

distinguished record of accomplishments set a wonderful example for me during my time as Secretary of Agriculture. As Congress works this year to reauthorize child nutrition programs, his impact is still felt. It was then-Secretary Hardin who established the Food and Nutrition Service within the Department of Agriculture to administer nutrition programs.

I extend my deepest condolences to the entire Hardin family. Cliff leaves behind a legacy of service and leadership. He will be missed but not forgotten. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD J. PAPPAS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Dr. Richard J. Pappas, who assumed the presidency of Davenport University in August 2009 and was formally installed in this role on March 31, 2010. This investiture ceremony was surely a significant milestone for Dr. Pappas and his family, and is the result of many years of dedication and hard work. Indeed, Dr. Pappas is poised to lead this fine institution to new heights as he builds on Davenport University's proud tradition.

With 14 campuses located across Michigan and an enrollment of more than 12,000 students, Davenport University is an important part of the educational landscape of Michigan. With his "Vision 2015," Dr. Pappas has embarked on an effort to reshape and sharpen the focus of the university. Vision 2015 emphasizes academic programming, market position, and financial strength, three aspects critical to the success of a college or university. This is a comprehensive plan, one that will position Davenport University for success for many years.

Throughout his career, Dr. Pappas has proven to be a talented administrator and leader in the field of higher education. Before assuming the presidency of Davenport University, Dr. Pappas served as president of three other institutions: National-Louis University, Lake Michigan College, and Harford Community College. With Dr. Pappas at the helm, Davenport University will benefit from a leader that brings more than three decades of experience in higher education to this position, including 20 years as the head of an institution of higher education. This broad knowledge of the needs of students at both 4-year and 2-year institutions will be especially helpful.

In addition to leading two institutions in Michigan, I am proud to say that Dr. Pappas is a native Michigander. After growing up in Michigan, he earned his undergraduate degree from Eastern Michigan University and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan. He is committed to civic and community endeavors, which is evidenced by his years of involvement in charitable organizations and civic boards. As a re-

sult of his many efforts, Dr. Pappas has received several prestigious awards over the years, including the University of Michigan's Norman C. Harris Alumni Award and the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations Pacesetter Award. And above all, Dr. Pappas is a family man and is buoyed by his wife, Pam, and his three children.

Again, I am privileged to have an opportunity to honor Dr. Pappas as he embarks on a wonderful journey. There is no more noble cause than educating our next generation of leaders. His imprint on the lives of these young people will be tremendous, and I know he is well-suited and eager to undertake this challenge. I look forward to hearing about Davenport University's many successes in the years ahead. ●

#### REMEMBERING BRANNON WOODHAM

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, Brannon Woodham was one of the finest people I have ever known. He combined a deep and mature Christian faith, a love of family that constantly showed itself in his conversations and actions, a rich appreciation of the exceptional nature of his country which he had faithfully served for so many years, and a loyalty to his friends and church.

We were in the same Sunday School class for over 30 years. Ever positive and welcoming, he was one of the constants—a rock really—that set the class's tone and direction. This fellowship and spiritual journey meant much to him and enriched his classmates.

That on this day Brannon would want no pomp and circumstance, there can be no doubt. But, if it were done, he would say better it be done quickly, and, importantly, honestly because he was indeed an honest man. In fact, I think he would want me to express his love to all of you and to note—what we already know—that if his honesty had offended anyone, he would ask pardon, shaking his head ruefully saying he couldn't help it, that was just the way he was made.

In Sunday School class, he was a wise and perceptive participant. He had great spiritual depth, Scriptural knowledge, and mature beliefs. He did not speak too often but when he had something to say, he said it—in plain words. Often his wit brought a burst of laughter—usually because he had hit the nail on the head. As Jesus might say, "You are close to the kingdom, brother." Importantly, those beliefs that he stated, he lived.

Mary and I were honored to be among his friends and were always pleased to have his invitation to his home in the woods when he hosted his storied church supper club. That was a special time of food and fellowship, on his bridge, getting a tour of his workshop—to be at "his place," which he had shared with his beloved Ursula, his partner for 48 years, and to have a di-

rect look into the heart of a great man who lived a good life.

Mary and I often enjoyed lunch with Brannon after church at the Whistle Stop or some such place. In those conversations, his principles shone through and he would talk with pride and joy of his children, grandchildren, the baseball games, going to Auburn, working together. They had a unique bond.

Brannon believed in honesty and hard work—the Protestant ethic, if you will, for which he made no apology.

Politically, he was not a party man, following, I suppose, the best traditions of good civil servants. But he was an encourager to me. He wanted me to be a "statesman," not a politician. I would indeed feel very badly if I had failed him in this regard.

You may not know that he was an excellent writer. He wrote me many handwritten letters—long ones—that I cherish. They were filled with wisdom, good values, sound policy ideas, and what he was hearing from the community. A year or so ago, he gave me a copy of a plan he helped write some 40 years ago as part of a committee for the development of Mobile. He was proud of their work, and indeed their concepts and vision are still valid today.

His accomplishments are many. One of his most important was the critical role he played in the growth and character of Ashland Place United Methodist Church for four decades.

As a Southeastern Conference champion wrestler at Auburn, he demonstrated courage, strength, and discipline. There are just two in the ring and only one winner. He was a consistent winner.

I have come to understand the importance of our top civilian personnel at our military bases. Generals come and go but able civilians keep the bases running. Our civilian leaders are crucial to our military's success, and they are promoted on merit and on performance. At Robbins Air Force Base, Brannon led the avionics section that consisted of some 2,300 personnel. A place where errors are not allowed.

I visited him in the hospital, not long after his heart surgery. I thought he looked good, and he felt confident. But Brannon was no Polyanna. He was a realist. His words and manner conveyed that he well knew that he had had serious surgery, that nothing was guaranteed, and in the scheme of things life is short—"but a vapor" the Scripture says.

Daughter Ursula says later on during his final illness, and as he weakened, he knew the end was near and he was at peace. Of that I have no doubt. See, he knew he had had a good life of family and friends. He had done his best to be true. He was confident in his salvation. He felt blessed. And right he was.

So we celebrate honestly this remarkable and good man: a champion and fearless wrestler; a great leader at one of our Nation's military bases; a

pillar of his church; a faithful and loving husband; an example to all in love of family; a man of principles and conviction; a man of courage, honesty, and honor; but humble, encouraging, and loving.

His values represent the highest and best of our faith, and of our Nation. His family has received a great legacy—which to their credit they fully recognize—and we, his friends, a true lesson in how to live a “good” life.

Well done, good friend.●

#### RECOGNIZING VARNEY'S STORE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, we frequently hear stories of small businesses across our Nation that are struggling to survive, a trend which has only been exacerbated by the present economic recession. Facing numerous challenges, too many small firms simply end up closing their doors. Yet fortunately, thanks to the generosity of one man, the story has a different ending for one small business in my home State of Maine. Today I honor Varney's Store, a longstanding fixture in the central Maine town of Windsor, that recently reopened to the approval of the store's many loyal customers.

Shirley Varney has been running Varney's Store, a traditional, family-owned convenience store at the corner of Routes 17 and 32 in Windsor, for the past 73 years. Over these many years, she has experienced times of terrible burden and significant difficulty, such as when her husband and business partner sadly passed away 60 years ago. Additionally, Mrs. Varney suffered a stroke several years ago, which has left her confined to a wheelchair. As a result, it became difficult for Mrs. Varney to run her store, which she recently had to close.

The closing of Varney's Store left a noticeable void in the community. Not long after, Mike Richardson, a Maine State trooper and local patron of the store for 35 years, stepped forward to offer a helping hand. Mr. Richardson had developed a lengthy relationship with the Varney family through his patronage of the store, and often came to Mrs. Varney's aid throughout the years. Displaying a true act of kindness, Mr. Richardson petitioned to become Mrs. Varney's legal guardian, committing to look after her and her son, who is also wheelchair bound.

Furthermore, Mr. Richardson had the desire to resurrect the fabled general store, and embarked on an ambitious plan to make significant renovations and reopen the establishment to its dedicated customers. Along with his son Corey, now the manager of the store, Mr. Richardson gutted and revamped the inside, adding new and improved hardware and furnishings. The duo also incorporated a brand new grill area, tables, coolers, counters, and restrooms, and added a new parking lot outside. Mr. Richardson insisted that the unique character and ambiance be

maintained, and so the store contains the original wood interior, several old tools, pictures of the original store, and many of the notable antiques that have made this institution so famous in the eyes of its clients. The store still boasts its famous swinging doors, which have been standing for the past 73 years.

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of Mike Richardson, the new Varney's Store hosted a friends and family night on February 20 to celebrate the grand reopening of this famous locale, and the store was back in operation early the next morning, serving breakfast to longtime customers who had awaited its return.

For nearly three-quarters of a century, Varney's Store has offered the people of Windsor and surrounding towns the goods they need for everyday living, but more significantly, it has provided them with a feeling of hospitality. I thank Mrs. Varney for her numerous years of dedicated service to make her store such a welcoming environment. Additionally, the story of Varney's Store resurgence is exemplary of how a neighbor's kindness can give hope to a family and an entire community. It is through the compassionate and gracious deeds of Mike Richardson and his family that Varney's Store has been refurbished and reopened, and I wish him and everyone at Varney's Store much success as they aim to continue its tradition of excellence.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4887. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that health coverage provided by the Department of Defense is treated as minimal essential coverage.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 4:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4573) to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:59 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4573. An act to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5336. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-332, “Office on Latino Affairs Grant-Making Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2010”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5337. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-333, “Rhode Island Place Shopping Center Working Group Temporary Act of 2010”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5338. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-334, “Rent Administrator Hearing Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2010”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5339. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-335, “Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative Applicability Temporary Amendment Act of 2010”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5340. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-336, “Real Property Tax Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2010”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5341. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-337, “Healthy DC Equal Access Fund and Hospital Stabilization Temporary Amendment Act of 2010”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.