

work with the American Medical Association and the American Association of Medical Society Executives, where she has participated on many work groups and policy teams.

Prior to becoming Executive Vice President of the Vermont Medical Society, Karen was the Commissioner of Housing and Community Affairs for the State of Vermont. As Commissioner, she worked tirelessly to increase the availability of affordable housing in Vermont. However, I am sure she will say that her most enjoyable job was working for me as a legislative assistant in the 1970's when I represented Vermont in the House of Representatives. Based on our work together, I can personally attest to her grace, competency and sense of humor—all of which are the key characteristics of a successful public servant.

While Karen is leaving the medical society, she will continue to play an important role in improving the social fabric of Vermont. She has accepted a new position at the University of Vermont where she will work with the acting President to develop a renewed sense of mission for the University. I know that I speak for thousands of Vermonters in thanking her for extraordinary service to the Vermont Medical Society and conveying our best wishes in her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO MONICA TENCATE

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a departing Senate Finance Committee staffer, Monica Tencate. She has served the Senate with great distinction, and it is with much sadness that I am bidding her goodbye. I'd like to take a few moments to describe her contribution.

Monica came to the Senate from California in 1998, and joined Chairman Roth's Finance Committee health team. After effective service there, she moved to Senator FRIST's Subcommittee on Public Health, making a tremendous contribution on a broad range of challenging HELP Committee issues. I know her years with Senator FRIST were very rewarding ones for her, so I was delighted that she was willing to return to the Finance Committee to work with me, as Director of the Finance Committee's health policy team.

As I look back at this year, Monica was a real leader in the Committee's effort to strengthen and improve Medicare for the 21st Century, including prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries. She did a stellar job in helping to assemble a Tripartisan group, which put forward a framework for future success in this area. Due to the September 11 terrorist attacks, making major improvements to Medicare will have to wait until 2002. I believe, however, that we've laid a solid foundation for next year's efforts, and Monica's contribution was indispensable.

Monica also played a key role in the Committee's efforts to help provide

coverage to the uninsured, to streamline Medicare regulations for beneficiaries and providers, and to address potentially serious problems posed by the new hospital outpatient payment system. She's done all this while keeping in mind the reality that our federal health programs aren't free—it's hard-working Americans who pay for them. It's easy to lose sight of that fact here inside the Beltway, but Monica never has.

Monica's contribution to me and to the Senate, in fact, went beyond policy and politics. She was a true team player, earning the respect of everyone she worked with, and the affection of her fellow Finance Committee staffers. And she did all this during one of this body's most tumultuous years in recent history—a year we'll all remember for the 50-50 Senate, the change in party control, the September 11 attacks, and finally the anthrax attack that drove many of us out of our offices. She served in her extraordinarily challenging job under these difficult circumstances with grace, commitment, and good humor. She will be sorely missed.

Now Monica is heading home to San Diego, to rejoin her husband Mike, who's also serving the nation in the United States Marines. I wish her and Mike every blessing in this new phase of their life, and I extend to her my deepest thanks.●

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CARLISLE FIRE COMPANY

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, among the images of September 11th that we will never forget, are the pictures of the firefighters rushing into the buildings to help, as everyone else who was able was trying to get out to safety. At that moment, without discussion or explanation, an appreciation for the extraordinary service and leading citizenship of firefighters became a prominent and, I hope, permanent feature of our collective consciousness.

In my State of Delaware, we have a rich heritage of local fire companies serving our communities, a tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. And I rise today to honor one of those local departments, the Carlisle Fire Company, which serves the City of Milford, Delaware and which will celebrate its 200th anniversary in 2002.

Originally founded under charter from the State Legislature, as, simply, a "Fire Fighting Organization," the company began its service in the spring of 1802, a full 90 years before the first water mains and fire hydrants were installed in Milford. A hand drawn hook-and-ladder was acquired, and was stored along with other equipment at a building owned by Mrs. Angeline Marshall, appropriately, on Water Street.

In 1915, the department reincorporated as the Milford Fire Company, and that same year, there was a 10-day fund drive which raised money to purchase a triple combination fire truck

Milford's Truck No. 1. A second name change followed in 1918, to honor Paris T. Carlisle, a Milford resident and member and officer of the Fire Company, who was killed in France during World War I. In 1921, the Company broke ground to build its first fire station, and in 1923, after another successful fundraising drive, Truck No. 2 was purchased and Truck No. 1 refitted to better serve the community. Ground was broken for the current fire hall on Northwest Front Street in 1977, and as the folks in Milford will tell you with well-earned pride, they paid off and burned the mortgage in 1990. At about the same time, ambulance service was added.

From that hall on Front Street, the Carlisle Fire Company responds to more than 1,800 calls per year. With an active Ladies Auxiliary, founded in 1963 with Peggy Jester as its first president, and a Junior Member program, created by then-Chief Marvin Hitch in 1973, the Company is truly a center of community life in Milford. And it also has a special place in our statewide fire-fighting community; the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA) was organized in Milford in February of 1921, and the first president was Charles E. Varney, who was also president of the Carlisle Fire Company. The Company has continued its leadership in statewide programs ever since.

It is my privilege to share some of the history and hopefully some of the spirit of the Carlisle Fire Company with my colleagues and with our fellow citizens today. We honor the Company's 200th anniversary, and the extraordinary commitment and service that it represents, with gratitude to local firefighters, our neighbors who are there when we need them most. Congratulations to President Francis Morris and Fire Chief Kevin Twilley, and to all the officers, members and friends of the Carlisle Fire Company again, with great respect and with thanks.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks,