

oversee expansion of our computer networks needed to deal with the ever-growing stream of e-mail sent to our offices, and, of course, the demands to keep the Senate accessible amidst ever-changing security requirements. In short, he has realized the goals he set out for himself on his first day of work: Providing State-of-the art technology and world class security.

He has won the respect and admiration of people throughout the Senate, members of both parties.

Bill has taken continuity planning and security to a new level for in the Senate, and I know his successor, our former police chief, Terry Gainer, will follow Bill's lead on these critical issues.

As a person with a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, I trust that Mr. Pickle will not mind if I paraphrase the great American police chief, August Vollmer. In his service to the Senate, I believe, Bill Pickle has shown "the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of David, the leadership of Moses, the strategic thinking of Alexander the Great, and the diplomacy of Lincoln."

Bill Pickle: I thank you, the Senate thanks you, and the Nation thanks you.

TRIBUTE TO DOLLY PARTON

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, a few days ago, an extraordinary Tennessean, Dolly Parton, received one of the 2006 Kennedy Center Honors. As a singer, a songwriter, an actress, a television producer, and an entrepreneur, she has emerged as one of the preeminent cultural figures of our era. Her life story, her talent, and her rise to success can serve as an inspiration for all Americans.

Dolly Parton, in fact, could turn out to be the last prominent American actually born in a log cabin. She was born at home on January 19, 1946. Growing up, by her own description, "dirt poor," in east Tennessee's town of Sevierville, her family of 14 lived in a hand-built log house. She discovered her gift for singing in church, gave public performances before she turned 10, recorded her first tracks at age 12, and appeared at the Grand Ole Opry at 13. Well-known country artists recorded her original compositions before she turned 20. Her own recordings hit the country charts for the first time with the song "Dumb Blonde" in 1966. Today, she has recorded more No. 1 Billboard hits than any other female artist ever and received 25 gold, platinum, and multiplatinum honors. She has been awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, seven Grammy Awards, and two Oscar nominations. Her unique personal style and her sense of humor have influenced Americans across the country.

Since 1986, her theme park, Dollywood, has generated thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in the Great Smokey

Mountains. As one of the most visited theme parks in the country, Dollywood now serves as an economic anchor for east Tennessee. Today, a statue of her sits Sevierville's town square. She has also given back: Her Imagination Library charitable program has shared her love of reading with millions of children around the United States.

Dolly Parton stands as one of the most influential living Tennesseans. We all owe her a debt of gratitude.

I must close in expressing my strong agreement with sentiments about her own musical genre: "If you talk bad about country music, it's like saying bad things about my momma. Them's fightin' words."

Dolly Parton: I thank you. America thanks you.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MANIAS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, tomorrow is an historic day in Peoria, IL. It was exactly 60 years ago tomorrow—on December 6, 1946—that George Manias opened his shoeshine business with one shoeshine chair in the corner of a downtown barber shop.

George has been shining shoes in Peoria ever since—for working folks, movie stars, famous athletes, and at least two presidents.

This evening, the Peoria City Council will honor George Manias with a special resolution in his honor. I ask unanimous consent that the text of that resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Office of the Mayor—Proclamation
60TH ANNIVERSARY, GEORGE'S SHOESHINE PARLOR, "WORLD HEADQUARTERS", PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Whereas, George Manias opened his shoeshine business in 1946, and he has been in the heart of Downtown for 60 years and is recognized by the City of Peoria for his genuine concern for people, his traditional work ethic, and his ability to continue to operate a successful small business in a changing environment; and

Whereas, George Manias has been locally and nationally recognized for many years and has been featured in the U.S.A. Today newspaper and on the Today Show on NBC; and

Whereas, George Manias has an open door to everyone from all walks of life and has served the citizens of Peoria, as well as local and national celebrities and elected officials, including President Ronald Reagan and Senator Everett Dirksen;

Now Therefore, I, Jim Ardis, Mayor of the City of Peoria, Illinois, do hereby congratulate

George Manias in Peoria, Illinois, on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of George's Shoeshine Parlor.

Dated this 5th day of December 2006 A.D.
Mayor

Mr. DURBIN. The resolution notes that George's shoeshine parlor has been in the heart of downtown Peoria for 60 years. Some would say that George's just flat is the heart of downtown Peoria.

Located across the street from the Peoria County Courthouse and kitty-corner from the world headquarters of the Caterpillar Incorporated, George's shoe shine parlor brings together people from all walks of life.

Among his customers are the judges, lawyers, police, politicians and other courthouse regulars; business leaders; celebrities; and other folks who appreciate the importance of caring for leather and looking your best.

They come in, sit down in one of George's nine shoe shine chairs with their shoes scuffed and dirty and five or six minutes later, they stand up with their shoes polished to a mirror finish, looking like new money. It's like the old 1950 song by Harry Stone and Jack Stapp, Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boy:

He makes the oldest kinda' leather look like new
You feel as though you want to dance when he gets through.

And it only costs \$3 a shine—the same price George has been charging for over 15 years.

George Manias is a master of an almost lost art. He is a shoeshine professional. He wears a white dress shirt and a bow tie every day.

A lot of shoeshine men nowadays apply the polish with a cloth. Not George. He's old school. He massages the polish into your shoes with his bare hands. He explains: The polish gets into the leather better that way. Then he buffs and shines and the next thing you know, your shoes look better than when you bought them.

Let me tell George's story. It is a great American story. George Manias was born in Peoria 75 years ago, the son of proud Greek immigrants, and he speaks with the accent of his parents' homeland. That's because, when he was 3 or 4 years old, his parents took the family back to Crete, to see George's grandfather, who was very ill.

While the family was in Crete, the Nazis invaded and George's father was taken prisoner.

In 1945, when the war ended, the Manias family was finally able to return to Peoria. They were practically penniless. Everyone had to work to support the family. George had to learn to speak English.

At 14, he started shining shoes at the old Paris Shoe Shine Parlor on Main Street, next to the Palace Theater. He charged 20 cents a shine.

Within a year, he had saved enough money to buy his own chair. He became an entrepreneur, working out of Ed and Roy Gibbs' Barber Shop.

In 1956, he opened his own 12-seat shoe shine parlor in the Old Niagara Building.

Over the years, George has had four different shops. The last three were all torn down to make way for bigger, taller buildings. He moved to his current location almost 20 years ago.

Today, a professional shoeshine might seem like a minor indulgence. But back when George started, a man

didn't feel properly dressed without a hat and a shoe shine.

It was a time, as Arthur Miller's legendary Willie Loman said in *Death of a Salesman*, when we were all salesmen, getting along with a shoe shine and a smile. For many men, the shine was a weekly ritual.

Back in the day, you could walk into George's and all nine chairs would be occupied with customers—wingtips, next to oxfords, next to loafers—and George would be polishing all nine pair at once. It was like an assembly line, but there was nothing automated about it.

At one point, he had four men working for him and he still worked 14- and 16-hour days, seven days a week.

He didn't take a vacation for 29 years, until 1975, when he went back to Greece for two weeks with his mother, brother and sister. After that, he didn't take another vacation for 25 years.

He's been to Greece twice in the last three years to visit relatives. He says he might take a vacation again someday—but only with family.

Work and family. Those are the things that matter to George Manias: His sister Angie owns a small candy-and-nuts shop in Peoria, and his brother Manny is a private detective who used to be the deputy sheriff in Peoria County.

In 1996, his widowed mother suffered a serious stroke that left her paralyzed. The siblings cared for her at home for the last 4 years of her life.

Customers come to George's for more than just the spit-polish shines. They come to chat and to learn what's happening in town.

Mike McCuskey, a federal judge, has been a loyal customer for years. He calls George's shoe shine parlor pure Americana and vintage Peoria.

You never know who you'll see there. One day, McCuskey said, he looked over at the man in the chair next to him and blurted out, "You're Gayle Sayers, aren't you? That was when the Hall of Famer was still playing for the Chicago Bears."

Over the years, George's Shoe Shine and Hattery—its official name—has grown from a small business to a legend. It has been featured in local newspapers, radio and TV; in the *Washington Times* and the *Associated Press*; on the *Today Show*; and on the front page of *USA Today*—twice.

The walls are covered with news clippings and photographs of famous people who have dropped in for a shine: President Gerald Ford, during the 1976 presidential campaign; President Ronald Reagan in 1982; Everett Dirksen, the Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate when LBJ was President; Former House Minority Leader Bob Michel; Congressman RAY LAHOOD; Former Illinois governors Bob Edgar and Richard Ogilvie; Peoria Mayor Jim Ardis and a string of his predecessors; BARACK OBAMA. Even my photograph is there. Democrats and Republicans. In 2004, Congressman LAHOOD brought in then-

CIA director George Tenet, a Greek-American, who was in Peoria to give a speech. The two Georges chatted in Greek. There are photos of movie stars and singers. And judges—lots of judges.

But you don't have to be famous to feel welcome. George makes everyone in Peoria feel special. It doesn't matter if you're a well-known politician or if the \$3 you spend on that shoe shine is the only \$3 you have, George makes you feel special.

Another reason people go to George's is because he listens to everything, and he knows everything that's going on in the local Republican and Democratic parties, and in the Peoria business community.

Says Judge McCuskey: It's like that Merrill Lynch commercial. When George speaks, you want to listen. And sometimes when you speak, George looks up at you with the slightest smile, and you never know if he's smiling because he knows something you don't know—or because you've just given him another piece of a puzzle he didn't have. He's the keeper of the secrets.

On Judge McCuskey's desk in the federal courthouse in Urbana sits a small scale of justice, a symbol that traces its origins to ancient Greece. It's a treasured gift that George Manias brought back from a trip to Greece.

Across Peoria and far beyond, countless other people have been blessed with gifts from George, not the least of which is a perfect shine and the dignity of being treated with respect no matter who you are.

George Manias is a quintessential American in a quintessentially American city, and I am proud to join the city of Peoria in honoring him on his 60 years as a successful entrepreneur.

PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING ACT

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, just over 3 years ago, on September 30, 2003, I held a hearing as chairman of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Subcommittee on the problem of underage drinking. Senator DODD, who later joined me in crafting a bill to help combat the problem, joined me at that hearing. We were there to discuss this serious problem affecting the health and well-being of our Nation's young people—a problem that has been ignored for too long—a problem that kills thousands of America's teenagers.

We all know that underage drinking is a significant issue for youth in this country. We have known that for a very long time. We have known that underage drinking often contributes to the 4 leading causes of deaths among 15 to 20-year-olds—that 69 percent of youths who died in alcohol-related traffic fatalities in the year 2000 involved young drinking drivers—that in 1999, nearly 40 percent of people under age 21 who were victims of drownings, burns, and falls tested positive for alcohol.

We have known that alcohol has been reported to be involved in 36 percent of homicides, 12 percent of male suicides, and 8 percent of female suicides involving people under 21. And we have known that underage drinking accounts for 6.5 times more deaths among young people than illicit drug use.

How did we get here? How did our Nation reach this point—a point where today, 12 percent of eighth graders—12 and 13-year-olds—binge drink? These statistics are frightening. Too many American kids are drinking regularly, and they are drinking in quantities that can be of great harm to them.

As a nation, we clearly haven't done enough to address this problem. We haven't done enough to acknowledge how prevalent and widespread teenage drinking is in this country.

We haven't done enough to admit that it is a real problem with very real and very devastating consequences. We haven't done enough to help teach America's children about the dangers of underage drinking. We talk about drugs and the dangers of drug use, as we should, but the reality is that we, as a society, have become complacent about the problem of underage drinking. This has to change. The culture has to change.

In reaction to these problems, I worked with my friend and colleague from Connecticut, Senator DODD, to write a bill that will provide some of the tools our communities need to combat underage drinking.

The Sober Truth on Preventing, STOP, Underage Drinking Act would be an important step toward reducing underage drinking on our college campuses and in our schools and communities. This bill will provide authorization for funding to encourage parental awareness of the problem, such as the ongoing Ad Council campaign on underage drinking. It will also provide authorization for grants on college campuses and in surrounding communities to change the culture of drinking that so permeates our institutions of higher education. It will also provide grants to our communities to specifically target underage drinking reduction, as well as authorize additional research that is so important to helping us to further understand this problem and prevent the negative consequences associated with it.

I want to thank Senator DODD for his hard work on this bill. He has been a great champion for the prevention of underage drinking. He is a tireless fighter for America's children and youth. He cares about kids. He cares about their well-being. I am privileged to have had the opportunity to work with him on many pieces of legislation to help protect children and promote their health and welfare. I know that combating teenage drinking has been and continues to be very important to him, and I thank him for his interest in this area. I also thank Chairman ENZI and Ranking Member KENNEDY for their help in passing this important legislation.