

The visiting General Marquis de Lafayette observed the original building to be "spacious and elegant."

Beth Elohim also holds the distinction of being the cradle of Reform Judaism in the United States. In 1824, a group of progressive members of the congregation petitioned for a shortened Hebrew ritual, English translation of prayers and a sermon in English. Their petition being denied, they decided to organize The Reformed Society of Israelites. It was a short-lived society, but when the members returned to the congregation at Beth Elohim, their practices and principles influenced the worship service there and today still form the basis of Reform Judaism. During the construction of the new temple in 1840, an organ was installed, encased in mahogany to complement the building's interior. Said to have 700 pipes and costing \$2,500, the organ provided the first instrumental music used in worship in any synagogue in America.

Many members of K.K. Beth Elohim have been distinguished city, state and national leaders, including early congregant Moses Lindo, who before the Revolution helped to develop the cultivation of indigo. Joseph Levy, veteran of the Cherokee War of 1760-61, was probably the first Jewish military officer in America. Almost two dozen men of Beth Elohim served in the American Revolution, most notably Francis Salvador who, as a delegate to the South Carolina Provincial Congresses of 1775-1776, was one of the first Jews to serve in the American legislature. The blind poet Penina Moise was a famous early superintendent of the Jewish Sunday School at Beth Elohim.

Today, Beth Elohim is led by Rabbi Anthony David Holz and Rabbi Emeritus William A. Rosenthal. The congregation continues to function as a vital part of the Charleston community and deserves many congratulations on reaching this milestone—250 years of rich history.●

#### BILL WOLFF

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a group of farmers in eastern Montana who pulled together following a tragic accident to help the Family of Bill Wolff harvest their crops.

Sadly, the Wolff family suffered a terrible loss on September 10, when a farming accident claimed Bill's life. In the midst of this tragedy, Bill's neighbors gathered in an impressive effort to help the Wolff family harvest their grain.

In all more than 20 trucks and 12 combines arrived in Glendive to assist in the harvest. Working simultaneously, the combines were able to cut 135 acres per hour and bring in the harvest for the Wolff family.

Jim Wolff, one of Bill's nephews said, "After experiencing the great team-

work here today, it's going to be difficult to go home and finish my own harvest by myself." In addition, many neighbors mirrored Jim's sentiment and expressed a sense of privilege that they were able to join with the Wolff family during their time of need.

Montanans are truly a special breed of people—always quick to lend a hand to others. It says so much that these people took time away from their own extremely hectic harvest schedules to help the Wolffs, and I commend them for it. Their selflessness serves as an example of us all.

I also extend my most sincere sympathies to the Wolf family. As evidenced by the outpouring of support from his neighbors. Bill was a man who was loved by a great many people and his loss will be shared by them also.●

#### INSTALLATION OF WILLIAM GORDON

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, on Sunday William C. Gordon was installed as the 16th President of the University of New Mexico.

A psychologist by training, Dr. Gordon came to New Mexico by way of Wake Forest University, and Rutgers, where he earned his Ph.D. He taught at the State University of New York before moving to Albuquerque more than twenty years ago. Serving as a Professor of Psychology, then as chairman of the department, he became Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. From there he became the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and then assumed the job of interim president. It was during that period, and after a national search had been conducted, that he himself was named President in March of this year.

Distinguished and well respected, Dr. Gordon has worked diligently throughout his administrative career to improve the university not only for the students and faculty, but for the staff and the wider community. He has sought to improve both the education people are getting, and the way they are getting it. The University of New Mexico is our state's largest institution of higher learning. The potential this represents is not lost on Dr. Gordon, and we look to him for leadership well into the 21st century.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAJOR GORDON R. TAFT, UNITED STATES ARMY

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Major Gordon R. "Randy" Taft, United States Army, a native of Decatur, Alabama, who is retiring this month from active duty after twenty-six years of distinguished service to the country. Sergeant Major Taft, who currently serves as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Director of the Defense Logistics Agen-

cy in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, has devoted his professional life to supporting the personal, administrative, and logistics needs of military men and women assigned around the world in defense of our freedom. His accomplishments are many and his reputation for leading and developing young soldiers is legendary. Randy Taft's selfless contributions to the National Defense will be missed, so as he transitions to new opportunities, I want to say thanks to him on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Sergeant Major Taft's numerous military awards and decorations reflect the tremendous impact he has had on the lives of America's fighting men and women. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. But the medals and certificates do not say it all. Like all Sergeants Major in their day-to-day activities and accomplishments, Randy Taft has served as a positive role model for a whole generation of the Army's finest soldiers. Whether he was serving as a personnel specialist, a platoon sergeant, a recruiter, a member of the Army's premier Honor Guard, or as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the 44,000 person Defense Logistics Agency, he has led by example. His greatest accomplishments are the young soldiers he has helped mold into the kind of citizens this country can be proud to call our Army.

Mr. President, I am proud and honored to congratulate Sergeant Major Randy Taft upon the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army.●

#### SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, these are difficult times for our nation's children as they watch their peers turn to violence, drugs, truancy and gang membership. If one were to believe the evening news, there appears to be little good news coming from our schools. But I rise before my colleagues today to share with them some good news. Thunderbolt Elementary School in Savannah, Georgia, has been recognized by the Concerned Businessmen's Association of America as violence-free and the "Best Example in America" of what a safe and drug-free school should be.

Thunderbolt Elementary is the only school out of the 10,600 which enrolled in the national "Children's Set a Good Example" Competition during the past 12 years to win the national award three times in a row. Additionally, Thunderbolt has also been chosen this year by the judges of the first "Best of the Best" competition, which will be held just once every ten years, as the best of the best elementary schools in America.

The war against drug abuse, violent crime, illiteracy and intolerance is a