

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 re-vamped 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.