

on the life and work of Gerald Clifford, an important and influential South Dakotan and Oglala Sioux tribal member who recently passed away after courageously battling a debilitating illness.

Gerald Clifford, with whom I worked for many years, was a leader and a driving force for change among Native Americans in South Dakota and across the country. He was a champion for rural water development in southwestern South Dakota and a strong advocate for Indian education and Indian self-determination. Earlier this week, Mr. Clifford began his journey to the spirit world at the young age of sixty. I express my heartfelt condolences to Gerald's family and relatives during this difficult time. My prayers and thoughts are with them.

The void left by Gerald's passing was felt especially deeply today, as his life was celebrated at a funeral service in Manderson, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation. While the work of this body required my presence in Washington today, I do want to honor and remember Gerald here in the Senate for his many outstanding contributions to his community and state.

Over the years, Gerald and I worked together on a number of projects. And I can tell you for a fact: he is a tenacious advocate for his causes and never gives up. Never.

I had the honor and pleasure of working closely with Gerald on the construction of the Mini Wiconi Rural Water System. In his role as director of the Mini Wiconi project, Gerald accepted the daunting challenge of bringing the state of South Dakota, three South Dakota tribes and local non-Indian communities together to achieve a common vision. The project bridged historically-vast political and cultural gaps to bring the precious resources of clean water to rural communities and remote reservations areas.

Even after many South Dakotans had lost hope of ever seeing the Mini Wiconi water project finished, Gerald kept working at it. He shepherded the Mini Wiconi project during the last several years, a critical period in its construction, fulfilled the promise of clean water for many, and laid a strong foundation for completing the project in the foreseeable future.

Gerald managed this project with skill and with diplomacy, and I am proud to have been able to work with him to accomplish our mutual goal. His contribution will be felt for decades to come.

Gerald made many other contributions to his people and his state in addition to Mini Wiconi. I would like to highlight just a few examples that provide a snapshot of the magnitude of this involvement in efforts to benefit the people of South Dakota and our nation.

Gerald Clifford was first and foremost an articulate and impassioned ad-

vocate for justice for his people. No one who knew Gerald could ever question the intensity or sincerity of his commitment to this overriding goal.

Gerald also understood the critical importance of education as a means of improving the quality of life for Indian people, working hard to promote tribally-controlled education, particularly tribal colleges and universities, and contributing to the initiation and development in the early 1970's of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and the tribal college movement. He was also among the first to have assisted in the creation of tribally-controlled entities, such as the Coalition of Indian-Controlled School Boards. Through this work, he helped provide educational opportunities for 26,000 students at the nation's thirty-three tribal colleges and universities, and opened a major educational pathway for many generations to come.

Gerald Clifford was a highly respected leader of the American Indian people. He was elected by Great Plains tribal leaders and tribal peers to serve as the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Aberdeen area Vice-President. As their voice on Capital Hill, Gerald helped many tribes in South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and throughout the mid-West.

Gerald was a dominant presence at the forefront of the many struggles that the Aberdeen area tribes faced over the past four decades. It was through his focused dedication and skilled advocacy that Indian people have prevailed in the face of numerous adversities placed in their way. Gerald served as an elder, mentor, colleague and friend to so many young Indian men and women, imparting many of his outstanding qualities to this and future generations of tribal leaders.

Earlier this year, I addressed the National Congress of American Indians general assembly while Gerald was in Washington fighting hard on issues that meant so much to him. Later, I learned that he was forced to return to South Dakota prematurely because he was struggling with his health. As a result, I was unable to see him. I will always regret that I did not get to visit with Gerald during his last visit here.

Gerald fought illness with courage, determination and indomitable spirit. Even as he was ailing, he was not deterred from the pursuit of his work. He continued to fight for Indian people and for the causes that cared so much about. He never gave up.

In passing, Gerald Clifford left a large, significant and important legacy. He truly will be missed, but his work will live on, enriching the lives of South Dakotans for generations

BORDER DRUG PROSECUTIONS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, shortly before the July 4th recess, the

Senate passed an Emergency Supplemental spending measure as part of the Military Construction Appropriations Bill. This measure dealt with a number of critical needs, including aid for fire victims in New Mexico and funds to continue the war on drugs in Colombia. I am pleased that this legislation also included \$12 million to reimburse county and municipal governments along the U.S.-Mexico border for the high costs that they have incurred in handling drug prosecutions and incarcerations for the federal government.

Dramatic increases in manpower and resources for the Border Patrol and Customs Service has meant dramatic increases in drug and alien smuggling and illegal crossing apprehensions. Our border counties, which have handled these cases for the federal government for many years, have borne heavy costs of these prosecutions with no reimbursement from the federal government. These are some of the poorest counties and communities in the nation, and they can no longer afford to pay the costs associated with an expanded caseload they are handling for the federal government.

Specifically, this provision will enable the United States Attorneys to assist border county and municipal governments in the Southwest Border states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California with their court costs, courtroom technology needs, the building of prisoner holding spaces, administrative staff, and indigent defense costs that are associated with the handling and processing of drug cases that would otherwise fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal government.

I appreciate the help and commitment of Senator GREGG, Chairman of the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Subcommittee, and Senator STEVENS, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, for working so closely with me to address the needs of the Southwest border. I also want to thank Jim Morhard, Staff Director of the Commerce-Justice-State panel, and Kevin Linskey, for their hard work on this matter. Jim and Kevin serve both the Committee and Senator GREGG very well, and their efforts on the staff level are making a difference in improving the lives of people living along the U.S.-Mexico border.

GUNRUNNING IN THE STATES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, two new studies just released show that states with a high concentration of gun industry activity and weak gun laws tend to be the major suppliers of crime guns in other states.

On June 28, 2000, the Violence Policy Center (VPC) released Gunland USA, a study which ranks states by their level of gun industry activity. For each state VPC reported the number of gun shows, licensed firearms retailers (including pawnshops), manufacturers