

Miss Holbrook was right. A good and an active imagination creates its own reality.

In my profession, I read computer messages, briefing papers, constituent letters, legislation and briefings, the Congressional Record—and an occasional book for pleasure—in all, the equivalent of a full-length book each day.

Interesting as all this is, and owing much of my life to those earlier experiences at the library, the truest reading pleasure was then. I worry that so many children today miss what our libraries offer.

During the past few years I have had many of my photographs published. DC Comics and Warner Brothers have also asked me to write for Batman or do voice-overs on their TV series. In each case, I have asked them to send my payment to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to buy books for the Children's Library.

It is my way of saying: "Thank you, Miss Holbrook."•

RECOGNITION OF YMCA HEALTHY KIDS DAY

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the YMCA organization and Ys across America as they celebrate Healthy Kids Day this April 8.

Every year on Healthy Kids Day, Ys focus their attention on children as they organize and provide an opportunity for the whole family to spend time together while improving their health. Last year, more than 1,200 YMCAs participated in Healthy Kids Day events. In Minnesota, some 100 Ys have developed their own activities for this year's Healthy Kids Day to serve their local needs. From cookouts to mentoring programs, this Saturday is for the children's benefit as well as their families.

Of course, the good work of the nation's YMCAs extends beyond Healthy Kids Day and into every day of the year. YMCAs promote healthy living habits and provide Americans of all ages with the tools to develop good character, empathizing respect and responsibility. Ys are for people of all faiths, races, abilities, and incomes. No one is turned away for inability to pay, as YMCA is the largest not-for-profit community service organization in America. The strength of America's YMCAs is in the people they bring together.

More than half of YMCA members are under the age of 18. Ys involve more than 8 million children in programs to help them build lasting habits of good health, including regular exercise, healthy eating and avoidance of substance abuse. YMCA volunteers and staff act as role models for these children to expose them to all facets of life. Local Ys allow kids to have a place to call their own, and the programs they take part in allow them to develop a community with their peers.

Instead of taking a cookie-cutter approach to community service, YMCAs adjust their programs to fit the needs of their local communities. Whether through day camps, the Black Achievers Program, swimming lessons, family literacy programs, job training, transitional housing, or any number of other

important efforts, the nation's YMCAs are reaching out to our communities and offering individualized service.

Not merely an American institution, YMCAs stretch around the globe, serving more than 30 million people in 120 countries and helping to foster strong kids, families and communities worldwide.

Mr. President, this April 8 will build on that impressive record of service. I commend those involved in this year's celebration of YMCA Healthy Kids Day for their tireless efforts and wish continued success to every YMCA for making a difference in not only a child's life, but the lives of people of all ages.●

TRIBUTE TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN MASTER ARTIST ROCKY KA'IOLIOKAHIHIKOLU'EHU JENSEN

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a Native Hawaiian Master Artist Rocky Ka'ioliokahihi-kolu'Ehu Jensen. Ka'ioliokahihi-kolu'Ehu, "The black-hawk-striving-towards-the-source-child-of-the-Ehu," is the descendant of High Chief Iwikauikau; Hawaiian warrior chiefs from the islands of Hawai'i (Keli'iwaiho'ikeone); Kauai (Kahihikolo); Moloka'i (Keka'alauniu); and O'ahu (Ka'io); and Kahuna (Shaman) from Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu (Mamaki) and Manoa, O'ahu (Papanu'umealani). Rocky is one of Hawai'i's brightest local talents who has dedicated his life to the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture through his powerful artistry. He is recognized by our State Foundation on Culture and the Arts as a master sculptor and is talented in other media as well.

Born in Honolulu on April 8, 1944, Rocky Jensen absorbed cultural traditions from his grandparents with whom he spent his summers. His artistic talents were recognized at an early age when he won his first art scholarship from the Honolulu Academy of Arts at the age of nine. He was educated in Hawai'i and the mainland where he graduated from junior college. This talented artist continued his post-secondary education in Hawai'i and was tutored by renown artists. He has in turn lectured, conducted seminars, advised and served as a consultant on Hawaiian issues, and written magazine and newspaper articles on Hawaiian history and art. He continues to do so.

Rocky Jensen has held numerous exhibitions in leading museums of the world, including several first such as the organizing Hale Naua III, the first native art society and the first contemporary native Hawaiian are exhibit at Honolulu Hale as well as the Bishop Museum. He has been recognized in American Artists of Renown: 1981-1982, Crafts of America (1987-1989), and the California Art Review: 1990.

Rocky Jensen's better known works include his 1970 illustration of "twenty men" for "Men of Ancient Hawai'i," in which he set a precedent for proper his-

torical attire and artifacts. To this day, this illustration stands as testimony to meticulous research and artistry. More recently, Rocky has been acclaimed for Na Lehua Helele'i, a memorial which honors pre-contact Hawaiian warriors. Lehua greets visitors at the entrance of the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii at Fort DeRussy, the most visited Army Museum.

Na Lehua Helele'i, "the scattered lehua blossoms," an ancient Hawaiian phrase that equates the red petals with the blood of fallen warriors, is one of his major works and perhaps his most heroic, sculptured with great force and expression. Lehua, a memorial to pre-contact Hawaiian warriors, consists of five eight-foot-tall images of Ku, the god of war, carved out of native ohia logs and ensconced in a semi-circle fronting the museum. Each image is similar but depicts the different faces of Ku, his benign, healing qualities as well as warlike aspects. Na Lehua Helele'i was a twenty-year labor of love and commitment at great personal sacrifice. Since its unveiling a year ago, some have proclaimed it to be one of the best works in the state.

Mr. President, I salute the talent and generosity of Native Hawaiian Master Artist Rocky Ka'ioliokahihi-kolu'Ehu Jensen. To Lucia, wife and partner, mahalo from the bottom of my heart for sharing Rocky with us. And, taking advantage of a fortuitous and joyful coincidence, happy birthday, Rocky, and many, many more years of outstanding artistry. I also want to take this opportunity to wish you and Lucia every success as you launch Makaku or "inner Eye," your studio/school.●

THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONROE COUNTY AMERICAN RED CROSS

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 85th Anniversary of the Monroe County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Since April 30, 1915, this chapter has faithfully served the citizens of Monroe County, Michigan, providing aid and comfort in times when it is needed most.

The Monroe County Chapter was founded by several prominent citizens of the community, many of whom were members of the National American Red Cross. During that first year, the founders conducted a membership drive, recruited an anti-tuberculosis visiting nurse, provided funds to aid the starving in Mexico and began a Red Cross Christmas Stamp campaign. These activities were just the beginning of an 85-year tradition of services that have carried the generosity of Monroe County's residents to people in need in all parts of the world.

In addition to its emergency disaster relief efforts to residents countywide, the Monroe County Chapter has demonstrated remarkable adaptability, enabling it to continue to meet both changing local and global needs. Since the inception of the chapter's annual

blood drive, Monroe County donors have generously given over 4,000 units of blood each year. The chapter offers courses in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, water safety, baby-sitting and HIV/AIDS education, and remains the primary link between U.S. armed forces personnel and their families in Monroe County.

Mr. President, as I was preparing this statement I was reminded once again of the essential role the American Red Cross plays in our communities. Born from the mythic efforts of Clara Barton during the Civil War, the organization currently has more than 1.3 million volunteers working under its banner, providing disaster relief services for victims of more than 66,000 disasters per year. More importantly, the American Red Cross still holds firm to the principles it was founded upon. The mission remains to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. That is why, when things are at their worst, it continues to be the American Red Cross and its volunteers that are there to make them better.

Mr. President, I applaud the Monroe County Chapter of the American Red Cross on eighty-five years of successful service to the Monroe Community, and I extend a much deserved thank you to the many staff and volunteers whose efforts throughout the years have made this event possible. On behalf of the entire Senate, I wish them continued success in the future. ●

MICHAEL DOBMEIER

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Michael Dobmeier and to recognize him as a member of a distinguished group of North Dakotans who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership in their military careers and civilian life.

Michael was recently elected National Commander of the million-member Disabled American Veterans, a group with a historic tradition of advocating responsible legislation to assist disabled veterans, their families and survivors. Speaking of the DAV recently Michael said, "I soon discovered the critical role the DAV serves in the lives of disabled veterans and their families in my community and communities nationwide." I wholeheartedly agree with this statement and attest to the fact that Michael has exemplified through his many significant achievements the great importance of the Disabled American Veterans.

Michael Dobmeier is a native of Grand Forks, North Dakota. After graduating from high-school, he enlisted in the navy in 1969. Following boot camp in San Diego, he trained as an engine man in Great Lakes, Illinois, attended Submarine School in New London, Connecticut, and, later Diver's School in San Diego.

While serving off the coast of Washington in April 1972 aboard the U.S.S. *Trigger*, Michael was severely burned when an engine crankcase oil heater

exploded. It sprayed him with flaming oil and caused him 2nd and 3rd degree burns over more than 30% of his body.

Following this accident, Michael received a military discharge and joined the Grand Forks' Disabled American Veterans Chapter 2. Since then, he has held almost every local, state, and national leadership position in the organization and has held all chapter and department leadership positions. At the 1994 DAV National Convention, Michael was chosen to serve on the National Executive and Finance Committee, was elected 4th and 3rd Junior Vice Commander consecutively at the 1995 and 1996 DAV National Conventions, and at the 1997 National Convention was elected 1st Junior Vice Commander. In 1998, Michael was elected Senior Vice Commander at the National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was also the president of the North Dakota Veterans Home Foundation and was chosen the 1985 DAV Outstanding Member of the Department of North Dakota.

Michael Dobmeier resides in Grand Forks with his wife Sandra Jo and their two children. As owner and President of Dobmeier, Inc., an independent insurance company, Michael has also found success in the business world.

I am proud to honor Michael Dobmeier as a person who has served his country with distinction and accepted the challenges and risks associated with this service. As Michael recently stated, "taking risks means moving forward while others are waiting for better times, while others are waiting for proven results, and while others are waiting for applause for their past performance. The greatest risk of all, however, is to take no risks . . . make no changes." We thank Mr. Dobmeier today for taking those risks. The world is truly a better place because of him. ●

INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of International Astronomy Day. This event seeks "to promote the forerunner of all scientific endeavors and to provide information, resources, and encouragement in all facets of astronomy."

Astronomy has played a central role in human history and development. It was somewhere around 4000 B.C. when the first astronomical observations were recorded, and what has followed has been nothing short of amazing. In 240 B.C., Eratosthenes of Cyrene used the stars to calculate the circumference of the earth. Astronomy as we know it today certainly owes Galileo a debt of gratitude for being the first to use a telescope to view the stars, bringing an end to naked-eye astronomy and advancing the science of optics. More recent astronomers include Edwin P. Hubble and Jocelyn Bell. The collective work of the world's astronomers has brought the heavens closer, while offering us great insights into our own life on Earth.

To continue these advances of science, it is vital that we encourage our nation's youth to pursue careers in the fields of astronomy, astrophysics, and mathematics. I look upon the success of the NASA space camps and how they have encouraged our youth to pursue careers in the sciences. Since 1989, NASA has administered the "Space Grant" program to enhance aerospace research and education in the United States. This program is an effective partnership among universities, the aerospace industry, and federal, state, and local government that assists in the recruitment and training of professionals in aerospace science, engineering, and technology.

In my home state, the Minnesota Space Grant Consortium is comprised of 13 academic institutions along with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Honeywell, Boeing, and three community-based entities: The Bakken, Science Museum of Minnesota, and SciMathMN. The 13 academic institutions are: Augsburg College, Bemidji State University, Bethel College, Carleton College, College of St. Catherine, Fond du Lac Community College, Leech Lake Tribal College, Macalester College, Normandale Community College, Southwest State University, University of Minnesota-Duluth, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and the University of St. Thomas.

For the last several years, this consortium of local talents has worked effectively to promote aerospace science through fellowships and scholarships, the development of new courses in Physics and Geology, the establishment of a new Space Studies minor among the members, and public lectures relating to space science and engineering.

The scientists, engineers, administrators, and astronauts of NASA have guided this nation to the forefront of aeronautical expertise. I am proud that Minnesotans have been central to NASA's achievements throughout its history. My state has a well-deserved reputation as a high-technology giant, making our job creators a perfect match with NASA, and the space agency has come to depend upon Minnesota ingenuity and expertise. Dozens of Minnesota firms currently work under NASA's space shuttle program; I was honored to witness their accomplishments first-hand in 1997 when I toured NASA's Florida facilities and viewed the launch of the space shuttle Columbia.

None of these achievements would have been possible without modern astronomy, and our astronomers will no doubt be at the center of space research for years to come. In Minnesota, we are fortunate to have many groups that are determined to keep the interest in astronomy high for all generations. I would like to draw your attention to the Minnesota Astronomical Society, whose members are active in the growing movement to generate interest in astronomy. I commend them