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March 20, 2006

Dear Friends at the EugeneBell Foundation:

I wish to congratulate the Eugene Bell Foundation on 10 years of work in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). EugeneBell has done an admirable job of earning respect and good will over the years in North Korea and the United States, and has built an important bridge of trust between people in both countries. In the mid-1990s, I traveled twice to North Korea, and saw first hand the great needs of the North Korean people. Because of your work, the situation for the ordinary person in North Korea has improved greatly since the late 1990s.

In 1995, Americans searched for transparent, legitimate and cost-effective ways of donating humanitarian aid to North Korea. When there were few options available, EugeneBell opened doors to them by pioneering effective methods for verification of aid delivery. By making regular site visits, by presenting photos and videos of the arrival and delivery of aid, and by clearly marking goods with the names of the donors, EugeneBell has shown that honest humanitarian work in North Korea is possible.

I would also like to thank you for serving my constituency, particularly the energetic Korean-American community of my district in northern Illinois. For over 10 years, they have responded with generosity and compassion to your work.

Please accept my congratulations for ten years of service to the people of North Korea as well as for your service to the American citizens who wish to help. I send my warmest wishes for your work ahead.

Sincerely,



Mark S. Kirk
Member of Congress