

are leading the way among public agencies by being the first in the nation to voluntarily sign off on the annual accounts according to the terms of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

If the corporate world is to regain public confidence, it might do the unthinkable and follow the lead of public agencies that good governance can enhance rather than hinder performance.

TRIBUTE TO BONJWING

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise to recognize my staff member Bonjwing Lee on this 15th day of July, 2003.

It is with both regret and heartfelt joy that my staff and I see Bonjwing leave my office today. I as well as many of my staff member have had the blessing of knowing Bonjwing nearly the entire 7 years of my tenure thus far in the Senate. Hailing from Kansas City, MO, he first came to service in my office as a bright young college student at Northwestern University and in the subsequent years has become a friend and family member to the Brownback crew and me.

For the past year and a half, Bonjwing has worked with me as a legislative aide. Professionally, the "Jwinger," as he is affectionately called by his colleagues, has demonstrated diligence, dedication, kindness, and humility in his work, and his outstanding service has been deeply appreciated. Beyond the office, I am honored to call Bonjwing a personal friend. Through talks we have shared and interactions, I have come to know Bonjwing as a remarkable young man with unique perspectives. I have learned a great deal from his cultural heritage, his religious faith, active endeavors, talents, and amazing experiences, and for this I thank him.

Although I lose a valued staff member today and will miss his presence and company, I heartily congratulate Bonjwing Lee on his many successes and prayerfully wish him well as he heads off to take on the rigors of legal study at the University of Michigan School of Law this fall and to an exciting future beyond. As he has taught me that the Chinese never say goodbye, instead parting company with a promise, "we shall meet again," I remain optimistic that our paths will cross again and look forward to my next meeting with Bonjwing.

I wish to leave Bonjwing with a verse from the Book of Philippians, IV: 9

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

HOSPICE AND HOME CARE IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to tell you of two of my constituents from Merced, CA. I recently

met with both of them and learned how the availability of home hospice and home health care in their homes improved their lives.

I had the opportunity to visit Carmel Flinders, a 93-year-old retired teacher with an engaging personality and a voracious appetite for reading books who lives at her home in Merced. On Christmas Eve, she was preparing for a large family gathering and unfortunately broke her hip and had to be rushed to Sacramento for surgery. Thanks to home health care paid for by Medicare, Carmel was able to return home and resume her life, supported by home health care workers and family members. She had the help of Rigo Mayoral, a caring physical therapist, who works for California Home Care and Hospice. She also benefitted from the assistance of Kim Holmes, a gifted nurse recently named Home Health Nurse of the year. It was inspiring to meet Carmel Flinders and the health care workers who have contributed to her strong recovery.

Americo Martignoni, and his wife, Eleanor, lived in the lovely home that they built more than 40 years ago. Americo was a retired farmer and veteran who was able to live at home with hospice care for the last 11 months. He was visited every week by Kerry Cheek, a licensed vocational nurse, and also assisted by Kaye Moyer, a certified home health aide. A lung cancer patient, with an indomitable spirit, Americo loved Eleanor's polenta and her legendary biscotti. These special people have a wonderful and supportive family of which they are so proud. Home hospice care, paid through Medicare, improved their lives while saving dollars. Mr. Martignoni died on July 7th at his home. He was a remarkable man and I extend my deepest condolences to his wife Eleanor and his family.

Medicare will soon celebrate its 38th birthday. It is gratifying to see this program at work, making a difference in the lives of my constituents. I saw the importance of this program through the eyes of two remarkable Americans, Carmel Flinders and Americo Martignoni. •

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

FREE TRADE AND WORKER PROTECTIONS

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the Senate will soon consider implementing legislation for the Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreements. These FTAs are comprehensive in nature and will serve well the interests of the United States and these two very important trading partners.

However, I am increasingly concerned with the notion that the Chile and Singapore FTAs should serve as

models or templates for future trade negotiations. I feel strongly that future negotiations must reflect the particular concerns and uniqueness of each trading partner. This seems obvious, but those who follow trade negotiations have warned that the Bush administration may claim that the standards of the Chile and Singapore agreements are universally applicable. I hope those warnings are wrong because provisions that are acceptable given the circumstances in Chile and Singapore may not be acceptable in agreements with countries in very different situations.

International trade enhances economic opportunity and can serve to improve workers' rights. As such, future trade agreements must build upon the progress made to date by including comprehensive worker protections and strong enforcement provisions.

Over the past decade, the treatment of labor and environmental issues in trade agreements has evolved both in emphasis and enforcement. NAFTA represents an early stage in this evolution, addressing labor and environmental issues in the context of the agreement, albeit in side accords. The United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement was the first FTA to include labor provisions in the actual text of the agreement and to subject those provisions to the same dispute settlement procedure as all other elements of the agreement.

Although the Chile and Singapore agreements should be the next step forward in this evolution towards strong and effectively enforced labor and environmental standards, they are in fact a step back. Unlike the United States-Jordan FTA, the only labor provision subject to dispute settlement is the requirement that each trading partner enforce its existing labor laws. Furthermore, there is no enforcement mechanism to ensure that Chile and Singapore will strive to uphold basic international labor rights.

As we pursue future trade agreements, we must encourage policies that avoid a downward spiral in working or environmental conditions. Trade agreements must be a catalyst to improve these standards. To achieve this end, American trade policy must be flexible: we must maintain a broad adherence to basic principles and at the same time address the unique characteristics of each trading partner.

Maintaining this flexibility is of utmost importance in our ongoing trade negotiations with six Central American countries. These countries provide an entirely different set of political and economic conditions than Chile, Singapore, and our other FTA partners. The administration must not ignore the fact that critical differences exist between the CAFTA countries and Chile and Singapore in labor and environmental areas. A fully enforceable obligation to adopt and enforce basic labor standards will improve the broader socioeconomic dynamics in Central

America. I have recently written to Ambassador Zoellick on this topic, along with Senators BAUCUS, BINGAMAN, and JEFFORDS. We expressed concern that the labor rights situation in a number of the Central American countries presents concerns of a significant degree different from those underlying the negotiations of the United States-Singapore and United States-Chile FTAs and urged that the CAFTA negotiations ought not be tied to previously negotiated agreements.

I will monitor progress of future trade negotiations closely and fully expect to see substantial progress in several areas. In particular, the inclusion of basic worker protections, as well as strong monitoring and enforcement provisions, are necessary to meet the challenges of an inclusive and progressive trade policy. ●

COMMENDING CHARLES E.
"CHUCK" FRANK

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to offer praise of Charles E. "Chuck" Frank of Chicago, IL, for his ongoing efforts to improve our environment. Mr. Frank's stance on environmental issues deserves particular commendation because in addition to being an active supporter of the environment, he is in the business of selling cars and trucks at one of the Chicago area's largest car dealerships, which was founded by his legendary father, "Z" Frank.

Mr. Frank's love for the outdoors started in the early years of his life when he spent hours camping, fishing, and pursuing other activities immersed in nature. His love and respect for the environment did not stop with childhood. Mr. Frank has made a personal and professional commitment to protect the environment that he so loved to ensure that future generations will be able to experience the same natural wonders that he was able to. This commitment led Mr. Frank to join the Sierra Club in 1975, and now he is a lifetime member and Vice President of the Sierra Club Foundation.

Mr. Frank has demonstrated his commitment to the environment he loves by working with the Sierra Club to secure a significant increase in the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards. Offering a unique perspective from inside the automobile industry, he believes the current CAFE standards of 27.5 miles per gallon for cars and 20.7 miles per gallon for trucks are standards the fail to meet consumers' demands both for more cost-effective vehicles and solutions to the worsening problems of air pollution and global warming. He believes the technology in his industry can surpass the current standards, and believes that an increase to 40 miles per gallon for cars and 27.5 miles per gallon for trucks is entirely possible. Mr. Frank strongly advocates increasing the CAFE standards to these proposed levels to ensure stronger customer satisfaction and improved environmental conditions.

Mr. Frank has termed his business, "The Country's #1 Conscientious Chevy

Dealer." In Mr. Frank's case, this slogan goes beyond simple rhetoric and is absolutely true of his approach to his business. Mr. Frank believes so strongly in the need for an increase in the CAFE that he has pledged part of his business profits to the Sierra Club Clean Air Campaign. He is currently running advertisements in the Chicago area that detail the need for a raise in the CAFE standards and offer consumers an opportunity to have Mr. Frank's car dealership donate \$200 to the Sierra Club for each car or truck sold. I commend Mr. Frank for demonstrating that issues that affect our Nation's public health and environment are just as important as the bottom line.

The tireless work that Chuck Frank has done as a champion of the environment and as a manager in the automobile industry should be an inspiration for us all to enact legislation to raise the CAFE standards. Mr. Frank's unique position demonstrates that business and environmental issues can go hand-in-hand. I thank Chuck Frank for his unwavering support for consumers of this country and the environment, and I am confident that his work will help move us toward the increase in CAFE standards that is so needed in this country. ●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
SAFETY ACT

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for S. 253, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act. This groundbreaking legislation will enable law enforcement officers to protect themselves and our communities, wherever they are, whenever they are needed. This legislation authorizes off-duty and qualified retired officers to carry a firearm anywhere in the Nation to help ensure the safety and well-being of law abiding citizens. While I strongly support this goal, I hope that amendments on the Senator floor will add additional common sense restrictions to the bill.

Today, the authority of off-duty police officer to carry concealed weapons varies widely from State to State. This complex patchwork of Federal, State and local laws places an undue and unnecessary limitation on professionals sworn to defend the public interest. The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act would allow active law enforcement officers to carry their weapons while traveling outside their own jurisdiction, anywhere in the country. However, the bill also preserves State laws that restrict the carrying of concealed weapons on private or government property.

Although we need to supplement the nationwide effort to increase security, it is critical that enactment of such legislation be limited to current licensed professionals. This new authority to carry concealed firearms should complement existing duty of police of-

ficers to protect their communities however, it must also provide clear channels of accountability.

I hope that the Senate will consider including the following common sense restrictions to improve this legislation for our officers and our citizens. First, we should limit this new authority to currently employed law enforcement officers. This will allow for reliable oversight by State and local authorities. We should also restrict the off-duty officer's firearm selection to handguns. This will reduce the potential for abuse and the unnecessary violence that high powered weapons may induce. We should also prevent off-duty officers from carrying weapons in places where alcohol is served. Clearly, guns and alcohol are a deadly combination, even in the hands of trained professionals.

Finally, even as we take comfort in the greater protection this legislation will provide, we must not lose sight of the fact that there is no substitute for a uniformed, on-duty police officer. The reluctance of the administration to provide adequate State fiscal relief has forced many police departments to downsize their police forces at a time when they have never been in greater demand. In addition, the inadequate funding of First Responders within the Homeland Security Department puts even greater strain on police departments and threatens our national security. Furthermore, the decision by Congress and this administration to deny level funding for the successful Community Oriented Policing program is a betrayal of the very communities that the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act is designed to protect. Though there is much to be gained by supplementing community security with armed and trained citizens, there is also much to be lost by law enforcement entities are not fully funded.

I intend to support the Law Enforcement Officer's Safety Act. It is my hope that this is only the first step to giving those responsible for our protection the tools and resources that are necessary to uphold their oath. ●

TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARIE
PEDERSON

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute to one of Kentucky's most benevolent humanitarians. Ann Marie Pederson, a graduate student at the University of Louisville, volunteers in the English-as-a-second-language, ESL, program through Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Through this program, Anne Marie works with refugees from over 25 different nationalities and ethnic groups throughout Kentucky.

Kentucky Refugee Ministries is a refugee resettlement office for the Episcopal Migration Ministries and Church World Service. The organization assists refugees legally admitted to the United States as victims of persecution for religious or political belief. Anne Marie