

course of his career and will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and an incredible leader.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Gene E. Brooks in the official RECORD of the U.S. Senate. May God be with all who mourn his passing, as I know He is with Gene.●

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 440th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare in Stratford-upon-Avon. Shakespeare's name is undoubtedly the most recognized in English literature. Every one of us has spent time exploring the Elizabethan society and language through Shakespeare's dramas, poems, and sonnets. I remember with great enthusiasm the times I read Shakespeare or watched one of his plays. Who among us does not have their favorite line from one of Shakespeare's many works? Mine, which all of us in this chamber should pause to consider from time to time, comes from "Hamlet Prince of Denmark": "This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

His plays abound with all of the human emotions: love, jealousy, hatred, joy, envy, and are filled with the eternal themes of loyalty, betrayal, friendship, and revenge. He wrote of family strife, of the best laid plans gone awry, of tender love and bitter feuds. His themes transcend culture, nationality, and ethnicity. They are universal; and to this day are repeated time and time again throughout the world. From the American retelling of "Romeo and Juliet" in "West Side Story" to the Japanese adaptation of "King Lear" in "Ran," Shakespeare's cultural influence is virtually limitless. Was William Shakespeare a visionary? Or was he simply a keen observer, chronicling human relationships that have essentially remained unchanged in the four centuries since he lived?

We, in Oregon, are very fortunate to have the renowned Oregon Shakespeare Festival which has been presenting its namesake's works, as well as other classic and contemporary plays, for nearly 40 years. Some 380,000 people—Oregonians and audiences from various parts of the country and the world—visit Ashland each year to attend these repertory performances. From the very first productions of "The Merchant of Venice" and "Twelfth Night" to this year's "The Comedy of Errors," "King Lear," "Henry VI," and "Much Ado About Nothing," the Oregon Shakespeare Festival has brought Shakespeare's magic and great wit to life.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL AARON "BURLEY" BURLESON

● Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator INHOFE and myself, I wish to honor and pay respect to a

great Oklahoman, COL (Ret) Aaron "Burley" Burleson. Currently, he is the director of Military Development of the Altus Chamber of Commerce, Altus, OK. He has served the State of Oklahoma and the United States for many years.

Mr. Burleson was born in Lawton, OK, and graduated from Lawton High School. While attending Cameron College in Lawton, he was mobilized for active duty with the 45th Infantry Division in 1940. After completing pilot training in 1944 at Pampa Army Airfield, TX, Burley Burleson received his commission as a second lieutenant. Over the next 30 years he would serve his country around the globe.

He served as special air missions officer in the Office of the Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon. During this assignment, Burley worked directly with the White House, the Office of the Secretary of State, the Senate and the House of Representatives. His main assignment was to provide airlift for both United States and foreign dignitaries.

In 1970, he transferred to Altus Air Force Base, OK, where he served as Vice Commander of the 443rd Military Airlift Wing and later as base commander in 1973.

Retiring as a colonel from the Air Force in 1974, he immediately became the executive director of the "Committee of 100," a special part of the Altus Chamber of Commerce. The main purpose of the committee was to strengthen and promote economic development of Altus and Jackson County, OK. After serving as the head of the organization from 1975 to 1984, Burley became the community's liaison between the men and women of Altus and the personnel assigned to Altus Air Force Base.

Burley's leadership brought about tremendous support for Altus AFB. Working with Air Force personnel and congressional Members, he was able to help secure needed funding and resources for the base. Some examples include new housing, runway easements, a parallel assault runway, a corrosion control facility and a drop zone. In 1982, a tornado struck Altus AFB and caused severe damage. Under Burley's leadership, critical funding was obtained to repair the damages. These projects helped Altus Air Force Base become rated as the best base in the Air Force a few years ago.

Burley has received numerous awards and citations through the years for his many achievements. Recently, Air Education Training Command singled Burley out for one of four, first time, "Pioneer Awards" to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force. He was also heavily involved with the Air Force Association, at the national and the State levels, as well as numerous civic and charitable organizations in Altus.

Burley Burleson, unfortunately, suffered a stroke in November of 2002 and is currently recovering. JIM INHOFE and

I are proud to call him a friend and appreciate his dedicated service to our great country. His positive contributions to countless friends, all Oklahomans, and the U.S. Air Force are greatly appreciated.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SCHOPP

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I rise today in the Senate to honor 15 year-old Michael Schopp, from Creve Coeur, MO. In a ceremony honoring his achievement on May 2, 2004, Mr. Schopp will receive the Eagle Scout Award, which is the highest advancement rank a young man may earn in scouting.

To earn his Eagle Award, Mr. Schopp designed, planned and supervised the construction and landscaping of a planter and two dugout benches for the Ballwin Athletic Association baseball fields where he played ball for several years.

Mr. Schopp began his scouting experience as a Cub Scout in elementary school and has been a member of Troop 631, sponsored by St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Ballwin, MO, since March 2000. Mr. Schopp's dedication to the values of scouting and his leadership ability are demonstrated in his many scouting activities over the years: he has served his boy scout troop as Patrol Leader and Assistant Patrol Leader, and is currently one of the leaders of his troop as a member of the Executive Patrol and as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Mr. Schopp participated in the Junior Leader Training Camp and also attended three Boy Scout High Adventure Camps: Northern Tier in Ely, MN; Sea Base in Florida; and OKPIK Winter Camp in Northern Minnesota.

The rank of Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance since it was first awarded in 1912 and its rigorous standards have been maintained over the years. That rigor is demonstrated in the fact that only 4 percent of young men across America who join the boy scouts earn this prestigious award. Mr. Schopp will be in good company as there are leaders in every walk of life who have endeavored to earn this coveted award. Indeed, many Eagle Scouts have gone on in life to excel in professional athletics, business, space exploration, entertainment, scientific discovery and public service in government. President Gerald Ford is an Eagle Scout as well as two of my distinguished colleagues in this chamber, Senator JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama and Senator RICHARD LUGAR of Indiana.

The people of Creve Coeur, MO are fortunate to have Mr. Schopp living and growing in their community. I congratulate Mr. Schopp for his success in earning his Eagle Scout Award. But also, I congratulate all of his peers, members of his troop, coaches, teachers, and parents for all the support and encouragement they have given that has helped Mr. Schopp reach his goals.