

his entire professional life, now approaching 60 years, in private practice in downtown Detroit. In 1968, he co-founded the firm of Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker and is its senior partner.

Known throughout southeastern Michigan as a premier trial lawyer, Don has also served as a trusted legal advisor to hundreds of families and businesses. Their problems have become his problems, as he passionately advocated their causes. Using his vast knowledge of zoning and land use law, Don has provided significant services to churches, synagogues and other non-profit institutions throughout the Metropolitan Detroit area. He has been recognized by these appreciative clients for the zeal with which he has furthered their interests, often taking no compensation for his work.

Don Barris has been a generous benefactor of the Wayne State University Law School. He provided the funds for a student lounge named after his late wife, Miriam, and has contributed substantial resources to expand the Law School's computer laboratory. The Donald E. Barris Trial Practice Fund was established at the Law School by his law firm to honor his legal talents and many contributions to Wayne State.

It is a pleasure to recognize and honor Donald E. Barris, a great lawyer and a great humanitarian, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.●

RECOGNITION OF SUSAN CARLSON

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I take a moment today to express my gratitude and offer my congratulations to Susan Carlson, the First Lady of the State of Minnesota.

Susan Carlson will be honored tonight with a Leadership Award from the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome for her work as the Co-Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Through the efforts of Mrs. Carlson, Minnesota is one of the first states to put in place a comprehensive plan to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and improve the quality of life for those already affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

As we all know, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is perhaps the most preventable contributor to our nation's ever-increasing health care costs. Low-birth weights, which lead to health complications for infants, developmental disabilities, and learning disabilities represent the tragic results of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Clearly, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is preventable and we spare a great deal of future pain by educating expectant mothers and their families about the risks associated with alcohol during pregnancy. In its campaign to eliminate Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome combines national and community-based awareness and educational programs with resource and referral clearings.

Mr. President, again, I congratulate and thank Mrs. Carlson for her efforts. Minnesotans are fortunate to have her leadership on the important issue of preventing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.●

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ATTORNEY ALAN D. BERSIN

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Alan Bersin, a valued colleague and extraordinary public servant. During his four and half years as United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, the office became one of the premier prosecutorial offices in the country. Under Alan Bersin's leadership the caseload was transformed from one dominated by misdemeanor prosecutions to the largest number of felony prosecutions in the nation.

As the chief law enforcement officer along the most populous sector of the Southwest Border with Mexico, Alan Bersin has made border enforcement his highest priority, and is perhaps best known for his work as the Attorney General's Special Representative for Southwest Border Issues. He was appointed to the position in October 1995 at a time when the government was seeking new leadership and energy to deal with the proliferation of illegal activity along the southwest border which had become the principal corridor for smuggling of aliens and drugs into the country. Alan Bersin targeted for prosecution the large drug distributors and cartels on both sides of the border, and the repeat border crossers with felony records. He also coordinated resources in a manner never before attempted. Largely as a result of these strategic approaches, crime in the Southern District of California decreased 40 percent during Alan Bersin's tenure.

Shortly after taking office in 1994, Alan Bersin reached a historic accord with the San Diego District Attorney whereby the county, for the first time in San Diego history, prosecuted drug smuggling case which had a San Diego nexus. This has resulted in a dramatic increase in border drug smuggling prosecutions that is unprecedented, and has allowed the federal government to use its unique resources such as wire tap authority, to focus on the more serious violators. Alan Bersin also helped create a Specialized Drug Enforcement Operation in Imperial Valley which served as a prime trafficking route of the Mexican drug cartels. The special enforcement unit involves 17 federal, state and local drug-related law enforcement agencies, the California National Guard and the Department of Defense. Alan Bersin's ability to bring together enforcement agencies at all levels to cooperate in a number of successful enforcement initiatives has been praised by local, state and federal law enforcement leaders. Also, his ability to coordinate with our neighbor to the South has been most extraordinary. He worked tirelessly to bridge

the cultural and political divide in a way that enabled both countries to see that it was in their best interests to find areas of mutual concern and work together to the maximum extent feasible, even though there are other areas on which we will continue to disagree.

As the patterns of illegal migration changed in response to increased law enforcement personnel and resources, criminal activity moved to new areas along the border. Under Alan Bersin's leadership both countries implemented collaborative programs to prevent criminal activity and to apprehend criminals who oftentimes preyed upon undocumented aliens. Alan Bersin also oversaw the creation of a civil rights working group comprised of federal law enforcement, immigrant rights' advocacy groups from San Diego and Tijuana, the Mexican Consulate in San Diego, the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana and the United States Attorney's Office to bring to the table all those affected by or involved in the enforcement of civil rights laws. The group provides assistance to investigators in locating evidence on both sides of the border to prove allegations of abuse. Other innovative programs launched during Alan Bersin's tenure include helping to establish a Binational Environmental Laboratory to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of environmental cases in Mexico and the U.S.

Mexico is not the only sovereignty with whom Alan Bersin negotiated well and successfully. At a time when Indian gaming was becoming an enormously difficult and controversial issue in California, and aspects of the issue were being litigated in both state and federal courts, Alan Bersin managed to maintain a level playing field on a government to government basis between the State of California and the Native American tribes of San Diego County.

Finally, in addition to the official law enforcement achievements during the last four years, Alan Bersin has added a new dimension to public service. By example and by encouragement, he has increased enormously the involvement of his staff in community projects, ranging from training programs to mentoring and public outreach. His commitment to the community will continue as he begins a new career as Superintendent of Schools for the San Diego Unified School District. I am confident he will bring to that position the same vision, inspiring leadership and commitment which made him such an outstanding United States Attorney. He has brought great credit to his office, to the Justice Department and to the nation. Congratulations Alan, and best wishes for every success as Superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District.●

POLITICAL TRANSITION IN NIGERIA

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to note the death of Nigeria's

military ruler, Gen. Sani Abacha, yesterday in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria. Although the circumstances surrounding his death remain unclear, it is my hope that his death will provide an opportunity for a new era in Nigeria.

As the Ranking Democrat of the Senate Subcommittee on Africa, I have long been concerned about the collapsing economic and political situation in Nigeria. Nigeria, with its rich history, abundant natural resources and wonderful cultural diversity, has the potential to be an important regional leader. But, sadly, it has squandered that potential and the good will of the world with repressive policies, human rights abuses and corruption, all of which proliferated during Abacha's tenure.

Although there was no clear line of succession, Nigeria's top military leaders met into the night yesterday to select Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar as the new head of state. We do not know much about Gen. Abubakar, but we know that he has an historic opportunity to effect real political change for the country.

Last month, I introduced the Nigerian Democracy and Civil Society Empowerment Act (S. 2102). The provisions of my bill include benchmarks defining what would constitute an open political process in Nigeria. I call on Gen. Abubakar to implement as soon as possible some of these important changes, such as the repeal of the repressive decrees enacted under Abacha's rule, so that genuine reform can finally take place in Nigeria. The new leadership should demonstrate respect for the rights of all Nigerians to express their views. Most importantly, Gen. Abubakar should take advantage of this opportunity to immediately move toward free and fair elections and unconditionally release all political prisoners, including the winner of the annulled 1993 elections, Chief Moshood K.O. Abiola.

Abacha's death should represent not just a change in leadership, but ought to result in real change for the average Nigerian.

Finally, I believe the United States should take a clear and public stand to demonstrate its support for a clear transition to civilian rule in Nigeria. Now is the time for the United States to make unequivocally clear that the military should exercise restraint in the near and long term, begin to build bridges to the pro-democracy forces, and do everything possible to end the current political crisis and restore legitimacy to the Nigerian government.

I urge the Administration to communicate these sentiments quickly to Nigeria's new leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO JUNE SALANDER

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to June Salander of Rutland, Vermont. On May 9, 1998 June Salander celebrated her bat mitzvah

at the remarkable age of 89. Mrs. Salander is a dear neighbor, mentor, and friend from my days growing up in Rutland, Vermont. It is believed she is the oldest Rutlander to celebrate a bat mitzvah. Over a hundred people attended the ceremony, one of many indicators of the inspiration she is to her family, friends, community, and faith.

Born in 1908 in Poland, June Salander came to America in 1920 to New York City with her family via Ellis Island. In 1941 she married her husband and moved to Vermont where she has resided ever since. In her many years as a citizen of Rutland she has been an active member of the community. She has served as a volunteer at the Rutland Jewish Center, as a Hebrew School teacher, and at the Rutland Hospital with the Grey Ladies.

In addition to filling the role as a bedrock member of her community she has also filled many stomachs with her famous cooking. Her strudel is legendary throughout the area and to the many people traveling through who she has opened her home to over the years. Her strudel recipe was even featured in a cookbook containing Jewish recipes honed in the United States. I can personally attest to the greatness of June Salander's cooking as I was able to eat breakfast at the Salanders when I was growing up as a boy on Kingsley Avenue in Rutland. She continues to teach cooking informally and will appear on a cooking video that will air on PBS in the near future.

Perhaps her most admirable quality is the energy she continues to display as she reaches her golden years. For some it means an idle time in their life but not for June Salander. When she was sixty-two she received her real estate license and remained active until recently. She picked up tennis when she was seventy-three and played for almost ten years. This fall she will travel all the way to Israel to attend the wedding of a niece.

I am glad my wife Liz was able to attend June's bat mitzvah on that Saturday and pass on our well wishes to June. I also wish her well as she approaches her ninetieth birthday on June 28, 1998. Mr. President, I would like to publicly recognize June's upstanding citizenship and the inspiration she is to the rest of us as she continues to embrace life into her nineties.●

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELYN BENSON AND ALEXANDER KAUFMAN 1998 UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Jacquelyn Benson and Alexander Kaufman of New Hampshire for being named 1998 United States Presidential Scholars.

Jacquelyn Benson is a student at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, and has been active in her school's National Honor So-

ciety and Art Department. Jacquelyn plays the piano, is currently working on a book of fiction, and plans to attend Northeastern University in the fall. She chose Ms. Toni Talas as her most influential teacher.

Alexander Kaufman is also a 1998 Presidential Scholar. As a student at Phillips Exeter Academy in Dover, New Hampshire, Alexander has excelled in writing and math and was the editor of the school's poetry journal. He is also active in environmental issues and will be attending Harvard University in the fall. Alexander selected the late Frederick Tremallo as his most influential teacher.

The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of President JOHNSON, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Each year, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects up to 141 Scholars on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas: academic and artistic success, scholarship, leadership, and involvement in school and community. The Commission invites the students to Washington, DC, to be honored for their accomplishments during National Recognition Week.

The Scholars, as guests of the Commission, along with their families and the teachers whom the Scholars have chosen as the "most influential" in their academic and artistic endeavors, will be involved in many activities while in Washington, DC. They will participate in informative panel discussions, a ceremony sponsored by the White House, a reception and art exhibit of the work by Scholars in the Visual Arts at the National Museum for American Art, and an evening at the Kennedy Center featuring performances by the Scholars in the Performing Arts.

As a former teacher and school board chairman, I recognize the challenges involved in providing students a quality education. Congratulations to Jacquelyn and Alexander for their distinguished recognition. I am pleased they have been recognized for their success and it is with great pleasure that I represent them in the United States Senate.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. GRACE BABCOCK

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure to honor Mrs. Grace Babcock of Helena, Montana. Grace will be 88 years young on July 29, 1998. She has the wonderful distinction of being the oldest state employee for my home state of Montana. I join Grace's family, friends, and co-workers in thanking her for a job well done!

Grace was born on July 29, 1910 in Deer Lodge, Montana. She was one of nine children. Early on, here family moved to the Canton Valley outside of Townsend, Montana. She married Carter Babcock in 1930. They became