

will be missed by millions of fans the world over, including me.

Victor Borge often famously told his audiences that “the shortest distance between two people is a smile.” Indeed, the entertainer known the world over as the Clown Prince of Denmark was singularly responsible for millions of upturned lips—and untold bouts of hysterical laughter—during a magnificent career as a comedian and musician that spanned almost a century.

I’d like to take a few minutes today to remember the remarkable life and laughter inspired by Victor Borge, an entertainer who gave new meaning to the expression “tickling the ivories” by combining comedy and classical piano as no one else ever has. He was a one-of-a-kind keyboard ham who enjoyed making his audiences laugh as much as he enjoyed making music.

He was a classically trained concert pianist who could be in the middle of a breathtaking rendition of Strauss’ “Die Fledermaus” and suddenly fall right off the side of his piano bench, sending his audience into hysterics. Or in a similar stunt, while in the middle of conducting an aria, a soprano’s high note might blast him right off his stool, and he would stoically climb back on, only this time wielding a safety belt to bolt himself to his seat. Sometimes Victor would intentionally strike the wrong pitch at the piano, only to brandish the sheet music and a pair of scissors and literally cut out the offending note.

He’s the only musician I know who could begin a solemn rendering of Beethoven’s “Moonlight Sonata,” then seamlessly slide into Cole Porter’s “Night and Day.” To say nothing of his ability to morph Mozart into “Happy Birthday.” Sight gags and musical quirks were only part of the act. Borge always had a stable of rhetorical flourishes at the ready, such as, “Mozart wrote this piece in four flats, because he moved three times while composing it.”

I felt lucky to count Victor as my friend. I’ll never forget the many times I tried to give a speech to a roomful of people, only to find myself drawn into the role of his straight man as he joked with the droopy-faced delivery that made everyone laugh until in hurt.

His comic genius hid the life story of a European Jew who narrowly escaped Nazi persecution. Borge was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, to a father who was a violinist in the Royal Danish Philharmonic. The younger Borge was a child prodigy concert pianist, debuting at age 8, and a Scandinavian star by his early 20s. By 1940, he was at the top of the Nazis’ extermination list because he poked fun at Hitler and the Third Reich in his act. Ultimately, though, his music helped save his life when two Russian diplomats who were fans of his show helped smuggle him on a ship bound for Finland, where Borge

found his way onto the S.S. *American Legion*, one of the last boats out of Europe.

Victor Borge arrived in New York penniless and speaking no English. But he quickly learned the language by watching 10-cent movies in midtown Manhattan theaters. In less than two years, he had adapted his act to the English language and debuted on the Bing Crosby radio show. Within a decade he had appeared on Ed Sullivan and been offered his own radio program. By the end of his career, Borge’s one-man Broadway show, “Comedy in Music,” had logged 849 performances, which is still a record today.

Over the last half-century, he also developed credentials as an orchestra conductor, directing the London and New York Philharmonics, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Boston Pops. He also raised millions of dollars for worthy causes such as Thanks to Scandinavia, a scholarship fund to commemorate efforts to help victims of Nazi persecution. Victor was knighted by all five Scandinavian countries for his life’s work, and was honored by the United Nations as well as the U.S. Congress.

I will never forget the night of December 29, 1999, right here in Washington, when Victor received the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors along with Jason Robards, Sean Connery, and Stevie Wonder. President Clinton hung a medal around his neck that night in recognition of his life achievements, and Borge—clowning around into his 90s—showed up at the reception afterward in a red clown nose.

Years ago, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, the New York Times wrote an editorial calling Victor Borge, simply, “the funniest man on earth.” To me, he was also eloquently warm, gifted, and brilliant—a bright and irrepressible star who lit the world around him. We shall miss him.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD METREY

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I want to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, Mr. Richard Metrey, who retired last week after 41 years of Government service in the United States Navy.

Throughout his career, Richard Metrey has distinguished himself through his leadership, commitment and dedication to public service, and by making government work better and more efficiently. Beginning as a project engineer in the Ships Machinery Division of the former Bureau of Ships, he swiftly worked his way up through the ranks into positions in senior management, including Head of the Combat Systems Branch in the Naval Sea Systems Command and Pro-

gram Manager for the Navy Advanced Prototyping Program.

For the last fifteen years, Mr. Metrey has served as Technical Director of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, where he has had a profound impact on the Navy’s approach to researching, developing, testing and evaluating naval vehicles. During this time, Richard was directly responsible for the Division’s entire technical program—its planning, execution, and staffing of current programs, as well as strategic planning and new starts. Prior to that, Mr. Metrey also served in the Navy Secretariat in a range of important responsibilities from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Surface Warfare to principal advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Surface Warfare Research and Development and Acquisition.

Mr. Metrey’s colleagues attest to the ingenuity and integrity he has brought to the positions in which he has served. His contributions and accomplishments have been recognized through many prestigious awards, including the Presidential Rank Meritorious Executive Award, the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award and numerous Outstanding Performance Awards—to name only a few. He has also been selected to serve as the United States representative on several international forums, and on high level committees, including the Congressionally established Advanced Submarine Advisory Panel.

I came to know Richard Metrey in the early 1990s during the Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) process. Having had the opportunity to work with him during the BRAC and on other matters, I can also attest firsthand to his professionalism and deep commitment to our Navy and its mission. It is my firm conviction that public service is one of the most honorable callings, one that demands the very best, most dedicated efforts of those who have the opportunity to serve their fellow citizens and country. Throughout his career, Richard Metrey’s commitment and remarkable talent have enabled him to go beyond meeting this demand. So I want to extend my personal gratitude to Richard for these many years of hard work and dedication and I wish him well in whatever endeavors he seeks to undertake in the years ahead.●

##### ROBIN COMSTOCK

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to honor Robin Comstock of Nottingham, New Hampshire, the newly appointed President and CEO of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, whose enthusiasm, leadership, and dedication have earned her the respect of her peers and the admiration of this state.

Robin has served for the past six years as President and CEO of the

Portsmouth Chamber. She has an extensive background in running, managing and developing chambers, and has demonstrated success in a number of key areas including economic and community development, technology and tourism initiatives and government affairs. Her success in developing a highly visible seacoast regional hospitality and tourism program, her skill and her record of accomplishment are a tribute to her state and community.

If the accolades of peers are any measure of achievement, Robin is at the top of her game. Her energy, enthusiasm and skill have allowed her to accomplish great things for the Granite State, and I have no doubt that she will be a tremendous asset in her new position. It is an honor and a privilege to serve Robin Comstock in the United States Senate, and I wish her all the best.●

#### DEAN KAMEN

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dean Kamen of Bedford, New Hampshire, whose dedication to the field of technology has earned him the admiration and gratitude of his state and nation. As a testament to his many extraordinary achievements, Dean was awarded the National Medal of Technology by President Clinton in 2000 for inventions that have advanced medical care worldwide. His innovative spirit and imaginative leadership have awakened America to the excitement of science and technology.

Dean's remarkable career as an inventor began while he was still a college undergraduate, when he invented the first wearable infusion pump. This device rapidly found uses in such diverse medical specialties as chemotherapy, neonatology, and endocrinology. Since then Dean has played a leading role in many major advances in healthcare, such as the insulin pump for diabetics. He was also instrumental in the development of IBOT, a personal transporter developed for the disabled community, which is capable of climbing stairs, traversing sandy and rocky terrain and raise its user to eye-level with a standing person.

Nearly a decade ago, Dean founded FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) to motivate America's youth to learn about science and technology, and has personally recruited many of the top leaders of industry, education and government in this mission. He has been recognized for his efforts by prestigious publications such as Smithsonian Magazine and the New York Times, which labeled him a "New Kind of Hero for American Youth."

Dean's passion for technology and its practical uses has changed the face of healthcare and inspired a love of science in a generation of American

children. Because of his extraordinary achievements, we have a new understanding of ourselves and the world, as well as a renewed hope for the future. It is an honor to represent Dean in the United States Senate, and I wish him all the best in his endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ALYSSA SPELLMAN

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Alyssa Spellman of Bow, New Hampshire, a young woman whose poise, hard work, and intelligence have earned her the respect and admiration of her state and community. At the age of seventeen, Alyssa has dedicated much of her young life to serving others. This service was recognized publicly when she was recently awarded the Governor's Award for Volunteerism.

An accomplished musician and artist, Alyssa has been nominated to Art, Classical Music and Jazz Music All-State. She was also chosen as Female Youth Entertainer, Traditional Entertainer and Rising New Start Vocalist of 1999 by the New Hampshire Country Music Association. After winning these titles, Alyssa continued in her tradition of helping others by performing at benefit concerts to raise money for diabetes and cancer research.

Graceful and accomplished, Alyssa recently competed for and won the title of Miss Bedford 2001. She will go on to compete for the title of Miss New Hampshire, with the ultimate goal of winning the Miss America crown. In competition, Alyssa promotes her platform of prevention of teen violence, an issue to which she devotes a considerable amount of her free time. Alyssa is a tribute to her community, and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors. I know that Alyssa will continue to be a fine New Hampshire representative. It is an honor to serve her in the United States Senate.●

#### SUZANNE LULL

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to honor Suzanne Lull, a teacher whose devotion to education and literacy serves as an inspiration for her colleagues and students alike. Recently named New Hampshire's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Lull is credited with a special ability to involve both parents and the community in her students education.

Ms. Lull began her career in private education, then moved to her current position at Washington elementary school. Starting out as a fourth grade teacher, she initiated a balanced literacy program that integrates reading and writing into all areas of the curriculum. Her passion for literacy continued to be evident as she moved to teaching younger students with the hopes of inspiring reading education early in their academic career.

Ms. Lull claims she always knew she would be a teacher. Ever the educator, she spends her free time working along side her husband in his ministry, giving religious instruction to Sunday school children of all ages. Suzanne Lull is a tribute to her community and profession, and it is an honor and a privilege to serve her in the United States Senate.●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1. A communication from the Director of the Federal Register, National Archives, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Certificates of Ascertainment of the electors of the President and Vice President of the United States; ordered to lie on the table.

EC-2. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1 through September 30, 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Criteria for Approving Courses for VA Educational Assistance Programs" (RIN2900-AI67) received on January 4, 2001; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons" (RIN1904-AB05) received on December 19, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Pharmacy Benefits Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the High Altitude Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (now Global Hawk) Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Public Political Communications Coordinated with Candidates and Party Committees, and Independent Expenditures" received on January 4, 2001; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-8. A communication from the Director of Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Detention of Aliens Ordered Removed" (RIN1115-AF82) (INS2029-00) received on December 20, 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9. A communication from the Clerk of the United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitted, pursuant to law, a report of all judgments rendered for the court