

years has been exceptional. It is inspiring to know that entrepreneurs such as Mr. LaCasse continue to draw upon their passion, ingenuity, and energy to develop new businesses. I extend my congratulations to Jesse LaCasse for his tremendous effort and offer my best wishes for the continued growth and success for LaCasse Bat Company.●

#### SERVICES CENTER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the Services Center Federal Credit Union, SCFCU, a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative located in Yankton, Springfield, and Parkston, SD.

Chartered on April 2, 1962, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the SCFCU. As a community charter, membership is open to all who live or work in Bon Homme or Yankton Counties. Building upon their mission of being responsive to their members' needs by providing competitive financial services, their membership has grown to nearly 6,500 Bon Homme and Yankton County residents.

As a credit union member myself, I understand firsthand the benefit of a credit union membership. Credit unions are a part of the community and they are well aware of the specific needs of their members. Their commitment to providing the best possible service is commendable, especially in the financial environment we are faced with today.

The SCFCU commemorated their 50th anniversary during their annual meeting held in Yankton, SD, on June 23, 2012. I would like to offer my congratulations to the leaders and membership of the SCFCU on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY MIZEL

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Coloradan—Larry A. Mizel—on the occasion of his 70th birthday on September 14.

There are few Coloradans who embody the spirit of the Centennial State as well as my friend Larry, and it is a privilege today for me to be able to share my thoughts about him with my Senate colleagues.

Larry is many things to many people, but at root, I think of Larry as an independent thinker; a savvy businessman; a man who cares about the world, his community and his family; and a man whose philanthropic reach is as wide as the Rocky Mountains are tall.

I ask my colleagues to indulge me while I talk a bit about Larry and recount some of his most notable accomplishments. The list is long, but his work stands as a model for others.

Larry always has believed in the value of a good education, and his own educational history is impressive. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in

business administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1964, and 3 years later, Larry received his law degree from the esteemed University of Denver College of Law.

From there, Larry took off at warp speed.

In 1972, Larry founded the company that became M.D.C. Holdings, Inc., which is one of the Nation's top homebuilders. MDC is the parent corporation to Richmond American Homes and is a New York Stock Exchange-listed company.

Forty years after founding M.D.C., Larry still serves as chairman and chief executive officer of the company. That is an amazing run, with a lot more to come, I hope and predict.

Under Larry's visionary leadership, M.D.C. consistently has maintained one of the strongest financial positions in the industry.

But it is not just profits that distinguish M.D.C. M.D.C. also is known for its high-quality work. For example, M.D.C. has the distinction of being one of the few homebuilding-based companies to receive an investment-grade rating from all three rating agencies.

Larry has never been one to rest on his laurels. In addition to M.D.C., he has pursued other business ventures. Larry was a founder and, until 1996 chairman of the board of Asset Investors Corporation, a New York Stock Exchange-listed real estate investment trust, as well as of Commercial Assets Inc., a real estate investment trust that traded on the American Stock Exchange. In addition, Larry served as chairman of the board of directors of Omnibank, a multi-bank holding company, until its sale to KeyCorp in 1995.

Yet, Larry is known in Colorado for more than these business-world accomplishments, as impressive as they are. Larry stands as a shining example to Coloradans about how to enrich the communities in which we live and to give voice to those who sometimes cannot speak loudly enough for themselves.

Larry has been actively involved in numerous charitable, religious, and community causes, some that reach beyond our borders.

For example, there are few leaders in Colorado who care as deeply as Larry does about issues related to Israel and to Jews around the world. Larry is a member of the national board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee better known as AIPAC which works to ensure a strong United States-Israel relationship.

Larry also is one of the founders of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international human rights organization, based in Los Angeles, CA. He has served as the International Chairman of the board of trustees of the Wiesenthal Center since 2003. As most of us know, the Wiesenthal Center helps to accomplish goals that Larry holds dear—namely, promoting tolerance and combating racism and anti-Semitism around the world.

It bears noting that the educational arm of the Wiesenthal Center—the Museum of Tolerance—is a recipient of the 2004 Tolerance Award given at the United Nations. It is a world-class human rights laboratory and learning center dedicated to challenging visitors to confront important contemporary issues.

Closer to home, Larry also founded the Mizel Arts and Culture Center—known as the MACC—located in Denver at the Jewish Community Center. The MACC aims to illuminate the human experience through performing, visual, and literary arts for the Jewish community and the community at large.

Larry's interests and expertise in international affairs extend far. For example, he is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent organization dedicated to finding solutions to the challenging foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries—choices made all the more challenging after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Thankfully, Larry has brought his business acumen into the public policy arena. For example, in 1986 Larry founded and served as the inaugural chairman of Colorado Concern, an organization committed to promoting sustainable business growth and advancing the economic well-being of Colorado. I am privileged to work closely with Colorado Concern, especially in these tough economic times, when we are all searching for innovative ways to get our Nation back on sounder economic footing.

Larry also is a founding member of the Denver Rustlers, a group that has given him the opportunity to work with other Colorado business leaders to support community youth. As with Colorado Concern, I have been fortunate to participate in events with the Denver Rustlers. From raising scholarship money, to supporting participants at the Junior Livestock Sale at the annual Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, to opening the Denver Rustlers Kids Cafe in 1994 to combat childhood hunger, Larry has been instrumental in the Denver Rustlers' positive effect on children's lives.

I also want to take a moment to underline another great love of Larry's—another pursuit that fills Coloradans with pride. Larry is the founder of the Mizel Museum in Denver. The Mizel Museum provides regular artistic and educational programs that promote community understanding and tolerance for residents of the Rocky Mountain region. It is a stunning facility that makes a big difference in our state.

As part of the Mizel Museum and its related Mizel Institute, in 2004 Larry founded another crown jewel: the Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab, better known as the CELL. The CELL is a nonprofit institution dedicated to the prevention of terrorism through education. Located in Denver, the