

system. The majority of her years teaching were spent at Classical High School where she taught sophomore English.

Today's public opinion polls tell us that education is the number one issue on the minds of Americans. We hear and talk a lot about holding students to high academic standards. But Alice Dwyer never needed pollsters and politicians to tell her about the importance of high standards. The students who read Shakespeare in her classroom knew that she expected each of them to do his or her best.

In addition to her love of teaching, Alice always has been an avid admirer of acting. She was among the Rhode Islanders to answer the casting call for "The Great Gatsby," starring Robert Redford and Mia Farrow. At sunset each evening for weeks, she would cross the bridge to Newport, where she would don a glittering 1920s flapper gown and join the guests at Hollywood's most recent rendition of Jay Gatsby's famed summer parties.

After retiring from the Providence Public School system, Alice took on various volunteer activities. She read to children and worked in the library of the Fox Point Elementary School in Providence, and she was a regular in the phone bank on New London Avenue in Cranston, making calls to turn out the vote for my father's 1982 Senate campaign. She worked relentlessly on the two unsuccessful campaigns of Fred Lippitt to be mayor of Providence.

In 1994 when my father ran for his fourth Senate term, difficulty walking kept Alice away from campaign headquarters. However, as a woman who cannot do enough for others, she found a way to help. Campaign workers would drop off box loads of envelopes and lists of names and addresses with her. When one box was done, it would be picked up and another delivered in its place.

Combining her love of reading with her natural tendency to help others, Alice spent a great deal of time taping textbooks for blind and visually impaired students.

Whether it's the young person working at the Newport Creamery on Wayland Square where Alice is known for liking her coffee piping hot, or the students (now middle-aged men and women) who recall the lessons they learned from her at Classical High School, or her own family members, all agree that Alice Dwyer has filled their lives with her own giving spirit.

Alice Dwyer will celebrate her ninetyeth year with her sister, Rita Scotti, with her eleven nieces and nephews and their families, and with dozens of friends and neighbors. It is my great privilege to wish this woman, who has warmed so many hearts with her un-failing kindness and generosity, a very Happy Birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA SHEHEE

● Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, on the evening of Friday, November 3, the people of Shreveport will gather to pay tribute to one of the most exceptional people the State of Louisiana has ever produced, Virginia Shehee. The tribute to Virginia is organized by the Biomedical Research Foundation of northwest Louisiana, whose establishment is but one of the remarkable achievements in the life of this remarkable woman.

It is my pleasure and honor to tell my colleagues in the United States Senate about my friend Virginia Shehee. She is a superb model for everything she has done: wife, mother, businesswoman, political leader, community activist and economic visionary. My former colleague, Senator Bennett Johnston, once said, "In a state that is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, Virginia Shehee may be Louisiana's single greatest natural resource." I certainly know that is a view shared by many of those who know Virginia best and who have benefited from her lifetime of dedication to improve lives in Shreveport and northwest Louisiana.

Nothing better exemplifies her accomplishments than the creation of the Biomedical Research Foundation, and the construction of the Biomedical Research Institute that today stands proudly adjacent to the LSU Medical Center in Shreveport. It is an understatement to say that none of this would have been possible without the foresight, determination and hard work of Virginia, and other community leaders nearly 20 years ago.

Like so many advances in today's new economy, Shreveport's move into the world of biomedicine and biotechnology emerged from the difficulties caused by the decline of the old economy. In northwest Louisiana, where the steadily declining price in oil in the early 1980's caused community leaders to conclude that efforts had to be undertaken quickly to produce other economic sustenance for the area, they of course turned to Virginia Shehee.

In a matter of a few short years, Virginia had formed the Biomedical Research Foundation and gathered several million dollars in local support. She leveraged local dollars into a much larger state support and then converted that into significant support by the Congress and the Department of Energy. As a result, a 10-story, \$40 million, state-of-the-art wet-lab research facility was built that today houses world-class researchers and serves as a growing economic engine, producing knowledge-based jobs for northwest Louisiana.

Beyond the work taking place in its own facilities, Biomed can point with great pride to the growing number of companies it has attracted to Shreve-

port's own technology park, InterTech, with technologies ranging from manufacturing and diagnostics to telemedicine and orthopedic devices. We in the Louisiana delegation often point to the success of Biomed as a textbook model of partnerships between Washington and local communities looking to build a better future for their citizens.

It is true, Mr. President, that Biomed has become a success because it has merit on its side. But all of us who have played some small part in this effort know that a big reason for the success is Virginia Shehee is someone who long ago learned not to take no for an answer. Her efforts have led to a mighty legacy in science and economic development in Shreveport. It is fitting the facility is now the "Virginia K. Shehee Biomedical Research Institute," and it is fitting the community is gathering next month to say thanks. It is my pleasure to join so many in saying how blessed Louisiana is to have Virginia Shehee's generous service and how fortunate I am to have her friendship.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MR. DONALD W. JENSEN

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Mr. Donald W. Jensen, who is retiring on January 1, 2001, after 13 years of service as a member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Since 1987, Commissioner Jensen has represented the citizens of District 15 to the best of his ability, which has been in an exemplary manner.

Commissioner Jensen graduated from the University of Detroit with a degree in Business Administration. He spent much of his work career with Burroughs Corporation, where he served as Director of Advertising and Public Relations. His primary responsibility was the design and production of promotional and technical literature, though he was also responsible for media advertising, the public relations department, and the operation of their international literature distribution facility. While at Burroughs, Mr. Jensen was a Board Member and President of the National Trade Show Exhibitors Association.

Public service has always played an essential role in Commissioner Jensen's life. Prior to being elected to his current position, he served for nine years as a member of the Birmingham, Michigan, City Commission and then later as Mayor of Birmingham. He was a Founder and Board Member of the Foundation for Birmingham Senior Residents, an organization which enables seniors to remain in their homes. He has also served on the Board of numerous other organizations, including the American Cancer Society and the Center for Independent Living.