

Her priorities were always clear: God first, family second, and career third. It is why, when her husband died from cancer, she put her endless energies to work in that arena as well, creating the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation in 1996. This nonprofit provides funding for research of cancers affecting women, and it has recently expanded its focus to address violence against women.

Since she was a fellow Texan, I was never surprised by her zest for life. E.B. White once wrote, "I arise in the morning torn between a desire to save the world and a desire to savor the world. This makes it hard to plan the day." Not for people like Mary Kay, she knew how to accomplish both.

Mary Kay remembered what was important yet still reached for the stars—and all of us are the better for it. Thank you Mary Kay, I hope you are driving a beautiful pink Cadillac up in heaven.●

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#### TRIBUTE TO KAREN NYSTROM MEYER

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, Karen Nystrom Meyer was appointed to serve as the Executive Vice President of the Vermont Medical Society (VMS) in 1988. Throughout her tenure in office, Karen's work has been characterized by great integrity, compassion and a strong understanding of the critical role physicians play in improving the quality of life in the Green Mountain State. Many Vermonters shared my sense of loss when Karen Meyer recently announced her resignation in order to accept a new position in the field of higher education.

The fourteen years she led the society were years of great change and accomplishment for the organization. It was Karen's first job as an office assistant in a large internal medicine practice that gave her a real appreciation for the struggles and rewards of practicing medicine. The first woman executive of a State medical society in the country, she completely restructured the governance of the society moving from the traditional House of Delegates representative structure to an annual membership meeting format where each VMS member may participate in making Society policy. While Vermont was the first State to restructure its governance structure in this way, many other State societies have followed Vermont's lead.

During Karen's tenure at VMS, the society was able to achieve many of its policy initiatives at the State and Federal level. These include passing the "Clean Indoor Air Act," supporting lead screening for children, ensuring coverage of clinical trials, increasing access to health care for Vermonters, funding anti-tobacco programs, and developing a strong education program for physicians around end-of life care.

Karen was also instrumental in helping to establish the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC). Over the years, VPQHC has achieved national recognition for its important work developing clinical guidelines, reporting on health care quality in Vermont and educating physicians and practitioners. Karen has also demonstrated outstanding leadership and gained national recognition for her work with the American Medical Association and the American Association of Medical Society Executives, where she has participated on many work groups and policy teams.

Prior to becoming Executive Vice President of the Vermont Medical Society, Karen was the Commissioner of Housing and Community Affairs for the State of Vermont. As Commissioner, she worked tirelessly to increase the availability of affordable housing in Vermont. However, I am sure she will say that her most enjoyable job was working for me as a legislative assistant in the 1970's when I represented Vermont in the House of Representatives. Based on our work together, I can personally attest to her grace, competency and sense of humor—all of which are the key characteristics of a successful public servant.

While Karen is leaving the medical society, she will continue to play an important role in improving the social fabric of Vermont. She has accepted a new position at the University of Vermont where she will work with the acting President to develop a renewed sense of mission for the University. I know that I speak for thousands of Vermonters in thanking her for extraordinary service to the Vermont Medical Society and conveying our best wishes in her future endeavors.●

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#### TRIBUTE TO MONICA TENCATE

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a departing Senate Finance Committee staffer, Monica Tencate. She has served the Senate with great distinction, and it is with much sadness that I am bidding her goodbye. I'd like to take a few moments to describe her contribution.

Monica came to the Senate from California in 1998, and joined Chairman Roth's Finance Committee health team. After effective service there, she moved to Senator FRIST's Subcommittee on Public Health, making a tremendous contribution on a broad range of challenging HELP Committee issues. I know her years with Senator FRIST were very rewarding ones for her, so I was delighted that she was willing to return to the Finance Committee to work with me, as Director of the Finance Committee's health policy team.

As I look back at this year, Monica was a real leader in the Committee's effort to strengthen and improve Medi-

care for the 21st Century, including prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. She did a stellar job in helping to assemble a Tripartisan group, which put forward a framework for future success in this area. Due to the September 11 terrorist attacks, making major improvements to Medicare will have to wait until 2002. I believe, however, that we've laid a solid foundation for next year's efforts, and Monica's contribution was indispensable.

Monica also played a key role in the Committee's efforts to help provide coverage to the uninsured, to streamline Medicare regulations for beneficiaries and providers, and to address potentially serious problems posed by the new hospital outpatient payment system. She's done all this while keeping in mind the reality that our federal health programs aren't free—it's hard-working Americans who pay for them. It's easy to lose sight of that fact here inside the Beltway, but Monica never has.

Monica's contribution to me and to the Senate, in fact, went beyond policy and politics. She was a true team player, earning the respect of everyone she worked with, and the affection of her fellow Finance Committee staffers. And she did all this during one of this body's most tumultuous years in recent history—a year we'll all remember for the 50-50 Senate, the change in party control, the September 11 attacks, and finally the anthrax attack that drove many of us out of our offices. She served in her extraordinarily challenging job under these difficult circumstances with grace, commitment, and good humor. She will be sorely missed.

Now Monica is heading home to San Diego, to rejoin her husband Mike, who's also serving the nation in the United States Marines. I wish her and Mike every blessing in this new phase of their life, and I extend to her my deepest thanks.●

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#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARLISLE FIRE COMPANY

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, among the images of September 11th that we will never forget, are the pictures of the firefighters rushing into the buildings to help, as everyone else who was able was trying to get out to safety. At that moment, without discussion or explanation, an appreciation for the extraordinary service and leading citizenship of firefighters became a prominent and, I hope, permanent feature of our collective consciousness.

In my State of Delaware, we have a rich heritage of local fire companies serving our communities, a tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. And I rise today to honor one of those local departments, the Carlisle Fire Company,