

as a resource on technical matters. Membership in the association represents all segments of the industry, including major oil and gas companies, independent oil and gas producers, refineries, natural gas and petroleum products transportation and distribution companies, natural gas generation companies, and other firms and individuals involved in the industry.

Throughout his career Rankin has been a strong advocate for clarity and practicality in the ongoing debate to formulate a responsible national energy policy. Because of his steadfast efforts, the oil and gas industry plays a leading role in these policy debates and deliberations.

A native of Dallas, Rankin is an active member and generous benefactor of a number of local charitable foundations. He has served on the Board of Visitors of the University Cancer Foundation of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital Cancer Center and as chairman for the Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, CLL, Global Research Foundation.

On May 13, 2010, Rankin will step down as chairman of the U.S. Oil and Gas Association. On this special occasion I want not only to commend Rankin for his lifelong dedication to energy policy but also to thank him for his tremendous commitment to our State and country.●

GOVERNOR'S WORK-LIFE BALANCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate 17 Arkansas employers that were recently honored by the Arkansas Governor's office for providing resources to help their workers balance work and family life. As the mother of twin boys, and like every working parent, I find it can be a challenge to balance family life with my work responsibilities. I commend these Arkansas employers for providing resources that support employees in balancing the needs of both work and family.

The winners, based on number of employees, were:

LARGE COMPANIES

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Gold
 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Silver
 Ernst & Young, LLP, Rogers, Bronze
 Fayetteville Public School District, Fayetteville, Bronze

MEDIUM COMPANIES

Winrock International, Little Rock, Gold
 Arkansas Educational Television Network, Conway, Silver
 Delta Dental of Arkansas, Sherwood, Bronze

SMALL COMPANIES

Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon & Galchus, P.C., Little Rock, Gold
 Arkansas Power Electronics International, Inc., Fayetteville, Silver
 White River Planning & Development District, Inc., Batesville, Bronze

The Work-Life Initiative also announced Spotlight Award winners, hon-

oring organizations that provided exemplary strategies that support a healthy work-life balance. They were:

Arvest Bank, Ft. Smith and River Valley Region, Ft. Smith
 Bell & Company, PA, North Little Rock
 Friendship Community Care, Russellville
 Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center, Bentonville
 McKee Foods Corporation, Gentry

The Mature Worker Award also recognized three companies for their ongoing efforts to provide a work environment friendly to mature workers. The winners were:

Arkansas Educational Television Network, Conway
 Bank of the Ozarks, Little Rock
 Saline Memorial Hospital, Benton

Mr. President, I congratulate each and every member of these organizations for their dedication to their families, work life, and our great State of Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING BLACK DINAH CHOCOLATIERS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize Black Dinah Chocolatiers, a rare treasure of a company found on the tiny, remote Maine island of Isle au Haut in Penobscot Bay. While this small business may be nestled on a small island, it is no secret to the world. Featured in Martha Stewart Living and various other publications, chocolate lovers travel from near and far to take the 45-minute ride by mail boat or ferry from the mainland to indulge in the rich, delightful taste of Black Dinah's specialty handcrafted chocolates.

The history behind this tasty small business is a tale of adventure and creativity. Black Dinah Chocolatiers' founders Kate and Steve Shaffer fell in love with the small fishing and lobstering community of Isle au Haut after moving there in 2004. Not seeking employment in the island's traditional trades of lobstering and carpentry, Kate and Steve designed an alternative business plan that consisted of a product that could be marketed and shipped off the island year-round to compensate for cold Maine winters and a sparsely populated customer base on the island. Their solution was chocolate.

With Kate's years of experience in the restaurant industry, Steve's experience in the computer repair business, and some assistance from one of Maine's exceptional women's business centers, the Shaffers launched Black Dinah Chocolatiers in July of 2007. Today, thousands of chocolates are shipped off the island to every State during holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Mothers Day. In addition to an active mail order business, the Shaffers supply their artisan chocolates to Maine gourmet food stores, wine shops, and flo-

rists. They also run an organic bakery and coffeehouse from May through September for tourists and locals alike. This small business has a tremendous impact on the island's community—not only through its satisfying contribution of extraordinary chocolate but as a profitable venture that is helping to sustain its local economy through sales that have doubled each year since its inception.

Black Dinah Chocolatier further assists the regional economy through its use of local Maine produce. Kate turns out dozens of handmade Venezuelan, Belgian, and rare Peruvian-style chocolates, including truffles and caramels, all of them flavored with natural ingredients—organic herbs, flowers, fruits, and even cheeses cultivated by the region's farmers. In fact, each season's flavored chocolates are dictated by what is at the nearby Stonington farmers market on the mainland. Every chocolate features at least one ingredient from a Maine farmer located within 50 miles of the company's base.

The Shaffers understand how critical it is for their business to establish and maintain local relationships, especially on an island the size of Isle au Haut. In a truly Maine example of how neighbors help each other to this day, Kate told Martha Stewart Living Magazine, "It's not as though you can go to the store when you run out of butter. If I run out of butter I'll go to Diana, the innkeeper. For cream cheese, I call Brenda, a lobsterman's wife, who makes lots of crab dip. And of course, if anyone needs sugar or chocolate, they come to me."

A true sweet spot in the heart of an island community as well as the hearts of chocolate lovers worldwide, Black Dinah Chocolatiers is a prime example of a Maine small business that seeks to be a profitable venture and a good neighbor. I commend its founders, Kate and Steve Shaffer, for their ingenuity in creating this thriving and viable business, as well as for their commitment and dedication to helping grow their local economy, and I wish them the sweetest success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BARKER

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this week in Bend, OR, the community will be honoring one of the great advocates for Oregon's veterans, Mike "Rocky" Barker. Mike has been an incredible partner to me and my staff as we have worked to improve health and other services for central Oregon's military veterans.

Mike's incredible service to our Nation began with 8 years in the U.S. Air Force as an air traffic controller. He went on to a career with the FAA at the Butte, MT, Flight Service Station and then moved to central Oregon where he ran the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program. In that post he became nationally recognized as the VA's