

day floating revival held each year sometime between Pearl Harbor and V-J Day. The veterans who attend the cruise leave with no less than 50 gifts when they step off the boat. That is a small gift compared to the sacrifices each veteran made for his or her country. Through Kup's initiative with the Purple Heart Cruise, Chicago is the only city that shows this brand of gratitude to our veterans. Irv has been recognized with the General John Logan Chicago Patriot Award for his service for the Purple Heart cruises.

Kup, on his 90th birthday and every day, serves as a role model to all who read his column, listened to his television and radio broadcasts, followed his sports career, and benefit today from his many good works.

A few weeks ago it was my good fortune to be invited to join Kup and his buddies for their Saturday brunch at a Michigan Avenue hotel. It was a great gathering of old friends, swapping stories, telling jokes and celebrating good times in life.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Kup on his 90th birthday, thank him for the difference he has made in his hometown of Chicago and ask that a great column by Bob Greene, written in his honor, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE DEADLINE DASH: KUP IS TURNING 90

I suppose stranger things have happened than this—a column in the Sunday Tribune celebrating and praising a columnist for the Sun-Times—but special moments call for special gestures. Kup is about to turn 90.

Irv Kupcinet's 90th birthday is on the last day of this month. Kup's Column is now in its 60th year—he began writing it in 1943. He lost his dear wife Essee last year, and his health has not been so great, but he is as much a part of Chicago as . . .

Well, I was going to say as much a part of Chicago as the John Hancock Center, but Kup's Column was around way before the Hancock was constructed. I was going to say as much a part of Chicago as the Wrigley Building, but Kup was born years before the Wrigley went up. In the end, there is no comparison. You properly say that a person or an object is as much a part of Chicago as Kup, not the other way around.

He has always loved this city so. The son of a bakery truck driver, Kup set for himself a work ethic that is phenomenal. When he attended the University of North Dakota and played quarterback on its football team, he also served as the university's director of athletic publicity, writing press releases during the week and leading the team on Saturdays. The late Gene Siskel and I would often marvel to each other about Kup's work schedule. In essence, during his peak years, Kup worked a nine-day week: He wrote six newspaper columns a week, skipping only Saturdays; he taped his "Kup's Show" television program over two days; and on Sundays during football season he and Jack Brickhouse were the play-by-play men on Chicago Bears radio broadcasts on WGN.

Brick and Kup—there was nothing like them anywhere else in the country. It might not have sounded like a symphony, but it sure sounded like Chicago. Kup in his prime was this physically huge, commanding presence—he played professional football for the Philadelphia Eagles, and later was an on-field NFL head linesman. When he began

writing his column in Chicago, he became an instant and larger-than-life star.

He made the decision early to try to be fair both in print and on the air, and chose generosity over smallness. He was the biggest name in this town before anyone now working in any print or broadcast newsroom got started, yet he made a practice of going out of his way to be welcoming to new colleagues. When I was given a column at the Sun-Times at the age of 23, the first note I got was from him. Written in heavy copy pencil over a tearsheet of the story announcing the new column, the message was short: "Bob—Congrats! Kup." Did it matter? More than 30 years later, I still have it.

The pride of his life was Kup's Purple Heart Cruise. Each year he would take military veterans, many of them from hospitals, out on a boat in Lake Michigan for a day of entertainment, food and fun. He started the cruise while World War II was still raging, and it lasted for 50 years. Once I was with him on the cruise—there was Kup on the gangplank, wearing a commodore's cap—and an elderly former soldier said to him, "Kup, I bet you don't remember who I am." Not missing a beat, Kup gave him a hearty Kup backslap—I thought the old soldier was going to go tumbling into the water—and boomed out: "Of course I know you! You're a grand old veteran!"

Kup's interviewing style on "Kup's Show" was one of a kind—I remember him leaning close to Henry Kissinger once and thundering out, in that amazing Kup voice: "Henry, what the hell, pardon my French, is going on in Cambodia?"—and like everything else he did, it was pure Chicago.

I talked with him the other day. Like so many people who reach 90, he finds that most of his friends are gone; he said he spends most of his time at home, and that "I'm weak much of the time." He always worked so hard, he said, because "turnout out a good story was more fun than anything else I could think of." Feeling weak or not, he seems to have made a determination, based on the toughness and strength of the old Kup: A great and legendary era in Chicago newspapering is coming to an end, and he is going to be the last man standing.

In newsrooms not just in Chicago, but all over the country—newsrooms where people who once here are now employed—the mention of Kup brings a smile and thoughts of home. It's probably not possible to speak for all of those men and women—all of the editors, writers and photographers with a Chicago connection—but as he turns 90 I'll bet I speak for most of them right now. He has never liked fancy writing, and he has always tried to make his point directly and unambiguously with as few words as possible, so I'll say it that way:

We love you, Kup.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2002

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last Thursday Senate and House conferees reached final agreement on the Conference Report for H.R. 333, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2002. I look forward to Senate consideration of this measure in September, following House action on the conference report.

It seems inevitable in a bill nearly five hundred pages in length, even with our most diligent efforts, that the conferees sometimes fail to catch all drafting errors. Shortly after the conference was concluded, it was brought to our attention that the effective date provision of Section 1234 contained an error.

Section 1234 is not a new provision of law but a reiteration of current law, which Senator BAUCUS offered as an amendment to the Senate-passed bill. The House and Senate conferees agree to retain the provision during our conference. This section makes clear that a claim that is in bona fide dispute over the existence of liability, or the amount of that liability, cannot be used as a weapon for bringing an involuntary bankruptcy action.

This clarification is consistent with the 1984 legislative history of this portion of Section 303 of the Bankruptcy Code. It also tracks the decisions of all five Courts of Appeals that have ruled on the bona fide dispute bar to the bringing of involuntary bankruptcy actions. Section 1234 restates and strengthens Congressional intent that an involuntary bankruptcy action should not be employed by creditors seeking to gain more leverage than they would have if they litigated contract disputes in the proper judicial forum. A party to a dispute over the amount or liability for a claim should not also be disadvantaged by the stigma and expense of an involuntary bankruptcy proceeding. Our overcrowded bankruptcy courts should not be burdened with such disputes.

In as much as Section 1234 restates existing law, it is given immediate effect upon enactment. As it currently reads, due to a drafting error, it would not apply to cases now pending before the bankruptcy courts. This mistake would have a particularly perverse effect in the five federal circuits that have already ruled that the bona fide dispute standard applies to both liability and the amount thereof.

As soon as the conferees became aware of this mistake, we worked to fashion a correction contained in a concurrent resolution to be adopted simultaneously with the conference report. In order to dispel any confusion regarding Congressional understanding and intent in this matter, I am placing the relevant portion of the agreed upon Concurrent Resolution in the RECORD. It directs the Clerk of the House to correct the enrollment of H.R. 333 by amending it as follows:

"Section 1234(b) of the bill by striking 'shall not apply with respect to cases commenced under Title II of the United States Code before such date' and inserting 'shall apply with respect to cases commenced under Title II of the United States Code before, on, and after such date'."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING AL SANTORO, SECRETARY-COMMISSIONER OF THE OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Al Santoro, who

has been a great public servant for the people of New Jersey and has served over twenty three years at the Ocean County Board of Elections. Mr. Santoro is retiring after many years of outstanding service from his position as Secretary-Commissioner with the Ocean County Board of Elections at the end of July.

Born and raised in Newark, Al Santoro became involved in civic duty at a young age under the wings of his father, Raymond Santoro, who served as a Councilman in Newark. After completing his education, Mr. Santoro served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960 in Germany.

During his tenure at the Ocean County Board of Elections, Al Santoro has been an important part in making our democracy work. His efforts helped ensure that the electoral mechanisms in place succeeded and that our elections are fair and just to all. The lifeblood of our democracy is the assurance that our political process works and that its integrity is not in question. Al Santoro has helped to make that a reality for the citizens of Ocean County. Surely, there can be no higher calling in our Republic.

So, I join the people of Ocean County and the entire State of New Jersey in recognizing Al Santoro for his outstanding service to the community.●

A TRIBUTE TO JESSE W. ALLEN

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to take a minute to recognize a man whose lifelong dedication to civic, military, and religious service has enriched not just my State of Nevada but the Nation as a whole.

Jesse W. Allen grew up in the poverty-stricken era of the Great Depression in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After losing his father at the age of fourteen, Mr. Allen dropped out of grade school in order to support his family. His labor taught him responsibility, integrity, and the value of hard work. Mr. Allen embraced these values and imparted them on others throughout his life.

At age 17, Jesse Allen enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In his forty-one months of service, Jesse proudly served his country; first by dodging German submarines across the Atlantic Ocean aboard the U.S.S. *Texas*, and then by fighting off Japanese fire and suicide bombers as a gun captain in the South Pacific. By the time Mr. Allen was honorably discharged in 1945, he had received 13 Battle Stars, a Silver Star, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

After leaving the service, Jesse returned to Tennessee where he made up for his lack of a formal education by acquiring his GED and enrolling in Tennessee Temple Bible College. For three years, he worked full time at night in a woolen mill so that he could support his family while attending college on the GI Bill. This hard work paid off in 1948 when Mr. Allen was ordained as a minister.

Jesse began spreading Christian principles throughout the United States on street corners, in jails, nursing homes, home meetings, and even in the tuberculosis sanatorium. Eventually, he established many churches and drew such a following that his preaching was carried on radio stations throughout the Southeast.

Jesse lived by the same Christian values that he preached. He went into the bootleggers' back woods, where few dared to go, to bring out the sick and elderly who needed to see a doctor. He worked with families suffering from marriage problems and with troubled teens throughout the Nation. My home State, Nevada benefitted from his passion as Mr. Allen worked with abused, neglected, and abandoned children at the Southern Nevada Children's Home in Boulder City, and later, as he opened his own home to afflicted youths from Clark County. His group home achieved record success rates for Clark County Juvenile Services for five consecutive years, earning him a commission as an Honorary Deputy Constable.

Today, Mr. Allen is the father of four and the grandfather of fourteen. He has lived an exemplary life of patriotism, citizenship, and dedicated service. He overcame the obstacles of his impoverished upbringing to help others, using values that inspire those he touches to do the same. For this reason, I am proud to recognize Mr. Jesse W. Allen. Men like him are rare, but are one of our country's greatest assets.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THOMAS A. PANKOK, FORMER NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLYMAN

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Thomas A. Pankok. Mr. Pankok has been a great public servant and an outstanding member of the community over the years.

Mr. Pankok currently resides in Pennsville, New Jersey. He married Alma Land in 1958 with whom he has three children, Thomas Pankok Jr., Kathy and Timothy and seven grandchildren.

Thomas Pankok is a graduate of Salem High School and a veteran of the United States Navy. He served four years during the Korean conflict. In 1956, after his tour of duty, Thomas Pankok began a lengthy career with Bell Telephone Company, serving 30 years with the company.

In 1981, Thomas Pankok was elected to the State Assembly. As a member of the Assembly, Mr. Pankok served two terms and authored many important pieces of legislation. After his first term in the Assembly, he was awarded with the "Freshman Legislator of the Year" award, presented by the State Association of Counties.

In addition, to his work in the State Assembly, Thomas Pankok also served over 15 years as a Salem County Freeholder. The role of state and local government is vital to our democracy.

For our federal system of government to succeed, we must have effective and committed leaders at the state and local level. The United States Congress needs and relies on partners like Thomas Pankok in local government and I salute him and thank him for his efforts.

So, I join with Salem County and the entire State of New Jersey in recognizing Thomas A. Pankok, an outstanding public servant, citizen, veteran and father. His efforts upon the behalf of the people of Salem County have been vital to the community and are much appreciated.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 7, 2000 in Los Angeles, CA. A woman ran over a 65-year-old Hispanic man, Jesus Plascencia, twice in a parking lot. Authorities say that the perpetrator made comments about her hatred of Hispanics after the death and referred to the victim as "dead road kill." The assailant was charged with murder and hate crimes in connection with the incident.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

IN RECOGNITION OF DELAWARE FIREFIGHTERS SELFLESSLY FIGHTING NATIONAL BLAZES

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the status of the National Fire Plan, the 2002 Wildfire season and the Delawareans who risked their lives to save others. Since January 1, over 47,000 wildfires have burned more than 3,200,000 acres around the country. The vast majority of these fires have been small, just a few acres at most; however, several have been massive fires consuming hundreds or thousands of acres. To those living nearest these fires, they have suffered a tremendous loss. But thanks to the outstanding effort and tireless dedication of firefighters from around the country, many of these large wildfires have been suppressed, and the smaller fires have been prevented from growing larger.

While wildfires tend to be a greater problem in the West, concern for the residents, for their health, for their