

Marilyn currently teaches at West Middle School in Rapid City and has taught various grade levels in the Rapid City Area School District since 1983. She has devoted an impressive 22 years of her life to teaching elementary school.

Marilyn's greatest service to our community lies in her devotion as an educator to her students. She deserves the greatest praise both from the families of these young individuals, and from all those whose lives she will touch. Her efforts are an invaluable investment in South Dakota's future and we are all truly blessed to have her in the classroom.

In a true testimony of Marilyn's devotion and love for teaching, she commented that her greatest contribution to education is simply that she has given, and will continue to give, all the caring, commitment, and compassion that she has within her to guide students to succeed academically, emotionally, and socially.

Marilyn also makes extra efforts to see that her classes are learning to their potential and preparing themselves for the demands of the 21st century. A true veteran in the field of education, Marilyn's efforts to increase the credibility of teaching as a profession is designed to entice and encourage a new generation of students into following her in this most honorable profession.

Marilyn will now proceed to the national competition for Teacher of the Year. I express my appreciation for the Rapid City Public School Foundation for sponsoring the Teacher of the Year program in the Rapid City School District. As well, I congratulate all of the South Dakota teachers nominated this year.

I commend Marilyn for her outstanding service to the youth of our community. Congratulations and thank you, Marilyn, for your commitment to excellence and dedicated service to your students, your community, and to South Dakota. •

AMBASSADOR DAVID HERMELIN

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to the memory of an outstanding leader, a philanthropist who knew no limits, and a distinguished public servant whose integrity and decency made him a role-model to all who knew him. A few weeks ago, we in the State of Michigan mourned the passing of Ambassador David Hermelin. I suppose it is a little presumptuous to suggest that only the State of Michigan beams with pride in our association with Ambassador Hermelin, for the organizations that he led, the political leaders he counseled, and the communities to which he dedicated his life, literally span the globe.

Against that backdrop, I will submit for the RECORD excerpts of eulogies—as

they were reported in the Detroit Jewish News—by Rabbi Irwin Groner of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Michigan, Brian Hermelin, Jon Gundersen, deputy chief of the American Embassy in Norway, and U.S. Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman.

But before I submit these eulogies, I would just like to take a moment to reflect on the first time I really had a chance to get to know Ambassador Hermelin and the impact he had on me. It was shortly after President Clinton had nominated him to serve as our nation's top diplomatic representative in Norway. As protocol dictates, David contacted his U.S. Senators to seek our support. And while David Hermelin and I did not always see eye-to-eye on the domestic political issues of the day, we agreed to meet to discuss his confirmation process.

While I had heard many things about David before that meeting—about all the charitable causes he had led, about his close relationships with top government leaders in the United States and Israel, about his successful business career—I never could have expected to be drawn to the orbit of David's warmth, energy, kindness and wisdom, in the way that I was.

From the moment we met that afternoon in my office, we forged a friendship, that developed further during our interactions through his Senate confirmation process, when I was proud to testify on his behalf and urge my Republican colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee to waste no time in ushering this fine man's nomination through the Senate.

And our friendship even deepened further over time. For even though he and I came from opposite sides of the political aisle, I found myself seeking his advice and counsel from time to time.

Sometimes it was his thought provoking perspective on developments in this Middle East, or the insights he had gained the being an active participant in U.S. foreign policy as Ambassador to Norway. Other times it was his advocacy for both the Detroit and American Jewish communities, or his tireless philanthropic efforts in Michigan. Whatever the topic, no matter when we met, it was impossible to not benefit in some way from David Hermelin's wisdom, or his contagious energy and passion for life.

I feel blessed that I knew David Hermelin for the short time that I did. I cannot begin to even imagine the scope and depth of impact he had on the people closest to him. So my heartfelt sympathies and condolences go out to his dedicated and compassionate wife, Doreen, and his devoted, caring, and decent children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, many of whom I have had the pleasure of getting to know as well.

In closing, Mr. President, I would like to refer to the description of

James Madison, another great American, by one of his biographers, in which Madison was summed up this way: "When you called on him, he was always home."

Well, I think that's how David Hermelin could be described as well by everyone he touched. No matter who it was that called on his help and on his leadership—the Jewish community, numerous charitable causes, the State of Michigan, the United States Government, the people of Norway, the State of Israel and most importantly, his family—whenever you called on David Hermelin, he always took your call, and he was always ready to lend a hand.

I am better for having known David Hermelin. He was not only an outstanding leader and generous giver in every way possible, but he was also the kind of individual everyone would want as a neighbor. He will be deeply missed.

I ask that the above mentioned excerpts be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

Excerpts from the Detroit Jewish News
DAVID B. HERMELIN, SAYING GOODBYE
A BELOVED LEADER GETS AN EMOTIONAL
FAREWELL AT SHAAREY ZEDEK

David Hermelin was remembered by more than 2,500 people whose lives he touched at his Nov. 24 funeral. It was held in Southfield at Congregation Shaarey Zedek—the synagogue he had served as president. Afterwards, some 150 cars formed a procession for the interment at Clover Hill Park Cemetery in Birmingham.

Mr. Hermelin, of Bingham Farms, died of brain cancer Nov. 22, 2000 at age 63.

Delivering the eulogy was his friend of 41 years, Shaarey Zedek Rabbi Irwin Groner. Also speaking were Jon Gundersen, deputy chief of the American Embassy in Oslo, Norway, where Mr. Hermelin served as ambassador; U.S. Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman; and Mr. Hermelin's son, Brian.

Speaking first, Gundersen said he has just conveyed to Mr. Hermelin's wife, Doreen, messages from the royal family of Norway, from the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, from the Norwegian ambassador and consul general, from the prime minister of Norway and from the foreign minister.

"I've just arrived from Norway, and it seems the entire nation sends to David and Doreen their greatest condolences," Gundersen said.

"David and Doreen represented the very best of America and what we stand for. Faith, honesty, openness, tolerance, love. David, your embassy family and indeed an entire nation will miss you. You will be in our hearts forever."

Glickman, like President Bill Clinton, has known the Hermelins for many years. He shared a letter the president sent to Mrs. Hermelin, which read, in part:

"David loved life. And he made sure that everyone around him shared that love. I will always cherish his friendship and support and remember with gratitude his exceptional service as our ambassador to Norway.

"He left the world a better place than he found it. And no one could ask for a finer legacy.

"Hillary and I are keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers."

Brian Hermelin then gave an emotional, personal tribute to his father.