

Idaho leader with a legacy in public service and broadcasting, who passed away last week.

Mel Richardson's radio broadcasting career thankfully brought him and his wife of 61 years, Dixie, to Idaho more than six decades ago. And we are better for it. Over the span of his 62-year radio and television broadcasting career, Mel hosted several sports and public affairs programs and was a sportscaster for professional, college and high school athletics.

He also devoted considerable time to public service. During the Korean war, he served in the Active Army Reserves and later was the first elected mayor of the City of Ammon, where he led significant public works projects, paving the way for the town's future progress. I was honored to serve in the Idaho State Legislature with him. During my time in the Idaho State Senate, he served in the Idaho House of Representatives, and was elected to the Idaho State Senate seat I vacated when I was elected to Congress in 1992. For 16 years, he served in the Idaho State Senate, where he utilized his position to expand education opportunities for Idaho students by furthering the adoption of technology in Idaho schools.

Mel served our community and Idaho with civility and excellence. In addition to his tenure in the legislature, he served in numerous other positions. These included serving as director of Idaho Association of Cities; co-chairman of the Idaho Centennial Commission; Bonneville County Recreation commissioner; chairman of the American Family Institute; and chairman of the United Way. His exemplary work was recognized through numerous awards and honors that included being named Legislator of the Year by the Idaho State Republican Party, Idaho Library Association, State Farm Bureau and Idaho School Administrators.

He was also active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in which he served in numerous leadership positions. Additionally, he supported the Boy Scouts of America through which he was the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award of Merit. Mel also recognized the life lessons afforded in sports and instilled these values through coaching youth athletic teams.

Mel welcomed me as a regular guest on the radio program he hosted with his son, Mark, who continues to host the talk show. I greatly admired Mel's openness in taking all sides of an issue into account, and his kindness and consideration. Mel had one of the greatest qualities: As his son, Todd, recognized, "He could disagree with you without being disagreeable." I could always count on an interesting, thoughtful discussion, and I looked forward each week to our conversations.

But among all those accomplishments and public accolades, Mel's pride and strength was found in his family and home. He and Dixie raised five children, who have all gone on to contribute to their own communities. He loved the time that he spent with

them; in fact, he passed up some interesting career opportunities to ensure that he would be able to spend time with them. Mel's enthusiasm and joy in life can also be found in his 25 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

I extend my deep condolences to Dixie, their children and his many family members and friends. We are all better for having known him, and his legacy of thoughtfulness, inclusiveness and devotion to furthering opportunities for others and Idaho's future will not be forgotten.●

RECOGNIZING THE YOUNG MARINES

● Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to state for the record my support for the Young Marines and their work to help reduce drug abuse in America. The abuse of drugs plagues our communities, disrupts our schools, and has a negative effect not only on the people who use drugs, but their communities as well. Drug abuse devastates our families, children and neighborhoods.

I support programs that demonstrate effective strategies to decrease drug abuse. As one of the largest drug prevention programs in the Nation, the Red Ribbon Campaign educates our youth about the problems and risks associated with drug use. The Young Marines' effort to educate and inform community members through the Red Ribbon Campaign helps increase awareness about drug abuse, and in turn, helps reduce the demand for drugs.

The Young Marines is a national non-profit youth education and service program for boys and girls, age 8 through the completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. This program was brought to my attention earlier this year by Branson Coiteux of Portland, OR who himself is a Young Marine and is working hard to educate his fellow students about the dangers of drug abuse. Each year Brandon and his fellow Young Marines participate in the national Red Ribbon Week and help educate and raise awareness about drug abuse.

We need more groups like the Young Marines and programs to fight drug abuse and bring the discussion about drug abuse out in the open and educate our children about the dangerous effects that drug abuse can have on our families. I thank them for their hard work and service and hope that we can end the devastating effect that drugs have on our Nation.●

REMEMBERING JOYCE CRAIG LEWIS

● Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today, I honor fallen Philadelphia firefighter, Joyce Craig Lewis. Ms. Craig Lewis tragically perished on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, while courageously battling

a house fire in the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia.

Ms. Craig Lewis was a proud 11-year veteran of the Philadelphia Fire Department and a certified EMT. A native of Philadelphia, Ms. Craig Lewis was one of 58 women among the nearly 1,800 firefighters in the city. Joyce served in several of the most active firehouses in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Fire Commissioner Derrick Sawyer praised Ms. Craig Lewis for having a strong work ethic as evidenced by her desire to be stationed in challenging environments. Mayor Michael Nutter aptly stated that her passing is a tremendous loss for Philadelphians.

Joyce Craig Lewis is the first female firefighter in Philadelphia to die in the line of duty. She is survived by her 16-year-old son and 16-month-old daughter.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I wish to express my condolences to her family, friends, brothers and sisters in fire departments across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. May she rest in peace.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2338. An act to reauthorize the United States Anti-Doping Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 3008. An act to extend temporarily the extended period of protection for members of uniformed services relating to mortgages, mortgage foreclosure, and eviction, and for other purposes.

H.R. 83. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2591. An act to amend certain provisions of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

H.R. 5859. An act to impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-364. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan requesting the Congress of the United States to prohibit the U.S. Postal Service from closing or consolidating the mail processing and distribution center in Lansing, Michigan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 189

Whereas, On January 5, 2015, the United States Postal Service plans to close or consolidate the mail processing and distribution center (P&DC) on Collins Road in Lansing; and

Whereas, This plan would severely delay mail delivery; and

Whereas, The delay of mail would negatively affect residents and local businesses and harm the community; and

Whereas, The closure is not in the public's best interest and depends on a degradation of service standards that would result in the virtual elimination of overnight mail delivery throughout the country; and

Whereas, According to 39 USC 101(a), federal law stipulates: "The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons to all areas and shall render postal services to all communities." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby urge congressional intervention to stop the proposal to close or consolidate the Lansing mail processing and distribution center which will cause the delay of mail and elimination of overnight delivery of first-class mail; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-365. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan memorializing the Congress of the United States to stop the U.S. Postal Service from closing and consolidating the mail processing and distribution center in Kingsford, Michigan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192

Whereas, The United States Postal Service plans to close the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan, and consolidate services 100 miles away in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The closure is scheduled to take effect on January 5, 2015; and

Whereas, The consolidation will severely delay mail delivery and result in a degradation of postal service standards by virtually eliminating overnight first-class mail delivery in large portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Kingsford mail processing center is the only center serving the entire Upper Peninsula. The consolidation will require mail to travel up to 230 miles simply for processing and slow current one-day, first-class mail service to two- or three-day service in the Upper Peninsula; and

Whereas, This consolidation is not in the public's best interest. For the past four years, the state of Michigan has looked to the Upper Peninsula and its natural resources as a means for sparking economic growth. This degradation of mail service sends a negative message to developers and investors. In addition, current Upper Peninsula business owners rely greatly on the U.S. Postal Service for their mail and shipping needs. The expected delays will negatively affect these local businesses, particularly small businesses, and residents; and

Whereas, The inevitable delays in mail service run directly counter to federal postal policy established by the U.S. Congress. Section 101 of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 stipulates:

"The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities."

It is difficult to conceive how this closure meets the U.S. Postal Service's obligation to

provide "prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas". Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to stop the U.S. Postal Service from closing and consolidating the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Postmaster General of the United States, and the Office of the Governor.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3018. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the rules relating to partnership audits and adjustments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3019. A bill to amend the War Powers Resolution to provide for the use of military force against non-state actors; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 3020. A bill to establish the composition known as America the Beautiful as the national anthem; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1463

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1463, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species.

S. 1695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1695, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 2644

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2644, a bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2971

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2971, a bill to promote energy efficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 3015

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3015, a bill to establish a rule of con-

struction clarifying the limitations on executive authority to provide certain forms of immigration relief.

AMENDMENT NO. 4117

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4117 intended to be proposed to H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4118

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4118 intended to be proposed to H.R. 83, to require the Secretary of the Interior to assemble a team of technical, policy, and financial experts to address the energy needs of the insular areas of the United States and the Freely Associated States through the development of energy action plans aimed at promoting access to affordable, reliable energy, including increasing use of indigenous clean-energy resources, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3018. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the rules relating to partnership audits and adjustments; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Partnership Auditing Fairness Act, a bill designed to improve and streamline the audit procedures for large partnerships. This bill would ensure that large for-profit partnerships, like other large profitable businesses, are subject to routine audits by the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, and eliminate audit red tape that currently impedes IRS oversight. This legislation mirrors a provision in the Tax Reform Act of 2014, introduced earlier this year by Congressman DAVID CAMP.

This legislation would fix a problem that has gained only more urgency with time and the explosion in growth of large partnerships, including hedge funds, private equity funds, and publicly traded partnerships. In a September 2014 report, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, determined that the number of large partnerships, defined by GAO as those with at least 100 partners and \$100 million in assets, has tripled since 2002, to over 10,000, while the number of so-called C corporations being created, which include our largest public companies,