

of law. To remain faithful to our pursuit of basic American values, we must seize that opportunity.

SERVICE OF BRETT NILSSON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Brett Nilsson as he nears the completion of his service as the chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, IIABA.

If I may, let me just start by saying I am proud to count Brett as both a constituent and a friend. Indeed, it goes without saying that for close to 20 years Brett has been a very busy man and is someone who has been dedicated to both our Nation and to Utah through the service he has provided.

On the national level, Brett has served on IIABA's Communications and Finance Committees, the later of which, I might add, he chaired from 1999 to 2003. After his chairmanship of the association's Finance Committee, Brett was then elected to IIABA's Executive Committee in 2003 and then nominated as the association's chairman last September in 2008. In Utah, Brett spent a year serving as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Utah from 1992 to 1993 and as the national board director from Utah for 9 years. All of this, of course, is in addition to his own personal career where he is the senior vice president for the Buckner Company in Ogden, UT.

Founded in 1896, IIABA is the Nation's oldest association of independent insurance agents and brokers. At last count the association represents an astounding network of more than 300,000 agents, brokers, and their employees. Throughout his tenure as chairman of the association, Brett has been the lead on a number of issues including health insurance reform and insurance regulatory reform. Additionally, Brett has worked assiduously to build the Trusted Choice brand and advance the association's InVEST Program, which is a school-to-work insurance program that partners with community college and high school educators to offer a practical and innovative program of study for students.

Above all, and perhaps most-importantly, Brett has been committed to his family, his business, and our community in Utah. He was a vice president of the Ogden Jaycees, he participated on several chamber of commerce committees, and he is a past president of the Ogden Golf and Country Club. He has served on a number of different insurance company agent advisory councils. He was awarded Utah's Agent of the Year, and Young Agent of the Year and, as if those recognitions were not enough, in 2001 he also received an IIABA Presidential Citation. All of this, however, has only served as icing on the cake when, in 2003, Brett received our State association's highest individual honor, the Burgener Award—a unique distinction awarded only five other times in the history of the association in Utah.

Today, Mr. President, I join with many Utahns and people from across the Nation in thanking Brett for his work with IIABA over the years and for his dedication to his professional career, our community, and our State. His efforts are greatly appreciated and have not gone unrecognized. For that, I wish him, his beautiful wife Nancy, and their four children and eight grandchildren the very best in their future endeavors, adventures, and service to others. I am certain they are looking forward to having a little more free time with grandpa, and I know we are all looking forward to next chapter of Brett's career.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CLARENCE "CAL" W. MARSELLA

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to offer congratulations and gratitude to Clarence "Cal" W. Marsella on the occasion of his retirement as general manager of the Denver Regional Transportation District, RTD.

Under Cal's leadership, the Denver region has become a national model of how effective public transit service can improve the quality of life, environment, and energy efficiency of a region. Cal was able to bring local, State, and Federal officials together behind a shared vision for our region, build a transit system matched to our region's growth patterns, and help us all remain committed to preserving one of the Nation's most unique and precious environments. At the same time, he has been a national champion for the idea that mass transit is the key to our energy independence.

Cal Marsella was hired as RTD's general manager in August 1995. During his service, he oversaw the completion of three new light rail lines on time and on budget, including the T-REX light rail project that opened November 17, 2006. Reflecting his performance and the strong public trust in RTD, metro area voters in 2004 overwhelmingly approved the FasTracks transit expansion program for the entire eight-county metro area. This represents the largest transit-only voter approved program in the entire country. With Cal's skill, determination, and effort, progress on the FasTracks program has moved ahead swiftly, and construction is currently underway on the new West Corridor.

Mr. Marsella began his transportation career in the highway engineering division of the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation in 1974, armed with a masters' degree in public affairs and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Connecticut. He now serves on the National Academy of Sciences Transportation Research Board and regularly guest lectures at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado master's degree programs in transportation and public

administration. In recent years, Cal has received national honors commensurate with his leadership and achievements. He was selected by the American Public Transportation Association as the Outstanding Public Transportation Manager in 2006 and, under his management RTD, was selected as the Outstanding Transportation Agency in North America in both 2003 and 2008.

I congratulate and extend my sincere gratitude to Cal Marsella for his service to the Denver region and the State of Colorado. I wish him continued success and all good fortune in his work ahead.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of one of South Dakota's great cities, Vermillion. Sitting atop a bluff on the Missouri River in the southeast corner of the State, Vermillion is the county seat for Clay County. With its growing economic development, strong workforce, and diverse demographics, Vermillion has an exceptional quality of life, and I am proud to call it my hometown.

Deriving its name from the Sioux word for "red stream," Vermillion was founded in 1859 after first being visited by French fur traders. Just 3 years later in 1862 the University of South Dakota was founded, making it the State's oldest institution of higher education. After a harsh winter, the city of Vermillion faced what would later become known as the Great Flood of 1881. By the flood's end, over 100 buildings were destroyed, and transportation was stalled for months due to damage to railroads and bridges. The town's businesspeople quickly responded and rebuilt the town on top of the bluff. After relocating, the city continued to flourish with the advance of technological innovations at the turn of the century. In 1895, the Vermillion Milling Company received a franchise to operate an electric utility and provide electric lights. In 1902, Vermillion saw the installation of a city sewer system and steam powered automobiles on its streets. Throughout its rich and colorful history, Vermillion has continued to grow and prosper.

Today, Vermillion boasts a wide variety of educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities. It is home to many places of interest including the Shrine to Music Museum, founded in 1973. This national music museum is one of the greatest institutions of its kind in the world. The facility holds many instruments from renowned collections and has been recognized as "A Landmark of American Music" by the National Music Council. Additionally, the city's attractions include the Austin-Whittemore House, the Oscar Howe Gallery, the Dakota Dome, the W.H. Over Museum, Spirit Mound, and beautiful riverside trails.