

decades of leadership by Senator Cranston on behalf of fairness and opportunity for persons with disabilities.

It was a great honor to have known and worked with Alan Cranston. Our country is a better place because of his achievements, which we celebrate today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, which will occur on March 3, 2001.

NIST and its scientists, researchers, and other personnel have a tremendous list of accomplishments over the last 100 years. Through its support of industry and its development of critical technology measurements, standards, and applications, NIST has played a critical role in our Nation's technological advances and, indeed, has helped to revolutionize the U.S. economy.

Initially founded as the National Bureau of Standards, NIST is our Nation's oldest Federal laboratory. In fact, the Institute's mission was first stated in the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution, making it as old as the Republic itself. The initial purpose of the Institute was to establish authoritative national standards of quantities and products. In its first three decades, NIST mainly served industries working to modernize by improving physical measurements, standards development, and testing methods. During this time, the Institute played an instrumental role in the creation of such critical 20th century innovations as the measurement of electricity, improvement of product assembly techniques, development of the aviation and automobile industry, and the creation of the radio.

After aiding the military effort during World War II, the National Institute of Standards and Technology and its workforce helped to develop many of the scientific innovations that have enabled our modern economy to flourish. NIST was able to foster and improve measurements of temperature, force, time, and weights. These and other technical improvements enabled the U.S. space program, aviation and naval industries, and perhaps the most importantly, the computer industry to excel.

In 1988, in part to emphasize its diverse range of activities, the National Bureau of Standards was renamed the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Today, the Institute continues to act as a behind-the-scenes specialist in the systems and operations that collectively drive the U.S. economy, including satellite, communication and transportation networks, and our laboratories, factories, hospitals, and businesses.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work closely with a number of individuals at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and I can personally attest to the high caliber, quality, and commitment of its workforce. NIST employs many of our Nation's most dedicated and talented scientists, as is evidenced by its legacy of a number of Nobel-Prize winners.

More recently, I along with the rest of the Maryland delegation have worked with the Institute on a comprehensive ten year initiative to upgrade its laboratory infrastructure, which is expected to be completed by the year 2004. It is our hope that through this effort, with upgraded facilities, to match the quality of its personnel, NIST will be able to continue advancing the scientific and technological infrastructure of U.S. industry into the 21st Century.

Again, we take great pride in the accomplishments of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in the people that work there, and in having the Institute in Maryland. I commend NIST for its 100 years of success and remarkable achievements and am confident that it will continue its remarkable track record of advancing science and technology for hundreds of years to come. •

SONNY O'DAY

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, on February 7, 2001, the State of Montana bid farewell to a favored son from Laurel, Montana. "Sonny O'Day," the Kid from Meaderville, was a local hero and businessman who held his family, friends and fans close to his heart.

SONNY O'DAY (CHARLES A. GEORGE), 1913-2001
Sonny O'Day, the Kid From Meaderville, boxed his final round, hung up his gloves, snuffed his famous stogie, and exited the ring quietly in his sleep on Wednesday, January 31.

Sonny, whose legal name was Charles Augustus George, was born Carlo Giorgi on March 8, 1913, to David and Rosa, Ragghianti, Giorgi in Lucca, Italy. His father was killed during World War I. Rosa emigrated to America with her three children to marry her brother-in-law, Angelo Giorgi, in 1920. They passed through Ellis Island, where the family name was Americanized to "George," and took the train through the vast expanses of their new country to the Montana mining community of Meaderville, in Butte.

Sonny loved all sports and was a natural athlete. Starting to box as a 10-year-old, Sonny was a protégé of Butte's Pat Sullivan Boxing Club. He represented the club in amateur fights throughout the State. He also was an avid football player, swimmer and diver. The City Championship football photograph of his Franklin School team was proudly displayed in his Wall of Fame.

Sonny was privately religious and moral, and proudly remembered his years as an altar boy at St. Joseph's Parish.

His life-long commitment to family began early when he held his dying mother in his arms at age 14. After her death, Sonny gathered his younger sister and invalid stepfather, Angelo, escorting them back to the family villa in Italy. After Angelo's death, Sonny immediately returned to the U.S. to avoid being conscripted into Mussolini's army.

Upon returning from Italy in the early 1930's, the 16-year-old orphan arrived in New York City, where he was told his pugilism could earn him money. He paid his dues sleeping in an Eastside gym and in Central Park in order to get his big break. Lying about his age, he fought amateur bouts until an agent spotted him and said, "You've got talent, kid, but the Irish control the game. Nobody is gonna come see an Italian boxer!" Sonny's reddish hair and freckles were the perfect fit to a new identity—Sonny O'Day—and new birthdate—St. Patrick's Day.

Spanning the next 17 years, welterweight Sonny fought 529 fights, lost 32 and had, as Sonny used to say, "some draws and the rest wins," in Madison Square Garden, Sunset Garden, and other major venues throughout the United States. He first met World Heavy Weight Champion Jack Dempsey when he refereed one of Sonny's early fights.

Living by the adage: "Smile and the world smiles with you, cry and you cry alone," Sonny was known to greet strangers with his famous smile, booming voice, crunching handshake, and the introductory greeting, "Shake the hand that shook the world!"

His love of Butte was as strong as his handshake. He rarely called the city by name. To him, it was "The Sacred City," and Butte cherished him in return, calling him "The Mayor of Meaderville," "The Meaderville Phantom," and "Butte's Boxing Star."

Sonny took his professional boxing earnings and opened two famous Butte nightclubs in the late 1930's: The Savoy and Melody Lane. There, he entertained sports and Hollywood greats including Gene Tunney, Cary Grant and Barbara Hutton.

He proudly served the U.S. Army during World War II, and married Carra Burton on September 20, 1944, while stationed in Gadsden, Alabama. The couple returned to Montana after the war where he established his bar and tavern in Laurel.

Sonny O'Day's "Boxing Hall of Champions," complete with a boxing ring, was his passion. He entertained beneath his pictures and memorabilia with stories that rhapsodized his listeners. He loved every minute of it, and bragged that he would never retire. Children came in for free candy, and parents came in for Sonny to give the kids their first lessons in self-defense. Sonny's bar was a local tourist attraction for years, and is listed as one of Montana's favorites in a number of publications.

Sonny's St. Patrick's Day celebrations were legendary for thousands of fans who descended on the community. It was customary for the Governor—Republican or Democrat—to call Sonny on St. Patrick's Day to wish him happy birthday. In 1986, Governor Ted Schwinden decided a phone call wasn't good enough, and came to Laurel to host Sonny's St. Patrick's Day party. The Laurel Chamber of Commerce surprised Sonny on St. Patrick's Day 1995 by honoring him for 50 years of business. The highlight was a celebrated bout between Sonny and special guest Todd Foster, fellow Montana boxing welterweight and 1988 Olympian. Foster allowed Sonny his final knockout punch for the "Downtown Laurel Businessmen's Crown."

In 1952, Golden Gloves Boxing came to Montana, and Sonny helped train these young fighters. At the Shrine Temple in Billings, Golden Gloves championships of an eight-State region took place, and Sonny refereed the very first bout and many more over the years.

When boxing turned professional in Montana, Sonny served on the State Athletic Commission for 26 years under seven different governors. This led him to bring 77