

Democracy cannot prosper on blind-faith. To work effectively, democracy's foundation—the people, must be well informed. And, in order to be more informed, more responsive, and more prepared for the challenges ahead, we must continue to ask questions to our leaders; that is our duty as responsible citizens. It is why the 9/11 Independent Commission's investigative work, public hearings, public Final Report and public Recommendations are so vital.

The only way elected officials, agencies and institutions can be held accountable and responsible is if we, the American people, stay vigilant and informed. Before 9/11, the will of the nation to fight terrorism was not present. Post 9/11, the will of this nation exists to confront the battle of terrorism.

But fighting terrorism is not simply an offensive strategy. It is a combined and cumulative process. We need the intelligence agencies to investigate more creatively and aggressively. We need our judicial process to permit the fair and just prosecution of terrorists. We need our foreign policy to issue sanctions to all countries that sponsor terrorism, even if that means our foreign economic dependency suffers. We need our Treasury Department to have the resources to dry up money lines that fund terrorist organizations. We need big business interests to yield to the common good.

Our elected officials who take an oath of office to lead, protect, and serve need to be held responsible and accountable. They must have the courage and curiosity to ask questions, to have established and reliable plans and back-up plans, to demand action, reforms and to welcome personal responsibility.

Most importantly, our elected officials need to remember that they are serving at the will of the people. As our public stewards, it should not be the sanctity of their own political well-being that most consumes their actions and decisions. More correctly, it should be the safety, security and well-being of the people that they serve that should pre-occupy their time.

In a post-9/11 world, it is the responsible preservation of all life that must transcend politics.

KRISTEN BREITWEISER,  
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*Members of the 9/11  
Family Steering  
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11 Independent Com-  
mission.*

Mrs. CLINTON. In light of the pending release of the 9/11 Commission report, I wish to recognize the Family Steering Committee for the 9/11 Independent Commission and their efforts to establish the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING THE CITY OF MENNO

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Menno, SD. The city of Menno has a proud past and a promising future.

The area that was to become the city of Menno was settled in 1874 by a group of Black Sea Germans from Russia. The great majority of settlers made

their living off the land. According to a U.S. Government survey, Menno and the land surrounding it is made up of some of the richest most fertile soil in the country. Menno owes its beginnings to the railroad industry, which brought much-needed commerce.

The city of Menno bears the name intended for the town of Freeman, 10 miles away. When railroad officials were nailing the signs bearing the names of new towns to the depots, the name boards of the neighboring towns of Menno and Freeman were accidentally interchanged. With the result that Menno derives its name from the large settlement of Mennonites at Freeman, called Mennonites because the sect was founded by Menno Simons, while the town of Freeman is named for an early settler of Menno. The city of Menno was officially settled in 1879.

Currently, more than 800 people live in Menno. The city has already started celebrations for its 125th anniversary and will continue them throughout the year. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community. •

##### HONORING THE MUHLENBERG CAREER DEVELOP

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I take the opportunity to honor the Muhlenberg Career Development Center. Beginning with the groundbreaking in 1973, this institution has been working diligently to better the lives of all its students. This has been acknowledged by a four-star rating from the National Job Corps Association and by the National Job Corps Award for Excellence it received from the same association earlier this year. The Career Center also received a "Top 50" national ranking for Job Corps centers.

The Muhlenberg Career Development Center has a profound impact on the surrounding community. The center employs 135 men and women, making it the fourth largest employer in Muhlenberg County. The center also generates a substantial amount of revenue for the community through the contract it has with the Department of Labor. The standard of excellence set by the career development center is greatly appreciated by the 404 students who are currently working towards a GED and vocation there. The dedication exhibited by the Muhlenberg Career Development Center towards its students, county, State, and country deserves to be recognized and honored.

The citizens of Kentucky are proud to have the Muhlenberg Career Development Center as a part of their community. Their example of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth. The Muhlenberg Career Development Center has successfully found a way to bring out the best in its men and women. I personally thank the leaders and supporters of this great organization for continually producing strong and

bright men and women committed to making Kentucky a better place to live. •

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. NEAL R. BERTE

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my home State of Alabama. Dr. Neal Berte has been president of Birmingham-Southern College in Alabama since 1976. He recently retired, ending his 29 years of service to this great liberal arts institution. It has been my pleasure to work with Dr. Berte during my time in the Senate on issues affecting higher education and community service in the Birmingham area.

Dr. Berte recognized early on in his career the need to produce future leaders rich in a background of service to others. Therefore, he made service-learning a priority for himself and Birmingham-Southern students. Almost every student who graduates from Birmingham Southern College leaves the Hilltop having had some type of community-service experience. From serving food at a homeless shelter to mentoring children at the local elementary school, the opportunities are endless and involvement is always encouraged. Dr. Berte has led this effort by deeds, not words. He is the first to arrive at a service event and the last to leave. His involvement in the local community is unparalleled and has led to his being awarded Birmingham's Distinguished Citizen Award, Citizen of the Year, and the Erskine Ramsey Award for Outstanding Civic Service.

While developing and implementing an aggressive service-learning component to higher education has been a great achievement at Birmingham-Southern, it is far from being his only accomplishment. During the "Berte years," Birmingham-Southern College's student enrollment has doubled, the academic profile of the student body has increased and regularly leads other Alabama colleges and universities, the number of faculty has increased by almost 70 percent, the student-faculty ratio has lowered from 18-to-1 to 12-to-1, the campus has expanded, and the college's endowment has grown from \$11 million to more than \$122 million. It is difficult to fully gauge the impact Dr. and Mrs. Berte have had over the past 29 years, however, perhaps it is best captured in Dr. Berte's relationship with the students that have flowed through the campus. Dr. Berte's support of the student body has been unwavering. From attending campus sporting events to carrying the boxes of new students on move-in day, Dr. Berte's face has been a constant presence at events throughout each school year. Amazingly, he has learned the name and face of almost every student who has walked the halls at BSC and makes it a priority to greet each person he meets by name and to inquire about something occurring in his or her life at the moment. I think this

commitment to the students, the life of any college, is what sets Dr. Berte apart and makes his retirement so poignant for so many of the school's faculty, alumni, and friends. For many, Dr. Berte is Birmingham-Southern.

Birmingham-Southern has achieved great success during Dr. Berte's time as president. The college has been consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of America's top national liberal arts colleges. It is currently a Tier I institution and ranked among the top 66 liberal arts colleges in the country. Its other recognitions include "100 Best Values in Private Colleges," "America's Best Christian Colleges," "Most Efficiently Operated Schools in America," "Colleges that Encourage Character Development," and "Best Values." The school is home to a Phi Beta Kappa chapter and annually ranks No. 1 among Alabama schools in percentage of all graduates accepted to medical and dental schools.

When Dr. Berte took over at Birmingham-Southern things were not so rosy. There had been several short-term presidents and the college faced many challenges. Few would dispute that his leadership has guaranteed that Birmingham-Southern is one of the premier liberal arts colleges in America and that few, if any, such colleges have had better leadership in the past 30 years. Dr. Berte has led with vision, compassion, constancy, faith, and courage. His superb graduates daily validate the value of the liberal arts curriculum. I have watched his success over the years with growing admiration. He has truly been one of the best college presidents in America.

But, as it is with any great thing, Dr. Berte's tenure must end. He will remain chancellor of Birmingham-Southern College and go on to increase his involvement in the community, as well as spend some much deserved time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. As Birmingham-Southern begins a new era with a new president, I would just like to take a moment to thank Dr. Berte for his service to this institution and the State of Alabama. I wish him the best and would like to echo his optimism that "the best is yet to come."•

#### HONORING THE CITY OF ELKTON

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish today to honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the city of Elkton, SD. The city of Elkton has a proud past and a promising future.

The first settler in the area had been E.D. Johnson, who in the spring of 1877 had obtained a tree claimed half a mile north of the future site of the town. Other families started to move into the area in 1878 just in time for the railroad to arrive in 1879. Railroad officials wanted to place a station between the communities of Verdi and Aurora. Local railroad officials named it Ivanhoe, originally. Not until July 21,

1882 was its name changed officially from Ivanhoe to Elkton. The name came from Elkton, MD, which was the early home of one of the railroad officials. The town was plotted in the spring of 1880 and soon sprouted a variety of different businesses.

In 1896, an Elkton man named Henry Heintz obtained a patent on what some locals believe could have been the first airship in the United States. Working with Henry Wulf of Arizona, Heintz built a machine which lifted off the ground in its trial flight, to the amazement and delight of spectators. The craft wouldn't move ahead, however, and returned almost immediately to earth. There are apparently no records of rebuildings and further attempts.

Currently, more than 600 people live in Elkton. The city has already started celebrations for its 125th anniversary and will continue them throughout the year. These include an all-high school alumni reunion and a street dance. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to House Resolution 719 the Senate is requested to return to the House of Representatives the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 142. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, and to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project.

H.R. 1014. An act to require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1156. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project.

H.R. 1587. An act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

H.R. 2619. An act to provide for the expansion of Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 2831. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey the

Newlands Project Headquarters and Maintenance Yard Facility to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District.

H.R. 2911. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Inland Empire regional recycling project and in the Cucamonga County Water District recycling project.

H.R. 3785. An act to authorize the exchange of certain land in Everglades National Park.

H.R. 3819. An act to redesignate Fort Clatsop National Memorial as the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, to include in the park sites in the State of Washington as well as the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3874. An act to convey for public purposes certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, that have been identified for disposal.

H.R. 3932. An act to amend Public Law 99-338 to authorize the continued use of certain lands within the Sequoia National Park by portions of an existing hydroelectric project, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4115. An act to amend the Act of November 2, 1966 (80 Stat. 1112), to allow binding arbitration clauses to be included in all contracts affecting the land within the Salt River Prima-Maricopa Indian Reservation.

H.R. 4158. An act to provide for the conveyance to the Government of Mexico of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4170. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to recruit volunteers to assist with, or facilitate, the activities of various agencies and offices of the Department of the Interior.

H.R. 4492. An act to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for certain national heritage areas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4625. An act to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

The message also further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2264. An act to require a report on the conflict in Uganda, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 114. Concurrent resolution concerning the importance of the distribution of food in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker, was signed on today, July 20, 2004, by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

S. 1167. An act to resolve the boundary conflicts in Barry and Stone Counties in the State of Missouri.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 142. To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the