E.J. ELECTRIC
INSTALLATION COMPANY IN THE
ONE HUNDRED YEAR ASSOCIATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the E.J. Electric Installation Company in honor of their membership on this, their centennial anniversary, in the One Hundred Year Association of New York.

For a century, E.J. Electric Installation has been a leader in its field, growing from an era of paper and wood-line conduits and gas/electric lighting fixtures to one of the leading full-service electrical contractors in the world.

Jacques R. Mann, the first of three generations to run the company, joined E.J. Electric in 1912, going on to pioneer the electrification of the entertainment industry, including almost every large East Coast studio.

Jacques Mann designed and installed the Paramount Astoria motion picture studio, which was modernized 40 years later by his son and current E.J. Electric president, J. Robert Mann, Jr. The company's credits now include such renowned venues as the Rockefeller Center complex and the Metropolitan Opera House.

E.J. Electric was an important contributor to the World War II effort by introducing lightweight, pressed steel watertight panels and outlet boxes to the U.S. Navy, an innovation now used throughout the Navy. The Navy recognized E.J. Electric with five "E" awards.

Under Bob Mann's guidance, E.J. Electric is the expert electrical firm on installation of nationwide computerized airline reservation systems. The company is also a leader in design and installation of complicated and specialized electrical systems for hospitals and health care facilities.

Noteworthy communication installations include the Merrill Lynch primary data center at the World Financial Center, AT&T World Headquarters in Manhattan, and American Airlines, as well as installation and maintenance of all voice, data, audio, video, satellite, security, and fire safety systems for U.N. buildings in New York. New York City's 911 Police Command Center, utilizing advanced business communication expertise, the New York Public Library, and a \$10 million Telecommunications and Multimedia system for the United States Tennis Center are among E.J.'s credits. Important repowering projects include the Museum of Modern Art, NBC, CBS, Delta Airlines, Tower Airlines and British Airways at JFK Airport.

The tradition of hands-on leadership continues with the Mann family's third generation. Tony Mann oversaw the \$22 million expansion of the Long Island Railroad car repair facility, spread over 15 acres with one of the most ad-

vanced robotic systems in the world. He was also responsible for the intricate and sensitive Rockefeller University co-generation high tech laboratories and computer facilities. Continuing an E.J. Electric tradition, Tony Mann enjoys an excellent working relationship with Local 3 I.B.E.W. and the community. Tony sees value engineering as a principal strength of E.J., leading to cost savings for customers.

E.J. Electric Installation Co. is committed to early identification of advanced trends in equipment and systems design and industry ramifications of these innovations. The company brings to its projects the highest degree of service, professionalism, and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the century of outstanding work offered by the E.J. Electrical Installation Company.

WANTED: GOOD FATHERS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, fill it out, send it in. You never know. My dad's advice about junk-mail sweepstakes never led to any prize money, but I'm still cashing in on his simple lessons of life.

My brother, sister and I received many pearls of wisdom: Practice makes perfect. Stand attentive when the flag is raised. Respect your elders. Speak the truth. Fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith. Wait until you're married, and above all, never, ever wear street shoes on a gym floor (he taught physical education).

A public school teacher, he worked two jobs to put us through Catholic schools. No television or friends were permitted until homework was complete. "D's" were forbidden. "C's" warranted serious discussion. "B's" meant we could do better. "A's" were expected.

We had a big vegetable garden. Most summer evenings were spent pulling weeds, snapping beans, turning compost and listening to Dad's boyhood stories, like the one about his missing index finger, a camping trip, and an errant hatchet.

I can recall each encounter with Betsy, my Dad's paddle. "Bend over. This hurts me more than it hurts you." I never made the same mistake twice. Right and wrong were absolute.

American can't survive without dads like mine. Confronted with the recent horrifying news accounts of youth violence and broader moral indifference, the importance of devoted fathers couldn't be more apparent. June 20th was Father's Day, and this year's observance compels more reflection than ever.

Any sensible American, especially in the wake of April's Columbine massacre, has to be concerned about the status of our nation's youth. Children bereft of a fully engaged father suffer perilous disadvantage.

The magnitude of the anomaly shouldn't surprise anyone. Clerics and social scientists have long warned of the debilitating trends associated with divorce and single-parent households. Few families overcome the dysfunction of children disconnected from their fathers.

The cost is enormous. Seventy percent of men in prison, and an equal percentage of juveniles in long-term detention facilities, grew