

the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Johnathon.●

RETIREMENT OF DARRELL KERBY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, good mayors are those who leave the communities, citizens, and environment of the towns they have led in better condition than when they were first elected. An exceptional mayor is one who imparts a vision of what the community could be and works with the members of his or her community and outside interests to achieve that vision. There are examples of this across my State of Idaho, and the outgoing mayor of Bonners Ferry, Darrell Kerby, is one such remarkable example.

Darrell is retiring from public service after serving the citizens of Bonners Ferry for over 20 years, first on the city council and most recently as mayor. He is known to city employees and the public as a man of outstanding character, courtesy, kindness, and confidence. His leadership has been marked by a penchant for conviction tempered in small-town graciousness. He was at the helm in 2003 when Bonners Ferry was selected as Idaho's Most Friendly Town by travelers and tourists. He was instrumental in the revitalization of downtown Bonners Ferry through the construction of the tunnel connecting the downtown business area to the Kootenai River Inn. He promoted the construction of the International Gateway Visitors Center, improved parking in the downtown business district, secured improvements to and expansion of the city water system that included obtaining a critical Federal grant, led improvements to the city powerplant, and fueled positive city growth.

Darrell's participation in the community extends beyond his mayoral office. He has served or serves on the Boundary Regional Health Center Board of Directors, the Idaho Board of Health & Welfare, the Association of Idaho Cities, the Idaho Energy Resources Authority, the Boundary County Economic Development Committee, and the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative Committee, a collaborative effort that I have been pleased to work with him on over the years. Speaking of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative, Darrell has been instrumental in keeping my staff informed and involved as the stakeholders involved work to collaboratively manage the natural resources of the Kootenai Valley and begin restoration work on the Myrtle Creek Watershed after the devastating fire in 2003.

Darrell received the Harold Hurst Award in 2007 for exemplary performance by a city official and has contributed in an outstanding manner to the

accomplishments of the Association of Idaho Cities.

I wish Darrell well in his retirement and thank him for his exemplary years of public service. The residents of Bonners Ferry and Boundary County, as well as the State of Idaho, have gained immeasurably from Darrell's efforts and dedication.●

RETIREMENT OF MARK SMITH

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a very special Iowan and a truly exceptional labor leader, Mark Smith. Mark retired earlier this month after serving 28 years in leadership roles in the Iowa Federation of Labor. He served as secretary-treasurer from 1974 until 1997, and as president from 1997 until his retirement. Throughout, he has remained a member of the American Federation of Teachers, Local 716.

Prior to coming to the Iowa Federation of Labor, Mark spent 5 years as an instructor at the University of Iowa's Labor Center, where he taught up-and-coming union leaders about labor law, labor history, communication, leadership, economics, and public policy. Mark may have left the classroom, but he never stopped being a teacher and mentor. He has always believed strongly that to achieve real successes for working families and to advance a progressive public policy agenda, it is critical to train people to organize and advocate for themselves.

Throughout his distinguished tenure as IFL president, Mark was respected for his keen intelligence and his direct, honest, feisty style of doing business. He understood the political system, and how to get things done. He didn't believe in top-down political engagement; he believed in organizing and empowering people at the grass roots to fight for a brighter future—and to win.

Mark is a proud progressive, with a passion for economic and social justice. He is also a passionate believer in bringing people together in collective action, whether in the political arena, at the bargaining table, or in the community. He has devoted his life to building stronger unions because he believes that they are an ideal vehicle for effecting positive change for ordinary people.

For many years, I have counted on Mark for his friendship, counsel, and support—and that will not change. But his retirement is a tremendous loss for working families and for the labor movement in Iowa. In the Bible, it says that "if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?" For more than a decade as president of the Iowa Federation of Labor, there has been nothing uncertain about Mark Smith's trumpet. He has been a great labor leader, and a strong, unwavering voice for progressive change. I wish him a long and happy retirement with his family, including wife Marty, daughter Chris-

tine, sons Michael and Erich, and grandson Isaiah.●

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS SWANSON

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I wish a happy 70th birthday to Mr. Dennis Swanson, a kind and generous man who has been one of the leading innovators in television broadcasting over the last 30 years.

Mr. Swanson, who currently serves as president of stations operations at FOX Television Stations, Inc., has been called a "mastermind" of the broadcast industry. It is high praise, and very well deserved. With keen foresight, tremendous business acumen, and a willingness to take chances, Swanson has improved the fortunes of every station he has worked for. Most importantly, he did this not by offering viewers programs that appealed to the lowest common denominator, but instead he developed creative, high-quality programming that appealed to the needs of the stations' communities.

In 1976, Swanson was hired as executive producer of KABC, Los Angeles' ABC affiliate. At that time, the station had never finished higher than third in local news ratings, and Swanson saw that the station needed to do something to offer its viewers a new perspective. In 1977, with the debate over Proposition 13 raging throughout California, Swanson invited the measure's author, Howard Jarvis, to come on the 5 p.m. newscast and debate the measure's opponents every day for a month. In addition, Swanson worked hard to improve the quality of the station's reporting. These efforts paid off when in 1978 he was awarded the George Foster Peabody Award, the most prestigious award in broadcasting, for KABC's reporting on the Los Angeles Police Department. KABC became the No. 1 station in the region, and Swanson was promoted to station manager in 1981.

In 1983, Swanson was asked to take over WLS-TV, an ABC owned and operated station in Chicago with low ratings. It is here that Swanson made perhaps the best broadcasting decision of his career and one that reveals his strong character. Impressed by her audition, Swanson offered a morning show to a woman from Baltimore with a unique name. As Swanson recalled years later, Oprah Winfrey wasn't sure she was ready for such a job. She was concerned that her color and appearance would prevent her from winning over viewers. Swanson would have none of that, "I'm not in the color business," he told her. He assured her that he didn't want her to change her appearance, but to simply "be the person I saw audition."

As we all know, the decision to hire Oprah was an unqualified success, rocketing WLS to the top of the Chicago market and eventually reaping billions in revenues for ABC. It also launched the career of one of the most influential and inspirational figures in America today.