

man, who touched people with his hard work, his dedication to his profession, and the extra care that he put into the structures that he built.

Gene May did not merely build houses; he built homes, and he built more than a thousand of them starting with his first, in 1947. He put a part of himself into each of his endeavors, into each of the homes he built; and as a result, the homes he built reflect his values. Years after he retired, according to the Washington Post, people were still writing to him, praising him for the sturdiness of the homes he had built for them, and thanking him for his superb work.

Yet, according to his daughter, his work was not the most important thing in his life. It wasn't even second. His daughter explained that "the most important thing in his life was his family, followed by his church. And he viewed his work as a way to serve both."

What a wonderful way to regard one's work. What a contribution all of us could make to our families, our society, and ourselves with such an outlook on life, that our work is a way to serve our family and our Creator.

Gene May's philosophy served as an underpinning for a rewarding life. He put family first, and what a wonderful family he had. He was married to his loving wife, Barbara May, for 58 years. They had two children and five grandchildren.

Gene May faithfully served his church. I knew Gene May. He built the house in which I now live. He was a charter member, treasurer, and one of the first deacons of the Church of Christ of Falls church. He supervised the building of two of the church's facilities, and actively participated in the church's mission. In addition, he helped to establish, then served as president of, a christian youth summer camp in Virginia's blue ridge mountains.

Gene May's community involvement extended well beyond his church activities. For example, he was a member of the school board, a board member of the Arlington Trust Bank, and a founder of the Northeastern Junior College in Villanova, PA.

When Mr. May learned that he had terminal cancer a little more than a year ago, he reacted to the news with the calmness and level-headedness that had characterized his life.

He taught his wife how to handle the family finances, even budgeting the money for his funeral expenses. He then signed up for hospice care, so that he would not be a burden to his family; and, he began to prepare himself for the afterlife. How about that? He began to prepare himself for the afterlife. Gene May succumbed to the dreaded disease on May 4 of this year.

This good man, this good neighbor, this good citizen will be missed by his family, his community, and his legion of friends. But through the homes he built for more than a thousand people, the memories of his life and work will

live for years and years to come. He was a builder.

Gene May was a builder in the best and truest meaning of the word.

I saw them tearing a building down,

A group of men in a busy town.

With a "ho, heave, ho" and a lusty yell
They swung a beam and the sidewall fell.

I said to the foreman, "Are these men skilled?"

The type you would hire if you had to build?"

He laughed, and then he said, "no indeed,

Just common labor is all I need;

I can easily wreck in a day or two,

That which takes builders years to do.

I said to myself as I walked away,

"Which of these roles am I trying to play?"

Am I a builder who works with care,

Building my life by the rule and square?

Am I shaping my deeds by a well-laid plan,

Patiently building the best I can?

Or am I a fellow who walks the town,

Content with the labor of tearing down?"

My wife Erma, and I extend our deepest condolences to Mr. May's wife, Barbara, and their children, and grandchildren.

May his ashes rest in peace.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate, again, acted in a unified bipartisan manner when it voted 95 to 0 to add an additional \$1.5 billion to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Although a family medical emergency unfortunately prevented me from being able to vote on the Murray amendment, I fully support the measure and would have gladly voted in favor of it. Even though the VA could provide some health care to veterans until fiscal year 2006, it would have to do so by taking funds from other accounts and slashing other projects. This is simply unacceptable.

I am proud the Senate chose to emphasize our position that the VA needs an additional \$1.5 billion to properly carry out its mission of caring for America's veterans.

Thank you Mr. President.

TERRORIST BOMBING IN LONDON

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, my wife Julianne and I express our deepest sympathies to those who lost loved ones and those injured in the terrorist attacks in London last Thursday. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

The terrorists who claim allegiance to al-Qaida undertook these atrocious acts in response to the United Kingdom's unflinching, courageous support for the global war on terrorism. Prime Minister Tony Blair and the British people have stood along side the United States and the other members of the coalition in the war on terrorism.

This is a reminder that we must always be vigilant against those who wish to attack our freedom and our way of life. We must not waiver in our resolve to pursue and bring to justice those who commit these heinous crimes

I add my support to Monday's passing of S. Res. 193, which expressed "sympathy for the people of the United Kingdom in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist attacks." At the time of the vote, I was delayed in returning to Washington because of Hurricane Dennis. Had I been in present for that vote, I would have voted in favor of the resolution.

LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION IN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the foreign language needs of the country, a problem that is receiving renewed public attention because of the ongoing war in Iraq and the impact the lack of language expertise is having on our foreign policy. As John Limbert, president of the American Foreign Service Association, was quoted in the Federal Times last month, the shortage of linguists "makes our mission of representing the American people that much harder."

Frankly, I agree with Mr. Limbert. The stability and economic vitality of the United States and our national security depend on American citizens who are knowledgeable about the world. We need civil servants, area experts, diplomats, business people, educators, and other public officials with the ability to communicate at an advanced level in the languages and understand the cultures of the people with whom they interact. An ongoing commitment to maintaining these relationships and language expertise helps prevent a crisis from occurring and provides diplomatic and language resources when needed.

My own State of Hawaii is a leader in promoting language education and cultural sensitivity. As a gateway to Asian and Pacific nations, we in Hawaii understand the importance of knowing other languages and cultures, which help to develop strong relationships with other people. For example, according to the 2000 Census, more than 300,000 people in Hawaii, or about 27 percent of those 5 years and older, spoke a language other than English at home. This is compared to about 18 percent nationwide. In addition, the University of Hawaii is a leader in teaching Korean and is the host of one of two National Korean Flagship Programs established by the National Security Education Program. Hawaii is also host to the internationally recognized East-West Center, an education and research organization established in Hawaii by Congress in 1960, which is a leader in promoting and strengthening relations between the United States and the countries of the Asia Pacific region.

In 2000 the Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services, then chaired by Senator COCHRAN, held a hearing on the foreign language needs of the Federal Government. At that hearing Ellen Laipson,