

is gathering next month to say thanks. It is my pleasure to join so many in saying how blessed Louisiana is to have Virginia Shehee's generous service and how fortunate I am to have her friendship.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MR. DONALD W. JENSEN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Donald W. Jensen, who is retiring on January 1, 2001, after 13 years of service as a member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Since 1987, Commissioner Jensen has represented the citizens of District 15 to the best of his ability, which has been in an exemplary manner.

Commissioner Jensen graduated from the University of Detroit with a degree in Business Administration. He spent much of his work career with Burroughs Corporation, where he served as Director of Advertising and Public Relations. His primary responsibility was the design and production of promotional and technical literature, though he was also responsible for media advertising, the public relations department, and the operation of their international literature distribution facility. While at Burroughs, Mr. Jensen was a Board Member and President of the National Trade Show Exhibitors Association.

Public service has always played an essential role in Commissioner Jensen's life. Prior to being elected to his current position, he served for nine years as a member of the Birmingham, Michigan, City Commission and then later as Mayor of Birmingham. He was a Founder and Board Member of the Foundation for Birmingham Senior Residents, an organization which enables seniors to remain in their homes. He has also served on the Board of numerous other organizations, including the American Cancer Society and the Center for Independent Living.

As a County Commissioner representing the Cities of Berkley and Birmingham and a portion of the City of Royal Oak, Mr. Jensen has served as Chairman of the General Government Committee from 1993-94, as Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee, and has been a member of the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Public Services Committee, and the Health and Human Services Committee. He has also been a Trustee of the County Library Board for 12 years, and served on the Taxation and Finance Committee of the National Association of Counties.

I would like to thank Commissioner Jensen for his dedication and many efforts throughout his career in public service. His leadership during this time has been exceptional and will be dearly missed. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate Mr. Donald W. Jensen on a wonderful and suc-

cessful career, and wish him the best of luck in retirement.●

A TRIBUTE TO JIM HURD

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to pay tribute to Jim Hurd, the founding CEO of Planar Systems, who passed away this summer after a year-long battle with leukemia. Jim was a pioneering technical and business leader in the U.S. flat panel industry, and led Planar Systems of Beaverton, Oregon to become one of the largest flat panel display companies in the U.S. and Europe. Jim was actively involved at the national level in helping to shape federal policy on flat panel displays, and worked on the national flat panel initiative and in the formation of consortia to address critical issues for the flat panel display industry.

Mr. Hurd was a leader in Oregon's business community, serving as the Chair of the Oregon Council of the American Electronics Association. During his term in 1992, he helped develop the Oregon technical benchmark annual survey and conference. He was also active in supporting technical education efforts in Oregon, and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Oregon Graduate Institute. For services to the industry and community, the American Electronics Association awarded Jim Oregon's technology executive of the year award in 1993.

A native of the Pacific Northeast, Jim was born in 1948 in Spokane, and grew up in Kennewick, Washington. He received his bachelor's degree in physics from Lewis & Clark College in Portland in 1970, where he met his wife Alice. Jim joined Tektronics Corporation soon after graduation. In 1983, Jim left Tektronics to co-found Planar Systems with Chris King and John Laney. Today, Planar employs over 850 people in the United States. Jim also lent his wisdom to help other start-up companies achieve success by serving on the Board of the Oregon Resource and Technology Development Fund, a state-sponsored venture capital fund.

Jim had a rare ability to balance his successful professional life with an active private life that included mountain climbing, running, bicycling, tennis, scuba diving and a love for auto racing. He was a wonderful husband to Alice and a terrific father to his sons, Owen and Peter.

Mr. Hurd will be missed by all of us who knew him.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MR. GEORGE W. KUHN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. George W. Kuhn, who is retiring this year after a 60-year career during which he split time between the United States Navy, the Ford Motor Company, and being a public servant. Whatever the forum, he has been a leader and an inspiration to those around him.

Mr. Kuhn graduated from Central Michigan University, majoring in business administration, economics, and political science. In 1943, he entered the Naval Service and served aboard the Tender U.S.S. Pelias as a Finance Officer. He returned to active duty during the Korean War and served at U.S. Naval Stations in New York and in the Panama Canal Zone. Ultimately, he retired as a Navy Captain after completing 39 years of service, both on active duty and in the Naval Reserves.

Following the Korean War, Mr. Kuhn completed Ford Motor Company's Management Training Program. He served on the staff of the Vice President of Product Development for 20 years, coordinating the development phases of styling, engineering, purchasing and manufacturing of future car programs.

Mr. Kuhn's passion has always been in public service, though. He has been a leader within the Oakland County Republican Party for nearly 50 years, since his involvement in Eisenhower's first presidential campaign. In 1959, he was elected Mayor of the City of Berkley, Michigan. He served as Mayor until being elected to serve as a State Senator in 1966. During his four year tenure in the Michigan State Senate, he served as Chairman of the Corporations and Banking Committee, Chairman of the Senate Municipalities and Election Committee, and as Senate Majority Whip in 1970. In November of 1972, he was elected Oakland County Drain Commissioner, and he has served admirably in this position for the past 28 years, making him the longest active member of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Kuhn has often been recognized for his efforts. He has received the Ford Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 75th Anniversary of Central Michigan University, he has been honored by the Michigan Associated Underground Contractors, Inc., in appreciation of his contributions to the underground construction industry, and is a recent recipient of the Oakland County's annual Quality People, Quality County (Q2) Award which recognizes outstanding service to the community.

I applaud Mr. Kuhn on his extraordinary service to Oakland County, the State of Michigan, and our Nation. His leadership in all phases of his 60 year career has been exceptional and will be dearly missed. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate and thank Mr. George W. Kuhn on a wonderful and successful career, and wish him the best of luck in retirement.●

TECKLENBURG NAMED PRESIDENT OF BELL ASSOCIATION

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding South Carolina native, Michael Tecklenburg, who has been named president of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard

of Hearing. I have had the privilege of knowing Michael and his family in Charleston for many years and I can't think of an individual more deserving of this honor.

As a young child, Michael was initially diagnosed as being mentally disabled, but his parents recognized their son's abilities and did not give up until doctors discovered his true condition—deafness. Michael went on to excel in his studies at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis and later at the University of South Carolina Honors College. In 1989, he became the first deaf graduate of Columbia Law School.

Since 1999, Michael has been the Washington, D.C. director of the South Carolina Governor's Office. Prior to joining the Governor's staff, Michael practiced law with the Washington firm of Verner, Lipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand. He has also served as litigation counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice's anti-trust division and as assistant counsel in the Presidential Personnel Office.

At 37, Michael is the youngest person to serve as the Bell Association's president, a small fact that attests to his very large talent. I have no doubt that he will guide the Association to many successes during his two-year tenure. He is a credit to South Carolina and to the Nation. ●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF THE HONORABLE GUS CIFELELLI

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gus Cifelli, who will retire later this year from a career which has included a Purple Heart, a world championship, and nearly 30 years of exemplary service as a District Court Judge in the State of Michigan. Throughout each phase of this career, he has been a leader and an inspiration to those around him.

During World War II, Judge Cifelli served in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific theater of operations, and was awarded the Purple Heart for bravery. Upon returning home, he attended school at the University of Notre Dame, where he played tackle for four undefeated football teams. Following graduation, he played professional football, and was a member of the 1952 World Champion Detroit Lions, the Green Bay Packers, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Following his professional football career, Judge Cifelli worked as a casualty insurance agent and investigator and a labor relations representative for the Ford Motor Company. In 1972, the citizens of the State of Michigan's 48th District elected him to serve as their District Court Judge.

During his time on the bench, Mr. Cifelli has been credited with initiating and implementing the Court's small claims mediation procedures, staffed by volunteer attorneys. He has also

created the Volunteer in Probation Program, which involves citizens as probation officers, and been responsible for the establishment of many procedures and standards for the Court's operation. To say the least, he has indelibly left his mark upon the 48th Circuit Court.

Judge Cifelli is a member of the American and Michigan Bar Associations, the American Judges' Association, the Justinian Society of Jurists and the American Judicature Society. He is also a member of the Italian American Foundation, the Oakland County Association for Retarded Citizens, and is a former board member of Families in Transition and the Jewish Association for Residential Care.

Judge Cifelli has often been recognized for his efforts. In 1994, he was named Italian American Man of the Year. In 1997, he was the recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the State of Israel Bonds. And in 1998, he received the Law Enforcement Award.

I would like to thank Judge Cifelli for a lifetime of extraordinary achievement. Wherever he has gone, he has stood as a role model within the community, and his leadership will be dearly missed. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate the Honorable Gus Cifelli on a wonderful and successful career, and wish him the best of luck in retirement. ●

IN RECOGNITION OF BEN JOHNSON

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge a distinguished public servant and tireless advocate for our nation's cities, Ben Johnson. The people in my hometown of Detroit, Michigan, realize that ours is a nation of cities. Later this month, many individuals will gather there to celebrate the career of this man who devoted his life to ensuring that all Americans are able to share in our nation's wealth and prosperity.

Ben Johnson has dedicated his professional life to expanding opportunity for all Americans. For over two decades, he has tirelessly worked to assist communities, particularly minority communities, in their efforts to fully participate in the pursuit of the American dream.

Since 1993, Mr. Johnson has honorably served in the Clinton Administration. During his tenure in this Administration, he worked in the Office of Public Liaison, and served as both a Special and a Deputy Assistant to the President. Currently, Ben Johnson serves as the Assistant to the President and Director of The White House Office on the President's One America Initiative. The One America Initiative office he oversees is the first free-standing White House office established to close opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this nation. In all of these capacities, he has shown a steadfast commitment to ensure economic opportunities for all people.

Serving in the Clinton Administration was not Mr. Johnson's first job at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. During the Carter Administration he was Director of Consumer Programs and Special Assistant to Esther Peterson, the Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs. In the years between his service at the White House, Mr. Johnson served in a variety of capacities within the District of Columbia's city government, and worked to ensure that the residents of our nation's capital lived in an efficient, safe and clean city.

Ben Johnson can take pride in his long career of service and dedication to assisting minorities and the underserved in our nation. He has been a vocal advocate for the people of Detroit and all the United States. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Ben Johnson, and in wishing him well in the years ahead. ●

GLENN W. LEVEY MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMED 1999-2000 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, in 1982, the United States Department of Education initiated its Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In each year since, the Department has recognized schools throughout the country which excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum. In other words, Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized because they are the finest public and private secondary schools our Nation has to offer. They are the schools that set the standard for which others strive. I am very proud to report that nine of the 198 Blue Ribbon Schools named by Secretary Richard W. Riley for 1999-2000 are located in the State of Michigan, and I rise today to recognize Glenn W. Levey Middle School in Southfield, Michigan, one of these nine schools.

Glenn W. Levey Middle School takes pride in its tradition of addressing the learning needs of the whole child at a crucial stage in his or her development. The staff is firmly committed to educating all students through a challenging curriculum, a strong academic program, and a collaborative professional development program. This program takes into account the multiple needs of a middle-school population, needs which Levey has long worked to meet.

Levey was one of the first schools in the district to implement interdisciplinary teaming, block scheduling, and to align its curriculum with state and national standards. It is one of a select group of schools in the United States to successfully implement an IMAST (Integrated Mathematics, Science and Technology) Program. As a result of its success in these areas, Levey was one of the first schools in its district to acquire North Central Accreditation, NCA, receiving the highest scores in every NCA category.