

each semester. It was a personal way of telling us that she cared about us and wanted to share her home and talents with us.

She was a superb teacher. She taught students about biology, but perhaps more importantly she taught them about living and loving. Because of the real interest she had in each student, she was a powerful influence for good in each one's life.

Teachers are very important people. Many have touched my life in significant ways. Those special teachers who have a real passion for truth and excellence, and who care deeply about their subjects and their students are the ones who change lives—and change them for the better. Dr. Mary Jane Brannon was one of those. She saw the world clearly, spoke quickly and frankly (when one speaks the truth there is less need to hesitate), and strongly desired that her students live lives dedicated to excellence. Those who studied under her could not be unaffected. Indeed, she inspired students who were not her students. She was more than a teacher, she was a force for learning and right living.

Her former students remember her with gratitude, admiration and love.●

#### IN HONOR OF NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to join the National Bible Association in celebrating one of the most important pieces of literature in human history: the Bible. As Senate co-chair of National Bible Week 2002, it is my honor to participate in a nationwide recognition of the Bible's importance in our daily lives. From November 24 through December 1, communities and churches across America will take part in this tradition by reading and reflecting on the Bible's teachings and how they can help us to lead better lives.

This week of Biblical awareness is something that those whose faiths are based in Judeo-Christian belief can appreciate. But National Bible Week is also an opportunity for Americans of all religious backgrounds to experience the benefits of Bible study. Just as America's students read the Constitution of the United States and examine the laws that govern our social behavior, so should everyone read the Bible and consider the traditions and lessons that have come to govern our moral behavior. The ethical guidelines that the Bible provides for us have, in large part, built the moral basis of the Western world and its governments. Furthermore, the notions of right and wrong, of good and bad, and the principles we teach our children are illustrated by the Bible's stories. Through this book, God's word gives us a complete set of simple rules to follow to lead a virtuous life.

National Bible Week encourages the country to make time, over the course of 8 days, for returning to the source of

their religious beliefs. In this way, a nationwide look at the Bible serves to bring people of different sects and schools together. It allows us to recognize the common text we all share, regardless of denomination or church, and lays down a standard of conduct and piety that applies to everyone without discrimination.

As a practicing Catholic, I carry God's word in my heart every day and, for me, the Bible is a source of strength and comfort. In my own behavior, with my family, and in my work, I rely on God's message to guide me. It is my hope that those who may have put the Bible aside will open themselves up to National Bible Week as a chance to reread such an important text, for believers and nonbelievers alike.

National Bible Week 2002 will be inaugurated in New York with a kickoff luncheon to raise funds for the National Bible Association, an organization dedicated to promoting daily Bible reading. I congratulate this group's efforts to encourage better Biblical understanding and to draw people of faith towards common ground for a clearer, more universal understanding of the Bible's lessons and God's word.●

#### 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 referred to the appropriate committees.

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

#### REPORT DOCUMENTING THE STATE OF SMALL BUSINESS AT THE END OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY—PM 121

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

This report documents the state of small business at the end of the 20th century. Small businesses have always been the backbone of our economy. The perennially account for most innovation and job creation. Small businesses have sustained the economy when it is robust and growing as well as in weaker times when small businesses have put the economy back on the track to long-term growth.

We must work together to give small businesses an environment in which

they can thrive. Small businesses are disproportionately affected by Government regulations and paperwork, and I am committed to reducing this burden. We should regulate only where there is a real need, fully justified through rigorous cost-benefit analysis and clear legal authority. And when Government must regulate, it must adopt common-sense approaches. Regulations work best when agencies anticipate and analyze the effects of their proposals on small firms. Rules need to reflect the ability of small businesses to comply.

Another barrier to unleashing the full potential of small business is our tax code. I am committed to reducing taxes for all Americans—especially small businesses. We must eliminate permanently the estate tax, which so often has spelled the death of the business and the jobs of its employees after the death of its founder. Our tax code should encourage investment in small businesses, and particularly in new and growing businesses. Because the innovations that drive tomorrow's economy come from entrepreneurial small businesses today, we must help them enter the marketplace, not impede them before they get there. Above all, small businesses need a tax code that is understandable and stable. Fairness, simplicity, transparency, and accountability should be our goals, and I am committed to this end.

Small business embodies so much of what America is all about. Self-reliance, hard work, innovation, the courage to take risks for future growth: these are values that have served our Nation well since its very beginning. They are values to be passed on from generation to generation. We must ensure that our small businesses continue to thrive and prosper, not just for their own sakes, but for all of us.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 19, 2002.

#### REPORT ENTITLED ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2001—PM 122

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

*To The Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board presented for forwarding to you for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2001, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 19, 2002.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by