

HONORING BENJAMIN W.
TIMBERMAN

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Benjamin W. Timberman, a community leader, educator and humanitarian from New Jersey.

Mr. Timberman's career began as a mathematics teacher at Monroe Township Junior High School in Williamstown, NJ. He served in that capacity for 2 years when he was drafted for a 2-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army. Upon his return, he continued his teaching until 1961 when he became vice principal. In 1963, Mr. Timberman was appointed as elementary supervisor for the Monroe Township School District, where he served for 12 years. In 1975, Mr. Timberman reached the penultimate position when he was appointed superintendent of schools, where he served another dozen years. During his 33 years of service to the children of Monroe Township, Mr. Timberman was also the first president of the Monroe Township Education Association.

Mr. Timberman also demonstrated his commitment to his community through his service as an elected official. Like his education career, Mr. Timberman's government career began in 1954 when he was elected to the Elmer Borough Council. He served in that capacity for 7 years before being elected mayor of Elmer in 1963. In 1971, Mr. Timberman was elected to the Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders where he served for 24 years. With his education background, Mr. Timberman used his position on the Freeholder Board to provide educational opportunities to Salem County residents. Mr. Timberman championed the passage of the bond issue for construction of the Vo-Tech Career Center and advocated for the establishment of the Salem Community College as a degree granting institution.

Despite his retirement from education and government, Mr. Timberman and his wife Mary Lou continue to work in the community as volunteers for Meals-on-Wheels and on visits to a local nursing home to lead residents in a monthly sing-a-long.

It is my honor to recognize Benjamin W. Timberman for his hard work and commitment to make his community a better place. I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful human being.●

MATTIEBELLE WOODS

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of a great and proud Milwaukeean, a courageous social pioneer and journalist and—above all else—a wonderful person. On February 17, Mattiebelle Wood's long life ended at the age of 102. Ms. Woods left a remarkable legacy in her field, in her community and in the Nation.

Mattiebelle Woods was a tremendous woman, and I am proud to honor her life today. She was born in Louisville, KY, in 1902, and moved to Milwaukee when she was just a few years old. In the 1940s, before the days of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, Ms. Woods was already actively involved in the civil rights movement.

Ms. Woods has rightly been called the First Lady of the Milwaukee press, and as a reporter, her coverage of social events and developments contributed to an increased sense of identity and unity in the local black community. By the 1960s, she had written for the Chicago Defender, the Milwaukee Defender, the Milwaukee Star, and the Milwaukee Globe. In 1964, she joined the Milwaukee Courier and contributed to its very first edition.

Ms. Woods never stopped writing—her final column was published 1 week before her death.

Ms. Woods also energetically participated in politics fighting for the advancement of the African-American community. She became active in the Democratic Party in the late 1940s, and worked persistently to ensure that elected officials worked just as hard as she did for the African-American community.

To those who knew her, she will ultimately be remembered for her lively, beautiful personality. She instilled confidence and pride in countless young people and helped them build the connections that would help them succeed later in life. At the age of 102, Mattiebelle Woods still could be found on the dance floor, loving life.

That love of life, along with her commitment to social justice, has undoubtedly been passed on to all those who knew her.●

DR. HIRAM C. POLK, JR., TRIBUTE

• Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a Kentuckian who has dedicated his life to saving the lives of others. Dr. Hiram C. Polk, Jr., the chairman of the University of Louisville's Department of Surgery in Louisville, KY, has become a leader in the medical field due to his relentless push for excellence.

In his 34 years as chairman of the department, Dr. Polk has trained over 200 surgeons who have gone on to become the best in their profession. He is the world's leading authority on surgical wound infections. He developed the now common application of perioperative antibiotics—that is when the patient takes antibiotics before surgery, so the medication is in the patient's tissue during operation.

Under Dr. Polk, the department has provided over \$100 million in free health care to Louisville area indigent patients. The department has performed two successful hand transplants and the world's first implantation of an

AbioCor artificial heart. And Dr. Polk is an honorary fellow of the very prestigious Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, Scotland, the oldest surgical college in the world.

Dr. Polk has also found time to engage in one of Kentucky's greatest passions—horse racing. He is an owner and breeder of several thoroughbreds, including Mrs. Revere, a four-time stakes winner at the racetrack that is home to the Kentucky Derby, Churchill Downs.

No wonder, then, that upon Dr. Polk's retirement after such a preeminent career, his colleagues have decided to honor him by naming the University of Louisville surgery department the Hiram C. Polk Department of Surgery. He is a model citizen for all Kentuckians, and has earned this Senate's respect.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD an article from The Louisville Courier-Journal about Dr. Polk's lifesaving career.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal, Feb. 4, 2005]

A PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE; U OF L DOCTOR LEAVES ENDURING MARK TRAINING SURGEONS
(By Laura Ungar)

Part drill sergeant, part modern-day Socrates, Dr. Hiram C. Polk Jr. briskly led medical residents and students through University Hospital on early morning rounds this week.

Stopping in front of patients' rooms, Polk called on residents to describe each case, then peppered them with questions.

Sometimes he offered a compliment, such as "Wonderful question" or "That's exactly right." But more often, he displayed a characteristic toughness, and his trainees usually answered, "Yes, sir."

"You're lost," he admonished the group outside one patient's room.

"You're not betting your life," he said to a resident assessing a patient. "You're betting his life."

Polk is stepping down today after more than three decades as chairman of the University of Louisville's surgery department, where he has trained a legion of surgeons—about 230, which U of L officials say is more than any other current surgical chair in the country.

Colleagues say a relentless push for excellence marked Polk's tenure. That has given U of L's program a national reputation as the Marine Corps of surgical residencies and left him with a nickname based on one instance from his early career: "Hiram Fire-em."

But it also has made him a teacher students always remember, a strict father figure who strives to make them better and leaves them with an internal voice telling them to push themselves.

"Dr. Polk demands excellence from his trainees and will not accept mediocrity. And by demanding it, he often gets it," said Dr. Kelly McMasters, a former resident under Polk who is now the Sam and Lolita Weakley Professor of Surgical Oncology and director of U of L's division of surgical oncology.

Polk could go a little too far, "could be too tough," said Dr. Frank Miller, a professor of surgery at U of L.