

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI  
ALASKA



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 3, 1992

The Brice Family  
P.O. Box 70668  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Dear Brice Family:

Nancy and I were deeply saddened to learn of the loss of your mother. The loss of a loved one is always difficult, but I know your family and friends will be a source of strength for you.

In tribute to her many contributions to our State of Alaska, I wanted to take the opportunity to honor her in the Congressional Record. A copy of that statement is enclosed.

helenka will be greatly missed by many--- most of all by you, her family. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers during this time of mourning. We loved her, too!

Please call if you need anything.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank", written over a horizontal line.

Frank H. Murkowski  
United States Senator



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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## Senate

### MRS. HELENKA BRICE OF FAIRBANKS, AK

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I rise today to say goodbye to a remarkable woman and a good friend: Mrs. Helenka Brice of Fairbanks, AK.

Helenka passed away last Saturday at the age of 83. As a great-grandmother she leaves behind a wonderful family and a legacy as rich and varied as the beautiful State that we all love.

Helenka Brice was a dynamic and caring individual. She did not shy away from involvement in her community and in contributing to the growth and development of the Last Frontier.

With her husband Luther, who passed away in 1987, she founded a construction firm that was instrumental in building the Trans-Alaska pipeline and helping villages throughout Alaska. She was a tough businesswoman who got things done. In political circles she was known as the organizer, the mobilizer of forces.

She was also a kind-hearted woman who was devoted to the arts, literature, and children. Many times those interests converged, and the results were wonderful gifts of literature that she would send to her "adopted granddaughter", particularly my daughter Lily and to other children.

Helenka considered herself a grandmother at-large to these children and

set out to introduce them to the wonderful worlds of art, history, and myth. She always sent books that challenged Lily—books that expanded her mind and broadened her horizons.

With these books often came beautiful hand-written letters. In a note written when she was 80, Helenka described to Lily a favorite passage from an Elizabeth Barrett Browning poem.

I want to read Helenka's comments because I believe they capture her spirit better than anything I can say. This is a quote from her letter to Lily when she was 80.

I always loved the line 'T[he] soul's Rialto has its merchandize.' What it says to me is that our mind, our heart, has all sorts of experiences. We each have our own Rialto—our own place to keep our personal merchandise in our hearts and in our feelings. Books, all kinds of books, have their place as somewhat of an explanation to us of other merchandise we have stored in our brain, our heart, our soul. Books are one bit of storage that seem to fit, regardless of their age or their subject matter, into our own Rialto.

I send my condolences to Helenka's large and loving family, to all of her "grandchildren", and also to the many people Helenka touched. She will be missed in our State of Alaska for the selfless contributions she made to her community and our State.

*John Stevens*  
June 1, 1992