

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