

each year by offering a variety of services, from employment-training for adults, apprenticeship programs, and English-as-a-Second-Language classes to school-based academic support services and other activities for youth. Working with local government, businesses, and educational institutions, CCSC's programs result in the ability of new immigrants to improve their quality of life and provide them with a greater chance at equal opportunities. In 1990, seeing a similar need by Asian American immigrants in Silicon Valley, Mr. Lim worked successfully with the Silicon Valley community to establish a Silicon Valley chapter of Charity Cultural Services Center, the Silicon Valley Crosscultural Community Services Center.

In addition to his work at CCSC, Mr. Lim has also been involved with other community-based organizations in San Francisco. He has served as the President of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and also sits on the Chinatown Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Lim has tirelessly strived to address the issues and meet the needs of new immigrants and their families who find themselves living in two different cultures. Through CCSC, he has enriched the community by helping its residents develop positive identities, build confidence in their capabilities, and become active members of society.

Harrison Lim is an invaluable asset to the Bay Area's Asian American community. I commend him for his dedication, hard work and many achievements, and wish him well in his future endeavors. I am sure that, even in his retirement, he will continue to serve as an advocate for the Bay Area's Asian American immigrants. He is the kind of person who makes my state and our country a better place.●

TRIBUTE TO NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSION

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish today to give tribute to the North American Baptist Mission for the great leadership and assistance they provided the citizens of Alabama in their time of need following Hurricane Ivan. Their selfless devotion of time, energy, and skills played an integral role in helping Alabamians recover from such a tragic event.

Much of Alabama suffered as a result of Hurricane Ivan. It was a major hurricane that did tremendous damage to homes and properties, timber, and agriculture throughout the State. I was shocked by the devastation that was left in the wake of the storm. I was, however, encouraged by the resilient nature of the citizens in Alabama during such a difficult time. I remain continually thankful for the thousands of volunteers and, in particular, the North American Baptist Mission, that came to Alabama lending helping hands in our time of need.

Concerned for Alabama, the North American Baptist Mission alerted its

churches to the extreme destruction caused by Hurricane Ivan, and Baptist churches across the Nation responded. Volunteers from 14 different States ventured into the most devastated counties in Alabama: Baldwin, Butler, Conecuh, Covington, Clarke, Escambia, Mobile, and Washington Counties. The Baptist volunteers assisted Alabamians in putting their homes and lives back together. The Baptist groups set up 16 feeding sites that served 559,000 meals in Alabama. Specifically, in Butler County, 45 North Carolina Baptist Men volunteers served 17,586 meals. I had the opportunity and privilege of seeing this particular outreach mission, and I was thoroughly impressed with the volunteers attitudes and selfless acts. In addition to serving meals, clean up crews removed yard debris from 1,750 homes and businesses throughout the eight counties in Alabama, and in some locations the Baptist groups were able to set up portable showers and washer/dryer connections, providing 1,118 people with laundry assistance.

These men and women, working from motor homes and in the heat, reflected the best in selfless service. Many were retired and some have served the Lord for many years, yet they were full of energy and vitality. They served, they encouraged, and they helped. The spirit of Jesus was indeed alive and strong in Greenville.

I realize that there were numerous organizations, charities, churches, and individuals that came to Alabama's aid in our time of need. Additionally, I realize that what I witnessed in Greenville was multiplied all across the State, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the good Samaritans who sacrificed their time, energy, and resources to help Alabamians on their road to recovery. Particularly, I would like to say thank you to the North American Baptist Mission volunteers I met in Greenville for their selfless devotion of time and energy.●

NANCY EARLE

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I recently learned that Nancy Earle of South Conway, NH, was presented with the New Hampshire Lakes Association John F. Morton Annual Award for Exemplary Service, 2004.

I mention this for two reasons. First, although Nancy is not a Vermonter, she and her husband Rink Earle once lived in Putney, VT where three sons and two granddaughters later attended the Putney School, her husband has a niece who lives in Norwich, VT, and they both have close friends in Vermont. Second, this award honors Nancy for her tireless work to protect New Hampshire's many beautiful lakes, lakes which not only citizens of New Hampshire, but Vermonters and people from around the country, as well as from other countries, enjoy particularly in the summer months.

Protecting the environment is a global challenge, but much if not most of

the work is done at the local level. New Hampshire's lakes, like Vermont's and every State's, are threatened by rapid development along their shores, by pollutants caused from marine craft and by over-fishing. It is concerned individuals like Nancy Earle, motivated by nothing more than their sense of responsibility to protect these fragile aquatic ecosystems for the use and enjoyment of future generations to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

I want to congratulate Nancy for this award, and to commend the New Hampshire Lakes Association for paying tribute to such a fine and deserving person. Nancy was the president of the Walker's Pond Association in Conway for over 30 years. She will be 86 years old this December 24, and despite a recent bout with cancer I suspect that, health permitting, Nancy Earle will continue to do what she can to protect New Hampshire's lakes.●

COMMENDING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN E. "GENE" PRENDERGAST ON HIS RETIREMENT

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend a great man and his long career of selfless service to our country. On August 31, Major General John E. "Gene" Prendergast retired after serving 12 years as Montana's Adjutant General.

His 46-year career in the Montana National Guard began 1958, when he joined the Montana Air National Guard. I had the pleasure of getting to know Gene during his time as Montana's Adjutant General. His leadership, vision, and dedication brought a great deal to the dedicated and professional men and women of the Montana National Guard.

Over the years, he worked to improve the Guard's infrastructure in the State and saw the 1940s vintage buildings at Fort Harrison converted into some of the most state-of-the-art facilities in the country. Top of the line military training sites exist today at Limestone Hills. In addition, new and improved infrastructure exists at the Air National Guard Base at Gore Hill in Great Falls and the Army Aviation Support Facility at the Helena Airport.

Our warfighters need the best equipment and infrastructure possible to do their jobs. Gene understood this and I enjoyed working with him to make some of these improvements a reality. As a result, Montana's Guard is known as one of the best in the Nation.

His work did not just stop there. During General Prendergast's time as Adjutant General, Montana's involvement in the Partnership for Peace Program with the country of Kyrgyzstan became a model for the rest of the United States. Also, the Montana National Guard's Youth Challenge Program has successfully transitioned hundreds of "at risk" youth to active, involved members of society.

While he had a talented, dedicated, selfless group behind him, General

Prendergast led in an inspiring and intelligent manner which will not be forgotten. I enjoyed my time working with General Prendergast—a man I am proud to call my friend. His presence will be missed, but a new chapter of his life lies ahead, and I wish him well as that chapter unfolds.●

CONGRATULATING TIM TURNER

● Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a fine Iowan and American. Tim Turner, formerly of Iowa, has been selected for his photographic skills to represent the United States in the First International Culinary Competition. This competition brings together professional culinary photographers from around the globe to bring to life the elements of wine and food in unique settings. The artists will be judged by professional chefs, members of the press, and the general public.

Mr. Turner began his interest in photography while at Heelen High School in Sioux City, IA, and pursued it further at the University of Iowa and the Brooks Institute of Photography. By combining his passion for cuisine with his keen eye for photography he has received major recognition for his work. His photographs have appeared in over 40 cookbooks and he has been nominated three times for the prestigious Beard Award and received a Beard Award for best food photography in a cookbook.

Commenting about his photograph selected for the competition, Turner stated:

The human touch is vital to the authenticity of the food we eat, the wines we drink and the heirlooms we treasure. These are the connections to the heart and soul of mankind. This photograph, uses a patchwork (quilt) as a metaphor for the connection between food and wine, all are united by tradition, in methods, techniques, knowledge and cultural influences, passed through the generations. The patchwork (quilt), sewn for the occasion, was created from scraps of old fabric, clothes and my photographs reproduced on fabric. Set in a timeless space, the chair invites the viewer to explore and enjoy.

The competition is being organized by the Beaujolais winemaking region of France and competitors from 12 countries including Denmark, Sweden, Japan, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Finland, Great Britain, and France are displaying their artistic photographs.

I want to encourage my colleagues to log on to the website at <http://lauriers.beaujolais.com/en> to learn more about the competition and to vote for the United States contestant Tim Turner. The winner will be decided on February 1, 2005. I ask that you please join me in supporting Mr. Turner.●

CECELIA FIRE THUNDER

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly recognize Cecelia Fire Thunder, the newly elected presi-

dent of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Ms. Fire Thunder is the first woman ever to hold this distinguished position.

Located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwest South Dakota and comprised of about 16,000 residents, the Oglala Sioux Tribe elected Ms. Fire Thunder over Russell Means by a margin of 648 votes. Traditionally, the Oglala Sioux Tribe has only been led by male presidents or leaders. Those leaders include historic figures such as Crazy Horse and Red Cloud.

Ms. Fire Thunder's election is truly a momentous occasion, but this accomplishment is not the first example of her selfless dedication to serving her community. Ms. Fire Thunder has devoted much of her energy to enriching the lives of those around her, and now she will take on an even larger role in her tribe. Her altruistic vision for her people is unmatched.

Ms. Fire Thunder was born on the Pine Ridge Reservation but moved to California as a young child. Upon her return to the reservation 24 years later, she attended nursing school and became active in an effort to provide free health care to people unable to afford it themselves. Fire Thunder's background includes her work at a hospital, for the tribe itself, for state government, and as a private consultant. Most recently, she served as the education specialist for Cangleska, Inc., a domestic abuse education and prevention program on the reservation.

President-elect Fire Thunder was inaugurated today and I have faith that her hard work will be a catalyst for positive changes in her community. I congratulate Cecelia Fire Thunder on her election as the next president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in southwest South Dakota. Ms. Fire Thunder is a shining example of perseverance and strength for her people, and for all South Dakota citizens. I have known Cecelia for some time and I sincerely look forward to working with her for many years to come.●

HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF STEPHEN MYERS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly thank Stephen R. Myers for his 32 years as chief investment officer of the South Dakota Investment Council. Mr. Myers has served with distinction as the state investment officer for the State of South Dakota since September 11, 1972. He will retire in January to spend more time with his wife, Mary Lynn.

The South Dakota Legislature created the investment council in 1971 to manage seven funds, including assets from the State's retirement system and the proceeds from tobacco lawsuit damages. Mr. Myers invested \$65 million during the first year of the council's existence and had immediate success. In more than three decades the fund has returned an average of 11.2 percent annually, while the capital markets benchmark is only a 10.5-per-

cent annual return. The assets have grown to over \$7.2 billion, with returns putting the funds in the top 1 percent of the Nation's pension funds. The returns from the SDIC's investments allow over 65,000 South Dakotans to retire with financial dignity.

Mr. Myers is a man of passion and integrity who takes his responsibility to retiring South Dakotans very seriously. As he himself has stated, "When you're managing other people's money, it simply won't do to have 99 percent integrity." Mr. Myers is also humble and quick to give credit to his co-workers and members of the South Dakota State Government for their roles in the SDIC's success.

In addition to his role as chief investment officer of the South Dakota Investment Council, Stephen is a co-founder and past president of the South Dakota Investment Society and co-founder and executive committee member of the National Association of State Investment Officers. He also received the National Association of State Investment Officers' Stoddard Award for his significant contribution to the State's public pensions funds.

After growing up in Pierre, Mr. Myers attended the University of South Dakota, where he met his future bride. His dedication to and love of the State of South Dakota is evident and has led to investments that have positively impacted every South Dakotan, either directly or indirectly. The State will miss his leadership, and it is with honor that I share his accomplishments with my colleagues.●

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 President Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 7, 2003, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 29, 2004, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions: