

military and veterans compensation. He is widely recognized as an expert in the field as well as a selfless advocate for individual soldiers and veterans in their legal struggles.

To those of us who are privileged to know Bill Greenberg personally, he brings passion, energy, hard work, patriotism, and dedication to all that he undertakes. These qualities have been recognized by his colleagues in the legal profession and in the Pentagon, where he has served with distinction and has consistently put foremost the interests of the individual reservist and the veteran. The American soldier has no greater friend than Bill Greenberg.●

RECOGNIZING AGREN APPLIANCE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, small businesses are the engine of our economy. There are literally millions of unique stories about how these companies had developed since they opened their doors. Some of the most impressive businesses are family-owned entities that start with a handful of workers and a commitment to filling a niche in their city or town. Today I recognize Agren Appliance, a company that started with the basics and has blossomed into a familiar name to residents of Lewiston-Auburn, ME, for over 40 years.

The Agren family began serving the community in 1969, when they operated two repair trucks to fix appliances for families and individuals throughout the greater Lewiston-Auburn area. Their only technology was a rotary telephone to receive calls from those requiring assistance. Over time, the family developed a reputation for its reliability, gaining regular customers and parlaying that recognition into future success.

As a result of its strong and growing standing, Agren opened its first brick-and-mortar store in Auburn in 1978, carrying the Whirlpool brand of products. Over time, the company further expanded its reach, opening branches in the coastal town of Brunswick in 1983, as well as south Paris, in western Maine, in 1986. Later, Agren Appliance opened stores in south Portland and midcoast Maine, covering a large swath of the State's population. And on Monday, Agren Appliance moved from its former south Paris location to a newer, larger, 25,000-square-foot space in the neighboring town of Norway. The company has been recognized as one of the Nation's top 100 appliance retailers, an impressive feat in such a competitive market.

Agren now offers its customers a variety of products and brands—including televisions, beds, mattresses, and dining room sets. Nonetheless, each store is still a one-stop shop for all appliance needs, from dishwashers and refrigerators, to laundry machines and dryers. And the business stays true to its roots, boasting Maine's largest independent appliance repair team, as well as a fleet of repair trucks.

Furthermore, Agren Appliance is still family-owned and remains an integral part of the communities which it serves. The company frequently makes donations to organizations across the State, often providing gift certificates or various small appliances for silent auctions to benefit those in need. Additionally, at certain locations, Agren posts messages on their large electronic outdoor signs, advertising upcoming events and fundraising efforts from various members of the community—a generous act that helps promote worthwhile occasions and causes.

With five stores spread across the southern part of the State, Agren has developed from a small-town appliance repair business into a trusted name for appliance and furniture needs. I am always impressed by the ingenuity of small businesses like Agren, which has witnessed marked growth because of a strong work ethic and dedication to knowing and serving the community. I thank all of the company's employees for their hard work, and wish them much success in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. INOUE) reported that on December 21, 2010, he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 3082. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. INOUE) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 118. An act to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 1481. An act to amend section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

H.R. 81. An act to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act

and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

At 1:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6547. An act to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require criminal background checks for school employees.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6523) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002) as amended, the Minority Leader reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Mr. Larry Wortzel, effective January 1, 2011.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 235 of the Tribal Law and Order Act (Public Law 111-211), the Minority Leader appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Indian Law and Order Commission: Mr. Thomas Gede of San Francisco, California.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 5605 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), the Minority Leader appoints the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Key National Indicators: Mr. Marcus Peacock of Washington, D.C., and Mr. Tomas J. Philipson of Chicago, Illinois.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3243. An act to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to administer polygraph examinations to all applicants for law enforcement positions with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to initiate all periodic background reinvestigations of certain law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 3592. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Commerce Drive in Tyrone, Georgia, as the "First Lieutenant Robert Wilson Collins Post Office Building".

H.R. 4445. An act to amend Public Law 95-232 to repeal a restriction on treating as Indian country certain lands held in trust for Indian pueblos in New Mexico.

H.R. 5470. An act to exclude an external power supply for certain security or life safety alarms and surveillance system components from the application of certain energy