

Mother Geraldine Wright is an extraordinary example of what one can achieve through tenacity and a giving and loving heart. Through her love for God, family, church, and others, Mother Wright has made an impact in the lives of many hurting people. She untiringly stands by her husband's side, she visits and ministers to the sick, encourages others, helps others, gives to others, prays for others, but most of all, she is a trainer and builder of others. Training individuals to love God and work for the Lord seems to be one very important aspect of her calling.

Along with being the First Lady and Director of the Women's Department of Greater Miller Memorial Church of God in Christ and the Davis Memorial Church of God in Christ, Mother Wright is also a District Missionary in the New Creation District of the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan. She is the Founder of the Geraldine Marvel Miller Wright Institute for Women in the Ministry, which is one of Mother Wright's most outstanding accomplishments. This Institute serves as a catalyst of change in the lives of many young women who have dedicated their lives to the service and calling of the Lord Jesus Christ. Proverbs 31:28-30 sums up Mother Geraldine Wright best. It reads as follows:

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own words praise her in the gates.

So let it be known on this day, Sunday, February 28, 1999, that Mother Geraldine Marvel Miller Wright has been a leader of women and has impacted this nation and world, has left an indelible mark on the history of mankind.●

#### NOMINATION OF BILL LANN LEE

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I note with great pride that the President has announced his intention to nominate Mr. Bill Lann Lee, a native of my State of California, to be Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice.

The Senate will recall that Bill Lann Lee was nominated for this post more than a year and a half ago, in July 1997. His nomination died in the Judiciary Committee at the end of the 105th Congress. The majority of that Committee denied the full Senate a vote on the nomination because it knew Bill Lann Lee would have been confirmed if a vote had been taken.

Mr. President, I hope that the Judiciary Committee will not make the same mistake twice. Bill Lann Lee is fully qualified for this position. Indeed, I be-

lieve that he is the best person for the position. His personal history and his professional credentials both make him the perfect candidate to be Assistant Attorney for Civil Rights.

Bill Lann Lee was born in Harlem, the son of immigrants. He learned early in life about patriotism, from his father, who volunteered for military service in World War II in order to serve the adopted country that he loved so much. Bill Lee also learned from his parents, who ran a laundry, the value of hard work, a good education, and commitment to excellence.

Bill Lee spent most of his 24-year legal career with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, which was founded by Thurgood Marshall. He also spent several years in the 1980's working for the Center for Law in the Public Interest. Throughout his career, Bill Lee has demonstrated a talent for consensus building—surely one of the most important attributes for the top civil rights job.

Elected officials and other leaders from both parties have strongly endorsed Bill Lann Lee, including Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, who said, in a letter to the White House: "Mr. Lee has practiced mainstream civil rights law. He does not believe in quotas. He has pursued flexible and reasonable remedies that in each case were approved by a court."

He has the endorsement of the National District Attorneys Association, which wrote: ". . . as the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, he will remain fully cognizant of the need and expectations of the people of the U.S. to be provided effective, efficient and fair law enforcement services. . . . he will do his utmost to ensure that honest and hardworking police officers are not tarnished by the acts of a few miscreants."

I join the many people across the country—lawyers, law enforcement, elected officials, and others—who want the Senate to finally confirm this splendid nominee for this very important post.●

#### TRIBUTE TO FRED B. KFOURY, JR.

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Fred Kfoury, Jr., as the 1998 Manchester Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year." I commend his outstanding achievement.

Fred is the President of Center Paper Products Company in Manchester, New Hampshire. His company employs forty-five people and is a fixture in the Manchester business community. He is described by his business associates as a very generous, thoughtful businessman. His company, that was passed on to him from his father, continues to grow and thrive.

Fred has always tempered his business success with a great devotion to

volunteerism. His own philosophy, "Service to one's community is an integral part of his company's culture," has been readily apparent in his actions through the years. Fred has constantly maintained a record of service to his community that is highly admirable. He has been active in organizations from his college alumni association to the annual Christmas party for students and families at Notre Dame College.

As a former small business owner, I understand the demands of running a business. I commend Fred for his diligent work in his business as well as the devotion he has shown to the community. Once again, I wish to congratulate Fred on being named 1998 "Citizen of the Year" by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

#### NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to those men and women who have made the world we live in a better place through their advances in engineering. February 21-27 is the 49th annual observance of National Engineers Week to increase public awareness and appreciation of the engineering profession and of technology. Thousands of engineers, engineering students, teachers, and leaders in government and business participate each year.

Engineering is so intertwined in our everyday activity that it can often be taken for granted. The National Society of Professional Engineers and a consortium of more than 100 engineering, scientific and education societies and major corporations are working to increase the public's awareness during this week.

This year's theme, "Engineers: Turning Ideas into Reality," will focus on participants interesting with children from elementary to high school through demonstrations and question and answer sessions. Seventh and eighth-grade students are invited to design future cities and build three-dimensional scale models with the help of their teachers and volunteer-engineer mentors. The National Engineering Design Challenge will team up high school students to design, build, and demonstrate a working model of a new product. And the Discover E program will reach more than five million elementary, junior and senior high school students to help them discover how engineering is applied in math, science and technology. Over 40,000 engineers nationwide will work with these students through hands-on activities in the classroom.

In Minnesota, "Discover E! in Minneapolis" was held on February 23 with the help of engineering students from the University of Minnesota and engineers from local businesses visiting 5th

and 6th graders. The students were able to explore mechanical, biomedical, and environmental engineering through demonstrations and discussions about work and studies.

This week honors the birthday of one of the nation's first engineers, a surveyor named George Washington. It also recognizes the countless other engineers who have influenced nearly every aspect of our lives with their dedicated work and numerous technological advances. Their contributions to science include discoveries, for example, that have resulted in the development of ultra-lite materials such as Kevlar, and environmentally beneficial technologies such as a wastewater treatment system that effectively recycles 100% of all wastewater.

Schools have focused their teachings on the body of scientific knowledge, often times neglecting the process of discovery that engineers use to help create the new advances for our modern world. With the support of groups such as NASA and Minnesota-based 3M, programs during Engineers Week will integrate this process of discovery and the use of technology into mathematics, science, language arts, and other topics. I am a strong supporter of exposing our children to the world around them and hope this awareness will get them involved and spark interest in the future of engineering.●

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#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, three years ago this month, Congress and the President hailed the enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This piece of legislation was intended to increase competition, expand consumer choice, foster new technologies and create new jobs. The Act contemplated the achievement of these goals through reliance on the marketplace rather than on a sluggish and burdensome regulatory mandate.

The implementation of the Act by the Federal Communications Commission has sailed way off course. Congress provided the universal service program as a means of ensuring that residents of rural and high-cost areas receive the same high quality services and the same affordable rates as their urban counterparts. Yet universal service, one of the most important topics addressed in the Act, remains virtually unchanged by the FCC after three years despite the Commission's statutory responsibility to finish universal service reform in a "single proceeding" and within 15 months of passage of the Act. The FCC did complete a small part of the universal service mandate, the program bringing advanced services to schools and libraries. However, the Commission continues to ignore the most significant aspect of universal service reform, "the preservation and

advancement of universal service" and high-cost areas. The Act commands that the Commission make the support mechanisms explicit and predictable. The Commission's failure to do so threatens the affordability of rural residential rates.

The uncertainty created by the FCC's failure to implement universal service is perpetuating the absence of local competition, especially in rural areas. As a consequence, local residential competition will remain at the current inadequate levels until the FCC addresses universal service. Congress intended that carriers providing service to residents of rural and high-cost areas would receive support for the "provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services" which would otherwise be absent in these areas. Accordingly, the Commission must make the now implicit subsidies explicit and sufficient in order to fulfill Congress' mandate.

Congress is still looking for more competition and more choice in all communications services, especially for rural residents. Let's allow the marketplace to work, which will give consumers in rural areas some real choices at affordable rates.

Mr. President, this year Congress will consider reauthorization of the FCC. I am extremely disappointed with the Commission's track record on implementation of the Act. As we contemplate legislation to change the FCC, its actions over the next several months will determine the outcome of our deliberations. I hope that the FCC will complete the universal service proceeding by July 1, and act in a manner consistent with the Act. I will not accept a universal service proceeding that puts upward pressure on rural rates, and I will hold the FCC accountable if it fails to comply with the Act.

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#### TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL RANDALL M. "MARK" SCHMIDT

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, it is my distinct privilege to rise today to thank Brigadier General Randall M. "Mark" Schmidt for his service as commander of the 366th Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. General Schmidt has been at Mountain Home since August of 1997, and will soon move on to reassignment as commander, Joint Task Force, Southwest Asia.

I have long been proud of the 366th Wing. The Wing's motto is, "Anywhere, anytime," Mountain Home is unique because it is the Air Force's only air