each and every day the best of American values—devotion to their country, their community, their family, and to each other.

Married on Friday, August 29, 1941 at the First Baptist Church in Erwin, Tennessee, the Jennings embarked on their journey as newlyweds living in New York City until Richard was called to the service in World War II. Richard served in both of the war’s theaters, and was in Europe on VE Day and Japan on VJ Day. While he was overseas, Virginia gave back to her community as an educator, teaching and coaching basketball.

On returning home, Richard began a distinguished career at Tennessee Eastman in Kingsport which spanned almost forty years. Virginia made a mark for herself in community service in Johnson City, holding the positions of President of the Junior League, helping to found a mental health clinic, and serving on the city’s planning commission. Both also made their spiritual lives a priority with their active membership in the Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church. Although raised as a Baptist, Virginia followed her mother’s sound advice to be the best Methodist she could!

With all of their accomplishments, probably their proudest moments came with the arrival of two daughters, Eve Boyd Jennings in 1947 and Anne Bradshaw Jennings in 1949. The Jennings’ family today boasts six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, all of whom are the apple of their grandparents’ eyes.

Through the years, Virginia, a devoted Republican, loved the thrill of politics. Former U.S. Senator Howard Baker tapped her into service as his Tri-Cities field representative where she served throughout his three terms in the Senate. Virginia became a legend in that role. When I first ran for the Senate, I turned to her time and time again for advice and counsel, and she not only gave me the great honor of becoming a valuable mentor, but she has also bestowed upon my wife, Karyn, and me an even greater gift—her friendship and love.

Virginia and Richard Jennings epitomize the very best of what it means to be Americans. They are a national treasure. In celebration of their golden wedding anniversary on Wednesday, August 29, 2001, I want to thank Virginia and Richard for their service to our nation, and most importantly, for living their lives in a way that serves as a shining example for all of us to emulate. I am honored to be their U.S. Senator.

IN MEMORY OF MIMI FARINA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, in the more than 25 years that I have been privileged to serve in public office, I have come to know many, many remarkable people. But rarely have I ever known anyone more talented, more compassionate, selfless and remarkable than Mimi Farina.

In the last week of August 56, Mimi Farina lost a courageous, two-year battle with neuroendocrine cancer. While people around the country and around the world are saddened by her death, Mimi’s courageous, crusading spirit will surely live on in the work of Bread & Roses, an organization that she founded in 1974.

Bread & Roses is a unique, internationally renowned social services agency, held together by countless dedicated volunteers and a simple, compassionate mission: to bring free live music to people confined in institutions—in jails, juvenile facilities, hospitals and rest homes. Last year alone, Bread & Roses sponsored more than 500 concerts at some 82 institutions across the country.

Mimi Farina gave up her own promising singing career to found Bread & Roses and to nurse it through years of hard times. The inspiration for Bread & Roses came to her in 1973, when she accompanied her sister, Joan Baez, and blues artist B.B. King to a performance at Sing Sing prison. She was deeply moved by the prisoners’ reaction to the music they heard that day. That experience, coupled with a performance of her own a short time later at a Marin County halfway house convinced Mimi of the enormous need for an organization like Bread & Roses.

Over the past quarter century, the work of Bread & Roses has been supported by a dazzling array of performers, including Bonnie Raitt, Pete Seeger, Paul Winter, Odetta, Lily Tomlin, Carlos Santana, Judy Collins, Robin Williams, Huey Lewis, Boz Scaggs and Taj Mahal.

As Bread & Roses grew in size and stature, Mimi became its most prominent and persuasive advocate. She received many awards and accolades, including “Woman of the Year” from the Bay Area Women in Music, “Most Valuable Person Award” from the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, “Woman Most Likely to be President” from the San Francisco League of Women Voters, “Woman Entrepreneur of the Year” from the National Association of Women Business Owners, and the Annual Life Work Award from the Falkirk Cultural Center in San Rafael. She was among the first inductees into the Marin County Women’s Hall of Fame.

I close today with an offer of my deepest condolences to the family of Mimi Farina and to those who loved her, and with these words from the poem “Bread & Roses,” originally written for female laborers and put to music by Mimi:

Our days shall not be sweated from birth until life closes.

Hearts starve as well as bodies: Give us bread, but give us roses.

HONORING WYNNE SPERCE

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly commend Wynne Sperce of Yankton, South Dakota, who with her sixty years of broadcasting excellence at WNAX, 570 AM, has become the longest running radio personality in the nation.