

better place for individuals living with TSC by providing exceptional medical care and guidance through the many challenges associated with living with the disease. His quest to better understand the nature and cause of the disease will benefit all patients diagnosed with this condition and possible unlock the secret to a cure that will eradicate this disease once and for all. Because of his dedication to his patients and his contribution to the research community, it is my pleasure to rise today, and offer this tribute to Dr. Gomez.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING ERWIN ARNDT

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the National World War II Memorial will be dedicated here in Washington on the Saturday before Memorial Day. It is a stunningly beautiful monument, located midway between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument. It is a long-overdue salute—an expression of profound gratitude—to the millions of Americans who served their country with courage, sacrifice, and selflessness in that war.

I would like to share with my Senate colleagues a remarkable story about how the small community of Walnut, IA, has expressed its gratitude to a local veteran of the Second World War, Erwin Arndt.

Mr. Arndt returned from the war to serve his community as an electrician, a volunteer firefighter, a city council member, and commander of the local AMVETS unit. Just about everybody in Walnut knows and respects Mr. Arndt. And there was much concern when he suffered a series of strokes over the past year.

All too typically, a man in Mr. Arndt's condition would have no choice but to become a dependent in a nursing home. But friends and neighbors in Walnut came to his rescue in a truly remarkable and inspiring way. They joined hands to give him the wherewithal and assistance he needed to continue living independently in his apartment.

A local restaurant helped to provide daily meals. Several citizens helped Mr. Arndt to keep his apartment clean and orderly, and take him to medical appointments. Still others organized shifts to keep him company in his apartment. Several especially kind citizens got together to purchase a motorized chair to help Mr. Arndt get around.

It was truly a community effort—an act of collective kindness that I find truly inspiring. As you can imagine, Mr. Arndt's daughter, Karen Dewinter, is overwhelmed with gratitude for what the people of Walnut did for her father. She told me that she was especially touched that on her father's birthday, the local AMVET auxiliary held a party at a cafe, where they brought cards from local elementary and preschool children.

I express my own gratitude to the people of Walnut, IA, for their extraordinary caring and kindness toward Erwin Arndt. Like millions of Americans of what Tom Brokaw has labeled "the Greatest Generation," Mr. Arndt served our Nation with dedication in both war and peace.

In their own special way, the people of Walnut have said thank you to this veteran and beloved member of the community. I would like to add my own gratitude, not just to Mr. Arndt but also to the good citizens of Walnut.●

##### FRIENDS OF THE DES PLAINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to honor The Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library, an organization that has been serving the Des Plaines community for the past 50 years.

The Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library was founded in April 1954 by a planning committee of the northwest suburban branch of the American Association of University Women and members of several parent organizations from Des Plaines area schools.

The initial objectives of The Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library were to stimulate interest in the library and record historical data for the town of Des Plaines. Much of the historical data first recorded by The Friends has since become part of the collection of the Des Plaines Historical Society.

Over the course of the past 50 years, The Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library has come to play an invaluable role in the ongoing operations of the institution and community they serve. Members have volunteered to straighten book shelves, provided rainy day plastic bags to help protect books on loan, and held voter registration drives.

The Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library holds ongoing book sales to provide financial support to the library, enabling the library to purchase additional resources and provide educational programming for the citizens of Des Plaines. In the past, the proceeds of these book sales have enabled the library to purchase computers and audio visual equipment.

I congratulate the Friends of the Des Plaines Public Library as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. I am confident that this organization will continue its long tradition of promoting and fostering a lifelong commitment to reading and education in the community of Des Plaines long into the future.●

##### THE LIFE OF AN AWARD-WINNING COLUMNIST, REPORTER, AUTHOR

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I honor the life of an award-winning columnist, reporter and author. My friend, Bill Fiset, lived a long, distinguished life of 73 years, serving his country in World War II. In addition to his honorable ca-

reer, he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Bill Fiset was born March 15, 1921 in Seattle, WA and attended Queen Anne High School and the University of Washington, where he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity and a member of the golf team. At 21, he was a reporter and wrote a column called "Strolling Around the Town" for the Seattle Times.

At 22, Fiset saw foreign service in Africa as an ambulance driver in the American Field Service, an organization giving medical aid to the Allies before the U.S. entered the war. He resigned the Field Service in Egypt in April 1942, and enlisted with the Royal Armored Service Corps. As a second lieutenant in the British 8th Army in North Africa, he served as a machine gunner on an armored lorry defending convoys from Italian bombers between Tobruk and Suez. Fiset also filed field reports as a war correspondent.

Then America entered WWII. With refugees flooding African transports, Fiset luckily used his recent gunnery experience to sign on with an American freighter as a member of the gun crew, reaching the U.S. 3 months later.

In October, 1942, he joined the Navy. He did his preflight training at St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA, and served as a blimp pilot in Airship Squadron 32 on a coastal submarine patrol stationed out of Moffet Field, California.

After the war, Fiset worked as a reporter for the Oakland Post Enquirer from 1946 to 1950 and joined the San Francisco Call Bulletin as a staff reporter from 1950 to 1952.

Fiset then wrote for the Oakland Tribune from March 1952 to 1955 as a general assignment reporter covering such infamous murder and kidnap trials as Burton Abbott, Carl Chessman; and Barbara Graham, Jack Santo and Emmett Perkins of the so-called Mountain Murder Mob. He also witnessed and reported on their executions at San Quentin Prison.

In 1956 he wrote the Tribune's first television column where he became internationally syndicated and was invited to do walk-on acting parts in "Route 66" and "Tales of Wells Fargo." He began a general column for the Tribune in 1962. That same year, he was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won many awards for his writing. His award-winning public service booklets "This Is Sherry" and "Want To Be Smart," written by Fiset and illustrated by artist Ray Marta were discreetly designed to warn children and parents about the dangers of kidnapping and child sex offenders. Over a million copies were distributed free worldwide and locally by the Tribune, the Bay Area Board of Education, and local police departments. The efforts earned a commendation by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover as, "a graphic message which may mean the difference between life and death for countless