



# Capital Awards

BY MARICARMEN EROLES



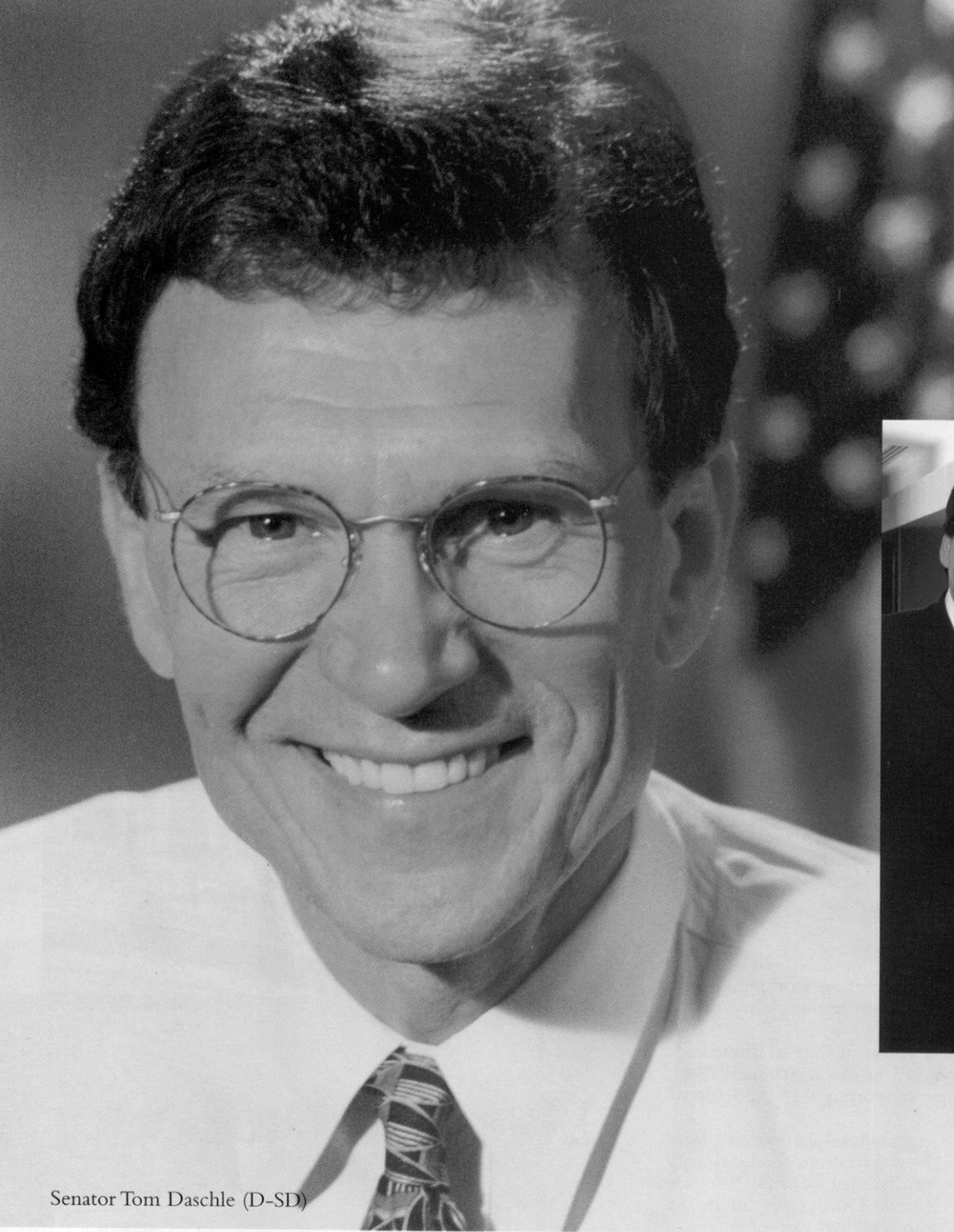
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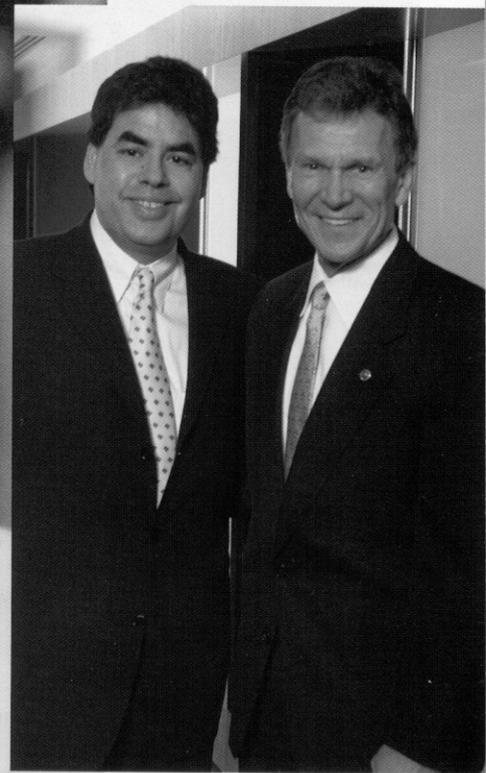
Keeping a finger on the pulse of the issues that affect the Latino community; taking political risks to stand up for policies favorable to Latinos; and exposing racism and negative stereotypes are just some of the accomplishments that have made this year's Capital Awards winners stand out. "The Capital Awards were established by the National Council of La Raza to recognize just these kinds of efforts on behalf of the Latino community," says NCLR President Raul Yzaguirre.

"We looked at what we were doing and realized that because our community was ignored a lot and had so many issues, we tended to focus on the negatives; and while that needs to happen, we also need to acknowledge the good guys and women. It's our way of expressing our gratitude."

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, (D-SD), was first elected to Congress in 1978 as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The South Dakota native then successfully ran for the Senate in 1986 and last year became the



Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD)



NCLR Board Chair,  
José Villarreal & Senator  
Tom Daschle (D-SD)

#### Majority Leader.

Daschle graduated from South Dakota State University in 1969. After serving three years as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force Strategic Air Command, he spent five years as an aide to South Dakota Senator James Abourezk. Daschle is married and has three children.

Having been the first in his family to graduate from college, Daschle has always been a staunch supporter of education. He has introduced legislation to provide quality health care coverage for the uninsured and to protect the rights of

workers. These are all issues that greatly affect U.S. Latinos.

Earlier this year, he was praised by NCLR for his recommendation of Roel Campos, founder and principal shareholder of El Dorado Communications, to be the first Latino to serve as commissioner on the Securities and Exchange Commission.

But perhaps Daschle's greatest accomplishment on behalf of Latinos has been to build a bridge of communication with Latino leaders and organizations, Yzaguirre says.

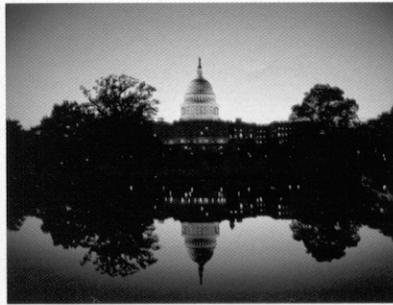
"Daschle has introduced a process by

which he periodically touches base with the Latino leadership," he says. "He has personally called me and I'm sure he has called other leaders around the country. He regularly meets with the [Latino] leadership and brings other senators into the process, which gives us an opportunity to articulate our priorities."

"Senator Sam Brownback, (R-KS), was given another of this year's Capital Awards for the passion with which he takes on issues of importance to the Latino community, even when he incurs political risks doing so," Yzaguirre says.



Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS)



# Newsday

City. The series revealed instances of racism and stereotyping that affected the city's ethnic communities. "It was instrumental in bringing about some justice and making people accountable for their actions," Yzaguirre says.

These awards not only recognize the accomplishments of those who have received them, they also show that Latino issues are not restricted to bilingual education and immigration, but also encompass those issues that affect the country at-large, such as unemployment insurance and tax reforms that benefit the working poor.

"The awards are not just a way to say thank you," Yzaguirre explains, "but also an incentive to others to look at the issues that affect the growing Latino community."

Handing out the Capital Awards each year "defines our agenda, highlights our presence and gives priority to our issues," says Yzaguirre.

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Brownback serves in key senate committees and has introduced legislation providing tax relief for working families and has called for increased corporate responsibility in the entertainment industry.

Having grown up on his family's farm in Kansas, Brownback has a keen knowledge of the needs of the agricultural sector and advocates for trade policy supporting U.S. agricultural exports.

Brownback has a degree in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University and a law degree from the University of Kansas. Among his many professional activities, he was Secretary of Agriculture for Kansas. During his tenure he developed new programs to reduce public expenditure and expand the markets for Kansas' products. He is married and has five children.

Brownback was first elected to the senate in 1996 to fill the remainder of Bob Dole's term. He was reelected to a full six-year term in 1998.

"Brownback has been stalwart, just a rock, in terms of immigration issues favorable to our community," Yzaguirre says. "He has incurred political risks because of his pro-immigrant position and has been totally loyal and steadfast to the kinds of values that are important to us [Latinos]."

This year's third Capital Awards winner strays from tradition because it is not a politician or a public servant, but a newspaper.

New York's *Newsday* was chosen to receive an award because it is an example of a courageous kind of journalism, an example of the best of our tradition, Yzaguirre said.

The newspaper won the distinction through an investigation of racial profiling by law enforcement agencies in New York