

made it the only airport in the region with new facilities to do so.

In addition, Mr. Driscoll initiated the LAX Master Plan, a long-term process to guide development of LAX to meet air passenger and cargo demands for the next 20 years. Since 1992, LAX has become the third busiest passenger airport in the world and the second busiest air cargo airport in the world.

To offset this growth, Mr. Driscoll committed LAWA to undertake major noise reduction and management programs, including nearly \$500 million in programs for residential soundproofing and compatible land-use; recycle water programs; and a variety of clean air programs, including alternative-fuel vehicles and traffic mitigation. All of these programs have received awards from environmental organizations and regulatory agencies for outstanding achievement.

I wish Jack Driscoll well and thank him for his contribution towards improving Southern California's aviation gateway.●

IN MEMORY OF JIM DEFRA NCIS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in memory of Jim Upton DeFrancis: a great politician, a great historian, and a great family man, who died on January 1 of this year.

Jim DeFrancis was one of the most influential people in the political field, always maintaining political savvy—but not sacrificing perspective, an incredible sense of humor, and a belief that politics was an avenue for serving others. Very early in my career, I had the good fortune of working for Jim in Senator Bob Griffin's office. I will never forget the many lessons I learned from him—both directly and simply by working near him. One couldn't help but learn from Jim DeFrancis.

In addition to his 10 years with Senator Griffin, Jim DeFrancis was an integral member of the presidential campaigns of Gerald Ford and George Romney. As a member of the staff of these politicians, Jim was able to avoid the spotlight while serving Michigan and national politics, in the honorable and professional manner for which now he is recognized as a very significant member of Michigan political history.

Jim's love of politics was rooted in his love of history. He especially enjoyed reading about Winston Churchill. An avid reader, Jim collected any book on Winston Churchill that he could find, as well as other artifacts related to the late Prime Minister. During difficult times, Jim would look at Churchill's life as a model, gaining inspiration and guidance.

And while Jim's contribution to politics is exceptional—in his very actions, he inspired us to work for others through politics—his true love was his family. More than anything else, Jim DeFrancis was a family man. Survived

by his wife, three sons, his mother and sister, his family was the real focus of his life. Everyone who came in contact with him would quickly learn about his family—as he always found a way to bring them up in a conversation.

Jim DeFrancis' devotion to his family, his friends, and his career was matched by few and will be deeply missed by those who knew him. We will never forget Jim—crossing paths with Jim DeFrancis was sure to leave a lasting impact. And it is this lasting, far-reaching impact that Jim's life has had on those who knew him which calls to mind a quote that I think Jim would appreciate, not only because it is a quote by Winston Churchill, but because I believe Jim would be moved to know what an influence he had on us:

“This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”●

BUDDY CHARLES

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to take note of an upcoming milestone in the career of a man from Illinois whose musicianship, warmth and exuberance have brought joy to all who have heard him play and sing over the past 52 years.

On Saturday, October 9th, Mr. Buddy Charles will play the final night of his most recent engagement—a 9-year stand at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. Buddy Charles is no less than a living encyclopedia of what critics call the “Golden Age” of American popular music. During the period from about 1920 to 1950, the Gershwins, Arlens, Berlins and Carmichaels of the world produced a rich legacy of songs. Although recorded versions of these songs are numerous, they are kept alive in a special way by entertainers such as Buddy Charles.

Buddy is a lifelong Chicagoan, born there 72 years ago, raised on the North Side, and a graduate of Loyola University. The roster of clubs in which he has performed since 1946 reads like a history of night life and entertainment in Chicago: London House, Spaghetti Bowl, Dubonnet, Casino, Drum Lounge. . . .

Perhaps his most memorable stand—chronicled frequently by the Chicago news media—was his 18-year engagement, from 1972 to 1990, at the Acorn on Oak. There he could be found, as the Chicago Tribune wrote, “shouting and singing when most sensible people are sleeping and dreaming, the most devilishly delightful creature of the city night.”

And it was there that Buddy became the favorite entertainer of two of Chicago's most famous personalities—Mike Royko and Harry Caray. When Mike's memorial service was held two years ago in Wrigley Field, there was Buddy at home plate, playing and singing Royko's favorite song.

Buddy's music and personality have provided refuge, relief and delight to four generations of music lovers. And through all those years, he has also been a loving husband to his wife of 45 years, Pat, a caring father to their now-grown children Teresa, Christopher, Tabitha and Amanda, and a daily churchgoer and teacher of catechism.

He has given himself to thousands of people through his music. Although it is a little sad that he won't be dispensing his brand of joy on a nightly basis any more, it is reassuring to know he is available to play when someone asks.

My sincerest good wishes to Buddy Charles and his family on this important occasion.●

FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS DEDICATION OF LEONARDO DA VINCI SCULPTURE, IL CAVALLO

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate Frederik Meijer and the Frederik Meijer Gardens as they unveil and dedicate the Da Vinci sculpture Il Cavallo (the horse).

Frederik Meijer's incredible generosity and foresight enabled Il Cavallo to be seen at its permanent home in the Frederik Meijer Gardens. In an effort to fulfill his dream of creating a world class sculpture garden Frederik Meijer and the City of Milan, Italy (where an identical sculpture is located) allowed for the work of Da Vinci to be recommissioned and created. Il Cavallo was originally sketched and commissioned by Da Vinci in 1482 and he continued to work on it for fourteen years. However, the bronze intended to cast the sculpture was used to make cannons to defend the city of Milan, therefore Da Vinci never completed the work.

In 1977, after reading an article about the horse that Da Vinci never had the chance to create, amateur sculpture and pilot, Charles Dent created the first model of Il Cavallo. After his death in 1994 Nina Akamu sculpted the Il Cavallo that is on display today. The sculpture was cast using twenty thousand pounds of bronze, stands twenty-four feet tall and weighs fifteen tons.

Frederik Meijer is to be thanked and commended for carrying out his vision and giving a world class gift to the city of Grand Rapids and the people of Michigan. Nearly five hundred years ago Da Vinci had the vision for this great horse. Due to the acts of Frederik Meijer, a great humanitarian, this rare and magnificent work of art will stand tall in the Frederik Meijer Gardens for all to see for many years to come.●