

choose to participate in this innovative program. I believe that the National Safe Place program brings us closer to making our country safe for youth, and for that I offer my full support.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN GILLILAND

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to commend John Gilliland, who worked for me on the trade staff of the Finance Committee for the last 2 years. He left to go work for the law firm of Miller and Chevalier, where I know he will be a great success.

We were lucky to have John with us on the Committee for 2 years. But he has been working hard on public policy issues for much longer than that.

John began his Senate career in the office of my good friend and colleague, Senator BLANCHE LINCOLN. John worked for 2 years as her legislative counsel on trade and agriculture issues. Senator LINCOLN, of course, was instrumental in helping us pass the 2002 farm bill and the Trade Act of 2002, and John was her key staffer on both pieces of legislation.

My staff worked closely with John on these issues, and everyone was so impressed by him that I hired him to help us on the Finance Committee.

I am glad we did. John has been a tremendous asset. He knows agriculture and trade inside and out. I am always amazed that I can ask him almost anything, and he not only knows that answer, but can give me all of the history, politics, and nuance.

His knowledge of agriculture was particularly important for Montana, where farming and ranching are the engine of our export income. John is somebody who I trusted to represent me in Montana, and someone who I trusted to represent Montana here in Washington. That alone is saying a lot.

John worked on some difficult and important issues while on the Finance Committee. He played a key role in the Australia free-trade agreement and was responsible for oversight of WTO negotiations. He was also a strong advocate for our work to end the embargo against Cuba, and he helped negotiate the first ever Montana-Cuba agriculture trade deal. In fact, John traveled with me on several of my trade missions, including to Cuba, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand.

John is also someone who is very dedicated to his family. He is lucky to have a wonderful wife, Rebecca, and three great kids—Will, Hudson, and Rebecca Jane. And they are fortunate to have a hard-working and talented husband and father.

Now, all of this is not to say that John doesn't have his faults. Most of his colleagues give John a hard time for not being able to match his clothes. Their criticism is warranted. In fact, on a trip to Thailand last year, we finally forced him to buy a new suit and some dress shirts. I am confident that we have now set him on the right path.

Having visited John at his desk, I can also say that I am happy that OSHA

never paid him a visit. I heard someone describe John and his office best when they said that he combines southern charm with northern efficiency and third-world desk organization.

All of that said these are about the worst things you can say about John. In fact, you would be hard pressed to find a person who does not like John. He is truly one of the nicest and most genuine people you will ever meet. There are a lot of people in this town with substantive knowledge, but there are few who can put together the substance, personality, and strategy and be truly exceptional. John is one of those people.

I always say that public service is one of the most noble things a person can do. John Gilliland embodies the best in public service. He is aces. And I wish him the best.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CONGRATULATING BODE MILLER

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Granite Stater, Bode Miller. On Saturday Bode became the first American in 22 years to ski his way to the overall World Cup title. An Easton, NH native, Bode perfected his talents on the slopes of Cannon Mountain and now serves as the Director of Skiing at Bretton Woods. His style may not be conventional. It has been said that, like a good many New Hampshire natives, he has a mind of his own and enjoys doing things his own way. That independent spirit helped him do something else his own way this past Saturday—win the overall World Cup trophy.

The American World Cup drought has been in place since 1983 and, as Bode said on Saturday, had grown into "curse" proportions. In New England, we don't take kindly to sports "curses." Since the turn of the century, New Hampshire's sporting faith has been rewarded with three Super Bowl trophies from the New England Patriots and, of course, the much talked about World Series title in October by the Boston Red Sox. Bode's extraordinary feats on the ski slopes of Europe have gained him worldwide recognition and has an extra special importance for those from New Hampshire who enjoy some of the best skiing in the world in the White Mountains. We are proud that the slopes we enjoy skiing each winter, albeit at speeds much slower than Bode, have been the training ground for the world's best skier.

Bode donned his first pair of skis at the age of 3 and spent much of his early skiing life on the slopes of Cannon Mountain. He entered his first race when he was 11 and attended the Carrabassett Valley Academy in Maine and went on to the Junior Olympics in 1996, where he first made a name for himself. Bode competed in the 1998 and 2002 Winter Olympics, and he has collected eighteen World Cup wins over his career.

At 27 years of age, Bode Miller has accomplished the most sought-after spot of every skier, and has done so with his own style, determination, physical stamina and personality. Today we congratulate Bode Miller on this tremendous accomplishment, and we look forward to continuing to follow the eventful progress of the world's greatest skier.●

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORGE WIDMAN

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I come to the floor today to wish a legendary North Dakota businessman, George Widman, a happy belated birthday. On Saturday, March 12, George turned 85. He celebrated this momentous birthday yesterday with friends and family. I never forget George's birthday because we share March 12 as our birthdays.

George and I have known each other many years, and his resiliency is something I have long admired. Following the disastrous floods and fire that struck downtown Grand Forks in 1997, George was wondering whether or not his world famous Widman's Candy Store would see another day. He told his wife, Betty, they could build the new candy store anywhere in the world, but they both agreed it was best to stay in Grand Forks and rebuild their business they had spent so many years crafting into a downtown Grand Forks landmark.

After Grand Forks had started to rebuild following this disastrous flood, George was kind enough to send every U.S. Senator a Widman's chocolate bar with the words "thank you" imprinted on it. This describes George's approach to life: give of yourself for the benefit of others.

George epitomizes everything North Dakota represents. Growing up during the Great Depression, he learned at an early age that in order to succeed hard work is required. He is very proud of his military service in World War II. He is a Navy veteran and served on the USS *Bunker Hill* from 1942 until his ship was hit in battle in 1945. He is devoted to his family, his community, and his Nation—all reasons we should pay tribute to George on his birthday and every day.

Today, three of George's six children are also in the candy business. Even though he has long passed the normal retirement age in our Nation, he stills comes to work every day to make candy and interact with the public he loves dearly. As George puts it, it's not about the money, but the people he serves.

Again, it is my pleasure to honor George on his 85th birthday and wish him continued health and happiness.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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.)

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1264. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Rates for Pilotage on the Great Lakes" (RIN1625-AE38) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1265. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Fifth Coast Guard District" (RIN1625-AA87) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1266. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area: Humboldt Bay Bar Channel and Humboldt Bay Entrance Channel, Humboldt Bay, California" (RIN1625-AA11) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1267. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations: Severn River, College Creek, Weems Creek and Carr Creek, Annapolis, MD" (RIN1625-AA08) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1268. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations: Rowing Regattas, Indian Creek, Miami Beach, Florida" (RIN1625-AA08) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1269. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations (Including 2 Regulations): [CGD08-05-011], [CGD01-05-017]" (RIN1625-AA09) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1270. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Governing the Conduct of Open Seasons for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects (Order No. 2005) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1271. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's 2004

Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1272. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; NOx Control Program" (FRL No. 7881-2) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1273. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Arizona, Maricopa County Area; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 7879-3) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1274. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Deadline for Storm Water Discharges for Oil and Gas Activity That Disturbs One to Five Acres" (FRL No. 7882-2) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1275. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tennessee: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL No. 7883-5) received on March 14, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 97. A bill to provide for the sale of bentonite in Big Horn County, Wyoming (Rept. No. 109-37).

S. 252. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land in Washoe County, Nevada, to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada (Rept. No. 109-38).

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 253. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the land to the Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 in Pahrump, Nevada, for the construction of a post building and memorial park for use by the American Legion, other veterans' groups, and the local community (Rept. No. 109-39).

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 611. A bill to establish a Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical

Services and a Federal Interagency Committee on emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 612. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to award the Combat Medical Badge or another combat badge for Army helicopter medical evacuation ambulance (Medevac) pilots and crews; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 613. A bill to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 614. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit medicare-eligible veterans to receive an out-patient medication benefit, to provide that certain veterans who receive such benefit are not otherwise eligible for medical care and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAYTON:

S. 615. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill by establishing an enhanced educational assistance program and by repealing the requirement for reduction in pay for participation in the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 616. A bill to inform the American public and to protect children from increasing depictions of indecent and gratuitous and excessive violent material on television, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 617. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to carry out the dredging project, Menominee Harbor, Menominee River, Michigan and Wisconsin; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 618. A bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DODD, Mr. DAYTON, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 619. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. MKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. REED):

S. 620. A bill to reinstate the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 29

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 29, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the misuse of social security numbers, to establish criminal penalties for such misuse, and for other purposes.