

greatest state in the greatest nation on earth.

My debt to those Kansans can never be repaid. But it can be honored—every time I try, in some small way, to emulate the compassion and generosity of my friends and neighbors in Russell, multiplied over the years by countless acts of kindness, and culminating today in this ceremony. A long time ago, long before anyone could remotely imagine Bob Dole in a Walk of Honor, I took inspiration from a song called “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” My whole life, up to and including today, has been a validation of that song. And the greatest honor of my life has been to share that walk with my fellow Kansans—the most honorable people I know.

#### TRIBUTE TO BRUCE AKERS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Bruce H. Akers, mayor of Pepper Pike, OH, for many years of outstanding leadership and service to the Greater Cleveland community. Mayor Akers has done remarkable work during his distinguished career as a leader in the business and civic community to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens. On Thursday, October 20, 2011 the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association will honor Mayor Akers with the George V. Voinovich Public Service Award.

Mayor Akers’ work as a civic leader started more than 50 years ago when he began his career in banking with National City Bank. Although Mayor Akers retired in 2000 as senior vice president for civic affairs at KeyBank, he has continued his vigorous efforts to serve his community as a civic volunteer and local elected officeholder. Throughout the years, Mayor Akers has held leadership positions in organizations such as City Year of Cleveland, Park Works, the Chagrin Valley Inter-Governmental Council, The Salvation Army of Greater Cleveland, and United Way Services. He was also one of the founders of Business Volunteers Unlimited. In June of 2000 he completed 30 years as a member of the National Board of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America and is currently a member of its National Advisory Council.

Mayor Akers has had a distinguished political career, beginning with his work as a precinct committeeman in 1960. Since that time, he has served on the staff of Cleveland mayor Ralph J. Perk, as a Pepper Pike councilman, and as president of the Cuyahoga County Mayors of Managers Association. He was appointed in 2008 to serve on the nine-member Commission on Cuyahoga County Government Reform and has been integral in recent years to the reform and transformation of the new charter form of government in Cuyahoga County. This year, Bruce Akers will retire from elected office after serving five terms as Mayor of Pepper Pike, OH.

For his commitment to public service and the many contributions he has made to Pepper Pike and the Greater Cleveland community, I would like to recognize and thank Mayor Bruce H.

Akers for his years of service and wish him well as he continues his many civic endeavors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING ROLLIN POST

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor the life of Rollin Post, an award-winning Bay Area journalist, who passed away on October 3, 2011, following complications from Alzheimer’s disease. Throughout his career, Rollin made extraordinary contributions to journalism, public affairs, and the Bay Area community he so passionately served. I extend my deepest sympathy to his wife Diane Post and their three children and five grandchildren.

Born in New York City in May 1930, Mr. Post was the son of New York State Assemblyman Langdon Post and Janet Kirby Post; and grandson to Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Rollin Kirby. After a childhood in New York, Tucson, and southern California, Rollin briefly attended San Francisco State College before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He later enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated in 1952 with a bachelor of arts in political science. Following graduation, Rollin returned to southern California to work at CBS radio and then as a writer at the local CBS television affiliate.

Rollin Post’s passion for broadcast journalism brought him back to the Bay Area, where he took a job at KPIX in 1961. Over the course of nearly 40 years, he remained a staple on local news broadcasts, focusing exclusively on matters relating to politics and public affairs and establishing himself as a highly respected and engaging reporter, commentator, and interviewer. Together with his long-time colleague and cohost, Belva Davis, Mr. Post developed several enduring television programs such as “A Closer Look” and “California This Week.”

During his storied career, Rollin Post covered nine Presidential elections and interviewed many important figures in local, State, and national politics. He was so well known as a journalist that Robert Redford cast him to play himself in the 1972 film “The Candidate.” He also received many well-deserved honors and awards for his work, including recognitions from the Society of Professional Journalists and the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Outside of his work in journalism, Rollin served as a volunteer for several organizations, including Common Cause and the Institute of Governmental Studies at his alma mater, UC Berkeley. He was also a lifelong baseball fan and an avid outdoorsman, relishing opportunities to take his family camping and hiking.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Rollin’s family, friends, and former colleagues. He will be sorely missed.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE JEWISH FEDERATION’S NEW HOME

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Jewish Federation of the Desert as the organization prepares to move into its new home in Rancho Mirage, CA.

The Jewish Federation of the Desert embraces the core Jewish values of compassion, charity, generosity, and responsibility to care for those in need including the elderly, the homeless, the undereducated, and victims of abuse and violence. In addition, the federation is dedicated to supporting child and youth education, with afterschool activities, day schools, and childhood centers.

On November 1, the Jewish Federation of the Desert will open its doors in Rancho Mirage. This new home will allow the federation to dedicate more of its resources to helping people in the Coachella Valley and create a vibrant new center for Jewish community life.

I congratulate the Jewish Federation of the Desert and wish its staff, volunteers, and supporters continued success in carrying out its noble mission.●

#### NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I commend Northampton Community College on the groundbreaking of its new \$72 million Monroe County Campus. This undertaking will expand and improve educational opportunities for countless students for generations to come. It is a notable achievement that has been made possible through the persistence, dedication, and cooperation of a committed group of faculty, staff, and administrators at Northampton Community College.

Northampton’s newest campus, which impressively spans over 200,000 square feet, includes a workforce development training center, an enrollment center building, and a student life building. Given our country’s current economic climate and staggering unemployment rate, what Northampton Community College has managed to accomplish today is nothing short of remarkable.

Northampton Community College is a public, comprehensive community college that serves more than 36,000 students per year with its main campus in Bethlehem, PA. Currently, there are more than 16,000 students enrolled in their credit programs and an additional 21,000 who are involved in workforce training, adult literacy, or youth classes.

This new campus in Monroe County highlights Northampton’s dedication to Pennsylvania and higher education in America. Northampton’s strong commitment to preparing its students for the demands of today’s economy is reflected in the new campus. Their new workforce training center is forecasted to train 1,000 new, incumbent, and displaced workers in the first 5 years of