

League, and the Distinguished Community Leadership Award from the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce. I would like to join these organizations in recognizing the tremendous contributions of Elmer Gates, and wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.●

IN CELEBRATION OF JACK MCKEON DAY IN SOUTH AMBOY

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today behalf of Jack McKeon, a South Amboy native, who led the Cincinnati Reds to within one game of the 1999 National League Playoffs. It is a pleasure for me to be able to recognize his accomplishments.

During his 50 years in Major League Baseball, Jack McKeon has been honored as both "National League Manager of the Year" and as "Major League Manager of the Year." In his 26 years of major league managing he has won nearly 700 games with the Kansas City Royals, Oakland Athletics, San Diego Padres, and Cincinnati Reds. In addition, Jack McKeon has also served as General Manager, receiving the "General Manager of the Year" award.

Before Jack began his distinguished career, he had already made an impact in New Jersey. As a member of the McKeon Boys Club, Jack played his first organized baseball and went on to become an all-county catcher as a student at St. Mary's High School.

Jack's playing career spanned 10 years in the minor leagues. During that time he discovered his natural ability to lead. His first pro coaching assignment came at the young age of 24, in which he led his club to a 70-67 record. His later success as a rookie manager of the Kansas City Royals in 1973 brought the foundering team new respect in the American League with a 2nd place finish. His later managerial and executive positions led to greater renown as he approached the 1999 season. The strong finish of the Cincinnati Reds earned Jack the respect of his peers and the national press which named his Manager or the Year.

So it gives me great pleasure to recognize a leader of great stature in New Jersey. His tremendous accomplishments in baseball, as a player, manager, and executive have made a significant contribution to the national pastime. I am pleased that one of New Jersey's native sons is now being honored, and I hope my colleagues join me in congratulating Jack on his success.●

ON PASSING OF GEORGE ORESTIS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable man and cherished member of the community of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine who sadly passed away in December at the age of 86.

When I learned of the passing of George Orestis, I was stricken by the news. George was quite honestly one of the finest people I have ever had the

privilege to know—a remarkable man and true gentleman who cared deeply about the community he loved, and was a devoted leader of my church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Lewiston, Maine. He was one of those rare individuals who could make you feel a better person just for having met him. Indeed, by always seeing the best in people, he helped others to see the best in themselves—and his compassion for humankind has left an indelible mark on all those whose hearts he touched.

My memories of George go back to my earliest days, and they are fond ones. He was a wonderful and dear friend, whose generous spirit I will feel fortunate to carry with me throughout my days. His loss is especially difficult for all of us in Maine's Greek-American community—his kindness and spirituality formed the heart and soul of our Church, and his devotion was the bedrock upon which Holy Trinity Church was quite literally built.

As the Church's chanter for over two decades, he expressed his faith with soaring eloquence and brought us all closer to God. His words reached out to us in a warm embrace, comforting us in our darkest days. George was always there for us, and today we know that he is now in the company of angels, dwelling forever in the glow of God's eternal love.

George Bernard Shaw once said, "Life is no brief candle to me—it is like a splendid torch which I have hold of for the moment, and I want it to burn as brightly as possible before handing it over to the next generation." For 86 years, George Orestis shined as brightly as any mortal being could, and his is a light that will never be diminished for any of us who knew and loved him. In particular, I know what a special and loving relationship he and his wife Toni shared. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with Toni and her entire family—my love is with them always.

With his values and beliefs—in the way he conducted his life—George was as close to God as one could ever hope to be. We will miss you, George, more than words have the power to convey. We were so very grateful to have you in our lives—now, you belong to God.

Mr. President, I request that the following article from the Lewiston Sun Journal regarding the life of George Orestis be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Lewiston Sun Journal, Dec. 14, 1999]

LEADER OF THE BANK—FRIENDS RECALL
GEORGE ORESTIS AS 'A BACKBONE'

(By Michael Gordon)

AUBURN—George Orestis had a politician's love for the microphone—but he spoke much better.

William Hathaway acknowledges it. He remembers the night three decades ago that Orestis outshined both him and Sen. Edward "Ted" Kennedy at the dais.

Hathaway had recently been elected to the U.S. House, and he brought the Democratic senator from Massachusetts to Lewiston for

a fund-raiser to pay off some campaign debts. Orestis was Hathaway's campaign treasurer.

All three men addressed the audience, and "George made a better speech than both of us," Hathaway said Monday.

Orestis was a natural in front of an audience, smooth, charming, a skill he'd honed in the 1930s as the leader of Rudy Vallee's band, the Fenton Brothers Orchestra.

He loved to entertain. Just as much, Orestis loved to stand up and tell people's stories, to celebrate their accomplishments, to sing their praises.

"He remembered everything about you," said George Simones, a lifelong friend.

On Monday, it was Simones, Hathaway and others who were doing the talking, the remembering, about a good man and a good friend.

On Sunday, 10 days after his 86th birthday, Orestis died at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. His funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity on Hogan Road in Lewiston; The Most Rev. Metropolitan Methodios of Boston will preside.

A son of Greek immigrants, Orestis took great pride in his heritage and was "a backbone" of the local church, said its priest, Harry Politis. Orestis led the fund drive to build the church, and was its chanter for 27 years.

"He was a great singer, even when he was losing his hearing. He never missed a note," said George Simones, Jr., who sang in the choir Orestis directed.

His service to the Orthodox church had no bounds. He served on the executive councils of both the National Archdiocese and the New England Archdiocese. Twice he was awarded the Cross of St. Andrew.

The poor and handicapped knew his kindness. Orestis established the area's first Good Will store. As a Kiwanian, he led the organization's effort to help the mentally retarded.

"George had a great respect for every human being," Politis said. "He was able to confront every situation. He had a very realistic point of view."

"Whatever life dealt, he would say those are the circumstances," said Orestis' nephew, George. He was named for his uncle.

"That's kind of a Greek expression," he said. "When things are not going so well, you sort of say, 'Well, circumstances,' and get on with it."

"He'd break into song, he'd tell jokes; he was very personable. I think what was responsible for all the affection others had for him was he was so approachable," his nephew said.

Born in Nashua, N.H., Orestis grew up in Lewiston and went to school there.

Simmons remembers him as a leader even then among the boys of the Greek neighborhood.

Orestis attended Bates College, and studied composing, conducting and arranging with Rupert Neily of Portland. In 1929, he landed the job leading the Fenton Brothers Orchestra. It turned into a 12-year gig. At one point, Simones said, the band made the top 10 in the "Lucky Strike Parade."

When America went to war, Orestis joined the U.S. Army. Commissioned as a second lieutenant, he was assigned to the medical corps.

When the fighting was over, he came home, not to the sound of waltzes but of washing machines. He ran the family's laundry business, American Linen, from 1947 to 1961.

When I think of my uncle, I think of the four brothers in the laundry, how a small immigrant family took a business and made it a big success. That's the sort of thing Uncle George would do," his nephew said. He said

the family sold the company in the mid-1960s.

In 1962, Orestis married Antoinette "Toni" Marois. They later became the owners of her family's restaurant on Lisbon Street.

On Monday night, Simmons held a Christmas party there for his own employees. He wanted to reschedule, out of respect for the Orestis family, but he said Toni Orestis insisted it be held.

"She said, 'George would always say, the show must go on.' And she's right," he said.

Now living in McLean, Va., Hathaway was a lawyer in Lewiston when he met Orestis around 1953. Hathaway lived on Webster Avenue and sent his laundry to American Linen. He and Orestis would meet for lunch.

When the lawyer decided to run for Congress, Orestis offered his help.

"I don't think George was too much for politics," Simones recalled. Hathaway agreed. But he capitalized on his friend's skill as an orator. He said Orestis could give a five-minute impromptu speech better than most people who prepared one. Orestis later used that talent in helping his nephew, John, get elected as the mayor of Lewiston.

In 1975, Gov. James Longley, also a Lewiston native, appointed George Orestis as the first director of the Maine State Lottery. He served for four years.

Orestis never liked gambling. Simones noted. Smiling, he said his friend "always wanted the sure thing.

To his many friends, Orestis was a sure thing.

"Anything you wanted, he was there," Simones said. "There isn't enough you could do for George. He's one in a million."•

ON THE SERVICE OF RED WOOD TO SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my friend William J. "Red" Wood who, since 1948, has been making Sullivan's Island, SC a better place to live and work. He came to the island, married, bought a home and raised six children, all the while giving back to a community that he deeply loves.

Red Wood's decades of service to Sullivan's Island make him one of the town's most valuable resources. It is only fitting that the Moultrie News recently recognized his achievements. Red has never hesitated to get involved. He joined the volunteer fire department during his early years on the island and helped to organize the Island Club, which sponsored the local Boy Scout troop. Red also helped start the island's Little League program and served on the township's recreation committee.

He has served on the town council for five terms and, during his first term, held the building inspector's post. In that capacity, he worked on several significant projects including East Cooper Hospital and the first hotel built in Mount Pleasant, SC. He believes his greatest civic achievement, however, is having a hand in incorporating Sullivan's Island.

Red worked for over 30 years in the engineering department of the Charleston Naval Shipyard and has devoted his time to numerous commitments on Sullivan's Island, his wife Monica and their children.

My wife, Peatsy, and I salute all of Red's accomplishments and his continuing service to Sullivan's Island. We wish him many peaceful days of fishing and shrimping. He certainly deserves them.●

IN RECOGNITION OF CULLMAN COUNTY

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work of the Cullman County Commission in Cullman County, Alabama, for its positive work in the community. I specifically want to pay tribute to Mr. George Spear, the Commission Chairman, as an individual who exemplifies the positive impact a public official can have on a community. Through his direct efforts, Mr. Spear has established the Cullman 2000 Committee, a year-long celebration bringing together both young and old in the area to honor the county's unique heritage and shared future.

Founded in 1873 by Col. John G. Cullmann, the county's roots are firmly entrenched in Alabama history. Cullman County is well known for its industry, modern health care, and agriculture production, which ranks at the top of the state. The many events planned throughout the year are designed to celebrate the county's history and successes and to give residents a sense of pride in their community and the common bond they share as members of the county. It will give all residents of Cullman County a sense of their place in county history.

I commend the Cullman County Commission and particularly Mr. Spear for his hard work and sense of civic pride. Without the efforts of the Commission, the Cullman 2000 Committee would not have been possible. As Cullman County looks toward the future, it is reassuring to know that the leaders of the county are keeping in mind the importance of the county's colorful past.●

APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES TO INDUSTRY SECTOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deep disappointment at the administration's decision to appeal the Federal District Court decision that requires the appointment of environmental representatives to the advisory committees, the ISACs, that advise the Commerce Department and USTR on trade policy with respect to forest products.

At the recent WTO meeting in Seattle, President Clinton reminded all of us of the importance of making the trade policy process more open and transparent. I share the view that incorporating environmental and labor concerns into our trade policy is a necessary element in ensuring confidence in the global trading system. The need for openness and transparency is not only for international negotiations and

dispute resolution, but also for the establishment of trade policy here at home. Indeed, the Clinton administration has been the principal advocate of this.

It is, therefore, surprising and disappointing that the administration seems reluctant to bring more openness and transparency into its own trade policy advisory committees. Specifically, in the case of the administration's proposals to reduce or eliminate tariffs on forest products (a goal that I share), environmental groups have raised legitimate issues about the impact on conservation. This should be part of our domestic debate.

I understand that enhancing the role of environmental and other groups in this advisory process raises some concerns at USTR and the Commerce Department. We don't want to make the process inefficient, and we must continue to protect confidential information. But, to my mind, we can increase openness and transparency without compromising efficiency or confidentiality.

I call on the administration to reconsider its policy and take the necessary measures to incorporate fully those who are trying to express legitimate environmental concerns.

Finally, let me be clear. If the decision by the Western District of Washington is overturned on appeal, I will introduce legislation mandating the appointment of representatives of the environmental community to these two advisory committees.

At this critical time when concerns over globalization threaten the consensus for expanding global trade, we must increase public confidence in government. That means more openness and transparency, not less.●

RECOGNITION OF JOHN S. BROUSE

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize John S. Brouse, who will receive the American Heritage Award from the Anti-defamation League on Thursday, February 3. Mr. Brouse, President and CEO of Highmark, Inc. will be honored for his professional accomplishments, concern and commitment to his community.

As President and CEO of Highmark, Inc., John Brouse is responsible for the day-to-day business operations of a health insurance corporation that exceeds \$7.5 billion in annual revenues and has more than 18 million customers nationwide. Mr. Brouse was the architect of Highmark's national business strategy for dental and vision programs, and has had a tremendous impact on the success of the corporation. Prior to becoming President of Highmark, Mr. Brouse served as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Pennsylvania Blue Shield, where he was responsible for the administration and overall operations of the organization.

In addition to his successful career achievements, John Brouse has always