TRIBUTE TO DR. MORTIMER ADLER

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I would like to pay tribute to a great American who passed away on June 28, at the age of 98½—an American whose life spanned virtually the entire 20th century and whose work influenced the course of the century.

Dr. Mortimer Jerome Adler, author, educator and philosopher was born in New York City and subsequently moved to California where he lived a great portion of his life.

Mortimer Adler dedicated his life to the pursuit of wisdom, understanding, truth and knowledge, and to sharing what he learned with others. After having read John Stuart Mill's Autobiography at age 14 and learning that Mill had read Plato by the time he was five, he hit the books and never looked back.

A prolific writer, Adler authored well over 50 books, including How to Read a Book; The American Testament; The Community of Sense of Politics; Aristotle for Everyone; Ten Philosophical Mistakes; and Art, the Arts and the Great Ideas. It is readily apparent, Mr. President, that his interests were wide ranging and extensive. As editor of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Adler was responsible for revamping the encyclopedia in the form we know it today. He was also editor of the 60 volume set, The Great Books of the Western World and was also instrumental in devising the Great Books reading program, a book discussion program with chapters throughout the United States in which participants read and discuss classic texts.

A professor at several universities including Columbia University and the University of Chicago, Mortimer Adler was probably the only person in America to receive his PhD before receiving his high school diploma, bachelors or masters. His part in an unending quest to reform the American education system, he wrote, on behalf of the Paideia Group, The Paideia Proposal, a book explaining why and how the education that the best receive should be the education that all receive.

Known as “Everyone’s Philosopher” or “the Philosopher of the Common Man,” Mortimer Adler spent a lifetime demonstrating that philosophy was not a field only for some, but an endeavor for everyone. As the title of a journal that he published since the early 90’s puts it succinctly, “Philosophy is Everybody’s Business.”

He was also a founder of the Institute for Philosophical Research and was instrumental in founding the Aspen Institute, an organization which engages leaders in business, academia and politics in discussions of perennial ideas using classic texts to facilitate discussion.

Only rarely does a person of Mortimer Adler’s intellect and ability come along. We are fortunate that Professor Adler was with us for as long as he was.

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. HENRY T. GLISSON


General Glisson was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quarter-master Corps through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at North Georgia College, where he earned his bachelor of arts degree in Psychology. Thereafter, he received his master’s degree in Education from Pepperdine University of California. His military educational background includes the Quarter-master Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

Selected as a Regular Army Officer in 1967, and detailed to the Infantry for 18 months, his early years included assignment as a Platoon Leader for the 48th Quarter-master Company, Air Delivery, and Aide-de-Camp for the Commanding General of the U.S. Army in Japan; Advisory in the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Vietnam; and 94, Logistics, and Commander of the Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Infantry; Commander of Company C of the 425th Support Battalion; Executive Officer/S3 of the 25th Supply and Transport Battalion.

From 1978 to 1982, he served as the S3 of the Division Support Command; Executive Officer of 701st Maintenance Battalion; and Commander of the Materiel Management Center of the 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, Kansas. His next assignment was Commander of the 87th Maintenance Battalion of the 7th Support Group for the United States Army in Europe. He served as Chief of the Quarter-master Branch of the United States Army Military Personnel Command in Alexandria, Virginia, from 1985 to 1989.

In 1989 he became Commander of Division Support Command for the 4th Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colorado. He returned to the Pentagon in 1991, serving as the Executive Officer and Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics; and then as Deputy Director, Directorate for Plans and Operations in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. In 1993, he was promoted to Brigadier General and has served in four consecutive command assignments: Commander of the Defense Personnel Support Center for the Defense Logistics Agency; Commander of the U.S. Army Soldier Systems Command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command; and 44th Quartermaster General and Commandant of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School. In 1997, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and began his service as Director of the Defense Logistics Agency in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

His tireless and selfless dedication to serving his country is represented by the many decorations he has earned, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with V Device, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Parachute Rigger Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

In closing, I wish to commend General Glisson for his many years of distinguished service to our Nation, protecting our freedoms of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. I wish him and his wife, Sherry, Godspeed in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHRISTIAN

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I bring to the attention of my colleagues a great man in the State of New Jersey, Rev. Ron Christian.

Reverend Christian is a man of integrity who is committed to the spiritual, mental, social, civil, and economic well-being of his congregation and of the residents of Essex County.

I want to congratulate him on his installation as the pastor of the Christian Love Baptist Church. He is a dynamic gentleman who has turned his life around and has become a leader and role model in the community.

Reverend Christian is a true American, who believes that all people should have access to America’s Promise. He has the enviable gift of being able to bring people together to work for a common cause. Reverend Christian is an unselfish man whose motivation is not self-gratification. He possesses a higher calling.

On July 8, Reverend Christian became the pastor of the Christian Love Baptist Church in Irvington, New Jersey. I am certain that under his guidance, Christian Love Baptist Church will experience enormous growth and will continue its tradition of being a warm congregation filled with joy and love.

Reverend Christian’s devotion to the community is very well known, and the State of New Jersey is a better place because of his leadership.

Lastly, I am proud to call Reverend Christian a friend. It is an honor for me to bring him to your attention.