

measures such as posting in-school police officers, installing security cameras and metal detectors, and developing emergency response programs. But a recent report from the National School Safety and Security Services, a firm specializing in school security and school safety for K-12 schools, found an increase in school-related violent deaths in the 2003-2004 school year. According to the report, there have been 43 violent deaths nationwide this school year, more than the previous 2 years combined and more than any school year prior to Columbine. In addition, there have been more than 60 non-fatal shootings this year and more than 160 other incidents of high-profile violence, such as stabbings and riots. This is simply not acceptable.

Despite continued school violence, the President has not led on this issue and Congress has also failed to enact sensible gun safety laws that could help to turn the tide. In fact, President Bush's budget proposes eliminating funding for the COPS school resource officer program. We have yet to close the gun show loophole, despite bipartisan support in the Senate. And, while the President has said he supports reauthorizing the assault weapons ban and a bipartisan majority in the Senate is on the record supporting reauthorization there are no plans to consider this important legislation before it expires on September 13 of this year.

America's schools need our help and these are simple, commonsense steps we can take to improve school safety. I urge my colleagues to close the gun show loophole, keep the ban on assault weapons, and restore funding for COPS school resource officers. As the end of another school year approaches, the push to enact sensible gun safety legislation must continue.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Lung Association.

For a century, the American Lung Association has been addressing some of the Nation's most pressing health issues. In 1904, a dedicated and hard-working group of physicians, nurses, and volunteers came together with the goal of eradicating tuberculosis. The result was one of the Nation's oldest community-based, voluntary health organizations, and its fight against tuberculosis has produced amazing results throughout the 20th century.

When the American Lung Association realized there was a new and dangerous problem facing the Nation—that of chronic lung disease—it began to shift focus away from TB and toward healthy lungs. Soon, the Lung Association had one of the most extensive programs for fighting lung disease in the Nation.

Using a multi-faceted approach, the American Lung Association works in

the areas of research, education, and advocacy. It has courageously battled tobacco companies for the past 40 years, though its position was not always a popular one. Furthermore, the Lung Association, concerned about environmental factors such as air pollution, was a leader in passing the 1970s Clean Air Act.

Our Nation is a better place and our families are healthier because of the work of the American Lung Association. I am proud to congratulate the association, and I ask my colleagues to join me in formally acknowledging their fine work.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF ASHLAND, KY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the leaders in Ashland, KY who contributed to the downtown revitalization of the city. Ashland was one of 31 cities in Kentucky that received national recognition for its efforts in historic preservation on Tuesday, April 20, 2004.

First Lady Laura Bush presented the Preserve America recognition award to Ashland Mayor, Steve Gilmore, and Main Street Board President, Larry Jones. The initiative recognizes communities that protect and celebrate their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization and encourage people to experience and appreciate historic resources through education and tourism programs.

Of the 65 "Preserve America" U.S. communities that the First Lady Laura Bush has designated, 31 are in Kentucky. In President Bush's proposed budget for fiscal year 2005, he included \$10 million for Preserve America communities. Ashland will be eligible to compete for some of the money Congress appropriates.

The large number of Kentucky communities honored by the First Lady shows how important preservation is in Kentucky, and I commend these communities for their hard work and dedication to the various projects. I join all Kentuckians in congratulating Mayor Gilmore and the city of Ashland on their beautiful downtown revitalization.●

RECOGNITION OF DANIEL T. BRANTON

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Daniel T. Branton of Leland, MS, for his distinguished service as president of Delta Council this year.

Delta Council is an economic development organization representing the 18 Delta and part-Delta counties of Northwest Mississippi. Organized in 1935, Delta Council has worked to bring together the agriculture and business

leadership of the region to focus on the challenges which face the economy and the people of the Mississippi delta.

Ad president of Delta Council and a farm leader, Dan has been a strong proponent of maintaining the agricultural policies which were adopted in the 2002 Farm Law. As a representative voice of farmers from the Delta region which produces more than \$3 billion of agricultural goods annually, Dan's advice on matters affecting agriculture has been invaluable to me and my staff as we attempt to address those issues which will ensure the future viability of American agriculture.

Dan has been a strong proponent of Delta Council's programs in education and health care. During Dan's year as president, the teacher shortage programs which evolved from earlier Delta Council policies have expanded in a way that is having a meaningful impact on the problem of attracting school teachers to rural areas.

I am pleased that I have had the opportunity to work with Dan and Delta Council to make certain that special health care needs in areas such as the Mississippi Delta, where there is a large underserved population, have been enhanced. Through Delta Council's efforts to establish the Delta Health Alliance, a new Federal and local partnership is now producing extraordinary outcomes. In the area of transportation and water resource improvement, Dan has coordinated the activities of Delta Council in a manner which has brought local consensus to very touch issues facing the Delta's economic future. Dan has been a leader in all aspects of Delta Council's work while maintaining a successful family farming operation.

Dan has also been a leader in his community. He currently serves as president of Burdette Gin Company and is a director of Leland Compress. He is also a delegate and has served as a director of the National Cotton Council. Dan serves on the Black Bayou Drainage Commission and is a former member of the Advisory Board for the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce.

I congratulate Dan Branton for his contributions to the Delta region, the State of Mississippi, and the Nation. I look forward to his future contributions in improving the quality of life for our citizens.●

IN TRIBUTE TO JOHN PALMS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, John Palms, the former president of the University of South Carolina, will be honored this week with Mepkin Abbey's newly established Wisdom Award.

All of us in the Senate would be a little wiser ourselves to read the following article from the April 10 Charleston Post and Courier, on Dr. Palms. He is an inspiration to all that the American dream is alive and well. I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows.

[From the Charleston Post and Courier, Apr. 10, 2004]

JOHN PALMS—NUCLEAR PHYSICIST LEADS THE WAY IN SCIENCE, EDUCATION, RELIGION AND THE WORLD STAGE

(By Judy Watts)

"Learning humanizes character and does not permit it to be cruel" is the University of South Carolina motto.

The words also epitomize John Palms' philosophy, not only as the former USC president, but as a physicist and a human being.

Although his formal training is in nuclear physics, his life events have given him an educated perspective on physics' ambiguous nature, both in the weapons he designed and in the research, which had medical applications. As president of two universities, he fulfilled his destiny as an educator who believed in building not only well-educated people, but also people of character.

On April 24, Palms will be presented with Mepkin Abbey's newly established Wisdom Award, given for a lifetime of achievement based on the highest human aspirations. Since his years as a cadet at The Citadel, Mepkin Abbey has been a personal touchstone, a place where he has been able to focus and center his life.

John Palms has come a long way from the little dutch boy who fled a Hitler-terrorized Europe with his family.

MAKING OF THE MAN

It was 1939 and Hitler had invaded Poland. John Palms was 4 years old and sandbags were being piled on the front lawn in anticipation of war. Palms' father, deciding it was dangerous for the family to remain, concocted a story that they needed to travel to South America to buy wool for his underwear factory that supplied the Dutch military.

"The North Sea had been mined and there were severe restrictions about visas," says Palms.

The family took a train to Italy and from there a boat headed for South America. En route, a submarine stopped the boat and someone was taken off, says Palms.

"I remember commotion and crying. My father has 8-mm film of the submarine."

For seven months the family lived in Rio de Janeiro until they could obtain visas to continue on to New York, where they arrived in February 1940. They waited out the war there.

When Palms was 11, the family returned to Holland to get restitution for the family's damaged textile factory and haberdashery.

"We didn't want to go back because we were already Americanized."

Once in Holland, he and his siblings were faced with an academic hardship.

"We spoke Dutch in our house in New York, so when we went back I could speak Dutch but could not read a word of it.

"I was home-schooled for awhile and then tutored by the Jesuits."

At 14, he passed the comprehensive exam to get into St. Aloysius College at The Hague.

"I wasn't an outstanding student. I was excited about being in a different country. There was lots of talk about the war when we returned to Holland."

Palms heard firsthand stories of Buchenwald from his uncle who had been arrested for helping Jews escape from the Nazis.

"His own neighbor told on him and he was taken to Buchenwald. There was such fear that even if you knew about something and didn't report it, you were at risk. But he survived. Every time I see a German movie, I have to watch it, and I read anything I can find on the concentration camps and Buchenwald."

The taste of American culture so prevalent in postwar Holland fueled the family's desire to return to the United States. In 1951, they came back and settled in Clearwater, Fla.

Palms graduated from Clearwater High School with no plans for the future.

"I decided to do nothing. I was over-Americanized by all the American movies where people raised themselves up by their bootstraps. I never got the message that you needed an education. I thought I would find some opportunity by being ingenious and creative."

His parents had not gone to college, yet his father had been a successful entrepreneur, a salesman who had bought one sewing machine, then another and another, and ended up with his own factory. Palms tried his luck first as a painter's helper, then as a plumber and first mate on a boat.

His nonplan didn't work out. When he and some friends heard about the great-paying automobile factory jobs in Detroit, they made the trip. A day after they arrived, there was a strike.

"That was a real semester of realizations for me."

Back in Clearwater, he ran into a friend who made a suggestion. It was a suggestion that set his life on a remarkable course.

"My buddy said I could go to St. Petersburg Junior College for \$50. So, I borrowed \$50 from my father."

Palms enrolled. He wanted to find out if he was capable of college work. Although he could read English, he read slowly. He pulled a C in English and did well in math and chemistry. Another suggestion from this brother was that he attend a military academy. Palms wrote to West Point and got a letter back saying he couldn't apply because he was not an American citizen. His citizenship was still two years away.

His older brother had heard about The Citadel.

"If I graduated as a distinguished cadet, I would get a regular commission and could become a pilot. The Citadel had just appointed a new president, Gen. Mark Clark, whom my dad thought was the most wonderful American. I applied to The Citadel and, sight unseen, I got in. Absolutely amazing; they must have been short of students that year.

"It was 1954. Dad drove me up to No. 2 barracks and saw those bars on the windows and in his Dutch accent said, 'Zyahn—he couldn't say the J—you don't have to go here if you don't want to.' I told him it was exactly what I wanted; that I needed the discipline and the structure. I signed up for Air Force ROTC."

The plan was to get his business degree, gain his commission and become an Air Force pilot. He managed C's in English and history, but again excelled in math, science and German. He followed his strength and switched his major to physics. There were five students in the program. As planned, he graduated as a distinguished ROTC cadet.

"But I failed the eye exam, so I couldn't be a pilot. The head of the physics department and the ROTC called me in and said they would give me a commission anyway and send me to graduate school for one year. I chose Emory because they were on the quarter system and I could finish my master's in a year there."

ACADEMIA

Two days after graduating from Emory, he was married to Norma Cannon ("the most wonderful person I ever imagined finding"), and the next few years were filled with completing his master's, teaching physics at the Air Force Academy, getting out of the Air Force and completing his Ph.D.

He went to Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico, where he did his dissertation and designed nuclear weapons.

"Emory kept track of me and offered me to come back as a professor. We struggled with that. I had the opportunity to go to Stanford, but Southern ladies have to come back to the South, so we did. We had a 23-year career at Emory."

Palms worked his way through the ranks from associate professor to vice president for academic affairs more than two decades later, when he took a sabbatical. During the break, he received numerous calls from other universities that wanted him to come on board as president. Georgia State was his choice.

But he had barely settled in there when he got a call from a head hunter that the problem-ridden University of South Carolina wanted Palms as President. The decision to move was not easy and came only after a family weekend of soul-searching and discussion.

They arrived in Columbia on the Ides of March 1991. The first couple of years in Columbia were rough.

"All the qualities that are important at a university had been violated. And that affects hiring and tenure. The president is expected to be the role model. The faculty is, also. People don't understand the life of a university president. There is a moral authority," says Palms.

He wanted to return the university to its core: learning and the search for truth.

Within three years, USC's reputation was restored and the school was in a position to launch a major campaign. He and Norma traveled all over the country, cultivating and nurturing people who might contribute. They also developed a professional staff for financial development. Their goal was to raise \$200 million. When he stepped down after 11 years, the couple had raised more than \$500 million for the school.

During his tenure at USC, the SAT scores of incoming freshmen rose 150 points, hundreds of thousands in research grants were gained, and standards for hiring and tenure were raised in all 52 departments.

PHYSICS

Physics was the platform on which Palms built his career.

"All my life I have struggled with the place of modern physics in society and the morality of nuclear deterrence. Should we be using nuclear weapons to deter war?"

Palms has been chairman of IDA—the Institute for Defense Analysis—for five years and a member for 14 years.

"IDA was set up right after WWII to bring university talents into issues of national security," says Palms. "It started with the presidents of Harvard and MIT and a board of military people and former congressmen."

The group conducts independent analysis for the Secretary of Defense and for Congress.

"It (defense) can be so political, but this is really independent analysis. We do everything from evaluating and testing weapons systems to designing and forecasting."

The issue of fighter planes and mobile-force transformations from a Cold War world to present-day needs is now being studied.

"More coordination and use of equipment among the services is becoming an integral part of what we are doing now and in the future," says Palms. "We are heavily involved in homeland security right now, and we are also heavily involved in Iraq—the whole operation. We are mainly sitting there looking at what needs to be done and standing ready to do these studies."

IDA also works on advanced computer systems and mathematics for cryptology.

"You have the very best minds in the world to do this. Every two years, we take 20 of the very best Ph.D.s in universities and orient them to this work."

After two years of site visits and orientation, new members are assigned to a committee.

Palms became involved in IDA, in part, because he had developed systems at Los Alamos, and IDA needed somebody who knew about weapons. He also brought a firsthand perspective to what happened in Europe during World War II. He says he is always watchful for the signs of a similar situation emerging.

"When I was at Los Alamos (1963-66), I worked on weapons design and fundamental physics research, which could have been used for weapons development, or input to medicine, the environment, ecology or therapeutic medicine. So, even though funded by the Department of Defense, the results are there for the world to use the way it wants to. Just because the research is used in nuclear weapons, you shouldn't stop doing it because it is also used in all these other areas.

"There is the issue of a two-edged sword. As a scientist, you have the obligation to make the public aware and anticipate how the information should be used, whether it is proper to use it one way or another."

Such discussions of religion and science were a familiar topic that he and the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin often considered.

"He wrote a commission report on the morality of nuclear deterrence (Time, Nov. 29, 1982, issue; titled "God and the Bomb"). You can justify only so much deterrence. If there had been no Russia and we had been the only nuclear power, we would have to be very careful. We are living in that kind of age now. You can't overuse your power. It must always be used in response to the threat. Where's the other threat?"

Palms first met Cardinal Bernardin while a cadet at The Citadel. His wife knew Bernardin as her teacher at Bishop England High School.

"He baptized our children. It's a funny word."

Palms is currently involved with neutrino research through USC and a consortium of 13 universities.

"Neutrino is one of the subatomic particles. People have been trying to find if it has mass or not. It might explain the missing dark matter in the universe. My role is that I built one of the first detectors. Those detectors have evolved. I'm trying to make a contribution and also helping to find funding for this. It will cost about \$40 million to \$50 million."

He also continues to teach physics classes at USC, including a lab course in which the class will conduct four Nobel prize-winning experiments.

Although he didn't continue in the Air Force, he is content that he is doing his part through IDA.

"This is almost better. This is my contribution to the country and to national security, and I'm happy to be able to serve my country."

THE HOME FRONT

Norma Palms describes her husband of 45 years as a great husband and father with a wonderful sense of humor.

"Everyone wants him full time, yet he never wants to take the credit for anything," she says.

Today, the couple divide their time between Columbia and their home in Wild Dunes. His retirement from USC has allowed more time for their grown children, Lee, John and Danielle, and nine grandchildren. Norma says they have looked forward to this time as a couple.

"The time to be with our children and grandchildren has been very special," she says. "We can take off and go see the grand-

children on their birthdays and for holidays. We couldn't do that before. We especially look forward to getting everyone together for family reunions here at the house."

The couple are very involved at their church, St. Thomas More, and served as honorary chairs for the church's recent 50th-anniversary celebration.

Mepkin Abbey also is part of their spiritual life. In fact, Palms sees a link between the abbey and finding Norma.

"When I was 21, I was ready to make a serious commitment to someone and went to Mepkin Abbey and prayed about that. I was trying to find out if I was doing the right thing with my life. Two weeks later I met Norma."

Today, the couple go to the abbey together, then they take different paths and read alone in the gardens.

"We contemplate our lives and come back together and get rededicated again. We think a lot of the brothers. Their spirituality has been important in our lives," says Norma.

Palms says he is honored to receive the Wisdom Award from Mepkin Abbey.

"I have a lot more years to live, and there are many people who have done a lot more for the state for a lot longer than I have. This is a wonderful honor from them."

Chairman of the award committee, Dr. Theodore Stern, says Palms was chosen because of his abilities as a team leader.

"He's very dedicated and has made a tremendous contribution to the academics of South Carolina. He is an outstanding individual and leader and has worked on so many education and government commissions," says Stern, "and his wife, Norma, also has been a leader."

Norma headed up the abbey's capital campaign.

"My whole heart was in that. I still hold them as No. 1 on my priority list," she says.

Palms credits Norma's outgoing personality with softening his technocratic tendencies.

"I'm made up of everyone I've ever met and known, but Norma is the biggest influence and the most important person in my life," says Palms.●

HONORING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL'S SUCCESS IN "WE THE PEOPLE" PROGRAM

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will descend upon Washington, DC, from May 1-3, 2004, to compete in the national finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program. This program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, instructs our youth about the U.S. Constitution and the importance of civic participation by providing schools with textbooks that offer both historical information and critical-thinking activities.

I am proud to announce that students from East Brunswick High School in East Brunswick, NJ, have won my home State's competition and will represent New Jersey in our Nation's capital next weekend. I wish the following students, and their teacher Alan Brodman, the best of luck in the future and congratulate them on their hard work and inspiring civic advocacy: Kian Barry, Patrick Bell, Kathleen Cammidge, Jessica Castles, Jennifer Chen, Ryan Citron, Jenna Elson, Dan-

iel Gartenberg, Scott Goldschmidt, David Goldstein, Kristen Hamaoui, Marc Mondry, Jason Noah, Eric Nowicki, Nicholas Parais, Greg Parnas, Jessica Rebarber, Joa Roux, Blake Segal, Jody Shaw, Andrew Silver, Jeffrey Smith, Daniel Temkin, Abraham Tran, Arin Tuerk, and Haiwei Wang.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE GENE E. BROOKS

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the life of a distinguished public servant and a true friend, Judge Gene E. Brooks, who passed away Monday, April 19, 2004. His long life was filled with conscientious service and unwavering dedication to our State and Nation. The contributions he made to American jurisprudence, combined with the many lives he touched along the way, leave behind a positive legacy that will not soon be forgotten.

Judge Brooks began his career in public service by honorably serving our country with the United States Marines during the Korean War. He earned his undergraduate degree from the Indiana State Teachers College and went on to study law at the Indiana University School of Law. Judge Brooks practiced law as a prosecuting attorney and in private practice in Posey County, IN, from 1960 to 1968. He was then appointed to serve as the first full-time bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of Indiana, where he worked until 1979, when President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Brooks as a United States District Court Judge. His nomination was forwarded to President Carter by my father, Senator Birch Bayh. Judge Brooks went on to become the Chief Judge of the Southern District in 1987.

The positive imprints Gene made upon the United States legal landscape came not only through his many judicial rulings, but also through his active role as advisor to the United States Congress, as well as his membership and leadership as former president of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. In addition to his professional service, Judge Brooks was an active member of many community organizations, including the Indiana Legal Aid Society, the Kiwanis Club, Toastmasters, the Indiana State Museum Foundation, and the Evansville Petroleum Club. He was a Kentucky Colonel and a 32nd Degree Mason.

Judge Brooks is survived by his wife, Jan Darlene (Gibson) Brooks; his three sons, Gene E. "Geno" Brooks Jr., Marc E. Brooks, Gregory A. Brooks; his daughter, Stephanie Jobe; his sister, Joyce Brochman; and his three grandchildren.

Judge Brooks was a man who walked with kings, but never lost the common touch. The citizens of the State of Indiana and the United States of America were well served by the life led by the Honorable Judge Brooks. Gene was a dedicated family man and public servant. He touched many lives over the