

We are all extremely proud of our students from University School. They must be applauded for a job well done.●

TRIBUTE TO ILA MARIE GOODEY

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would just like to take a moment to pay tribute to Ila Marie Goodey of Logan, Utah. I have just learned that Ila passed away on Saturday.

Ila was a tireless and effective advocate for individuals with disabilities and served as an early and active member of my Utah Advisory Committee on Disability Policy. I have always appreciated her counsel on these issues.

In particular, she believed in independence and self-sufficiency, and she directed as much of her energy to assisting others to reach this goal as she did to helping herself. She served as the first chairperson of the Utah Assistive Technology Program Management and Implementation Board. This consumer-responsive, interagency program has been hailed nationwide as a model for other programs of its kind.

I know that her friends and colleagues at Utah State University and among the disability community in my state will mourn her loss. But, I also know that they, as I do, appreciate all that she has contributed. There can be no doubt that Ila has made a real difference.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
ANDREW RAMIREZ

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Andrew Ramirez who has served his country with bravery and valor. For Sergeant Ramirez, a resident of East Los Angeles, public service runs in the family—his brother is a detective with the Los Angeles Police Department.

On March 31, 1999, Sergeant Ramirez was taken as a prison of war by the Yugoslavia Army while he was serving as part of a U.S. Army detachment assigned to a U.N. monitoring force patrolling Yugoslavia's southern border. Sergeant Ramirez was part of the 4th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division based in Wurzburg, Germany. He had arrived in Macedonia in early March to relieve another contingent.

I cannot begin to imagine the terror experienced by Sergeant Ramirez and his fellow soldiers, Christopher J. Stone and Steven M. Gonzales, when they were surrounded, and under heavy fire, taken as prisoners of war.

Just a few days later, the soldiers were shown on Serbian television, battered and bruised. It is a picture that every mother hopes she will never see. It is a picture that every American hoped was not true. But, it was true, and these three men paid a dear price of over a month in captivity. They did not know what fate would befall them and if they were ever going to see their families again.

During the past weeks, Kosovo has witnessed carnage and bloodshed un-

seen in Europe for almost fifty years. These events are the culmination of a decade-long campaign of terror and bloodshed in the Balkans—and it has created a refugee crisis unparalleled in recent years.

Sergeant Ramirez was in Yugoslavia because his country asked him to go. He was there to protect our promise that the civilized world will never again do nothing in the face of genocide, ethnic cleansing, mass rape and rampant violence to thousands of innocent people. If the most powerful alliance in the world fails to stop ethnic cleansing, it will send a green light to every tyrant and dictator with similar intentions that they can do the same, and that the world community will be unable or unwilling to muster the resolve to stop it.

None of these words would mean anything without individuals like Sergeant Anthony Ramirez. He is the truest of patriots—the bravest of the brave. Our country is forever indebted to him, and there are not words nor deeds that could every repay his dedicated service—or that of his family. He is a testament to the human spirit that keeps the light of peace and human freedoms alive.

Sergeant Ramirez, we thank you, we honor you, and we are so very, very glad that you are home.●

MONTANA RAIL LINK

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today an award ceremony for one of the nation's best and brightest short line railroads, was held to honor Montana Rail Link's safety record. Montana Rail Link, commonly referred to as MRL, offers essential and competitive freight service to a large number of customers along Montana's Southern rail line from Billings to Sandpoint, Idaho.

MRL was honored today by being awarded the E.H. Hariman Memorial award. This award is specifically designated to recognize railroad safety improvement. Working on the railroad is not like having a desk job. It's not a job for the timid—it's a job where hard work and plenty of sweat are part of everyday tasks.

Each year, it is tragically inevitable that railroad employees are involved in accidents which can result in serious injury or even death. With the reception of this award, it is very apparent that MRL places a significant value on the safety of their employees. As a Montanan, I am relieved to see that a Montana railroad is the recipient of this award. Montana railroads have a long and colorful history in the establishment of our state. And I have friends that work on the railroad.

Montanans are very dependent on this rail transportation. We are dependent on this competitive alternative. As many are aware, I have introduced legislation that will help to

assure the nation's shippers of competitive rail access. It is my intent to not only create free-market competition in the rail industry, I would also like to improve service of the nation's Class 1 railroads.

I've heard from many Montanans about the importance of rail car availability and affordability. The nation's rail system is dominated by four large behemoths of railroads. In Montana, those railroads are the target of much criticism based on their pricing and contractual practices.

It is the short lines that help to balance out the public's perception of railroads. In Montana, MRL has been hailed as a very reliable transportation alternative. MRL has also been hailed with this award today.

You've all heard me make a reference to Montana's vast distances—from corner to corner, the distance from Alzaka to Yaak, Montana is equivalent to the distance from Washington, D.C. to Chicago, Illinois. I'm sure my colleagues will agree with me, especially when you consider the variance in terrain we are faced with in our state. Pulling a train over multiple mountain passes in the dead of winter can be a daunting task.

In Montana, we value good, honest, quality service. MRL is very much an example of what is best about Montana.●

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL BERRIE and
DR. ROBERT A. SCOTT

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Russell Berrie and Dr. Robert A. Scott, two of New Jersey's leaders in business and education, on the occasion of their third annual "Making A Difference Awards" program.

Mr. President, Russ and Robert have made tremendous philanthropic and humanitarian contributions to my state of New Jersey. In 1997, they joined together through the Russell Berrie Foundation to create the "Making A Difference Awards," which honor unsung heroes of New Jersey for acts of unusual heroism, extraordinary community service or lifetime achievement.

Much like the award recipients, Russ Berrie has devoted a lifetime to helping others. Thirty-six years ago, he founded RUSS Berrie and Company, Incorporated, which develops and distributes more than 6,000 gift products to retailers worldwide. Its diverse range of products include stuffed animals, baby gifts, picture frames, candles, figurines, and home decor gifts. Russ' company, headquartered in Oakland, NJ, grosses annual sales of \$270 million and has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange since 1984.

Recently, Fortune Magazine named Russ one of its "Forty Most Generous Americans," and Russ has been recognized by many organizations for his