

moved into Waco so that she could attend Waco High School. She taught public school at Fulmore Junior High School in Austin, and she often said it was the hardest job she ever held. In 1982 she was elected State treasurer in Texas, making her the first woman elected statewide in almost 50 years. And she won an uphill battle to become the first woman in Texas history to win the race for Governor in her own right.

She often spoke about being motivated to enter politics in order to help others, particularly the women and minorities who traditionally had been shut out of positions of power. She once said, "I did not want my tombstone to read, 'She kept a really clean house.' I think I'd like them to remember me by saying, 'She opened government to everyone.'"

As Governor, she made it a priority to open positions of power to women and minorities and to advocate for what she called the "New Texas," a place where her daughters would never feel that they were held back because of their gender. Under her leadership, Texas student achievement scores rose and dropout rates fell. As Governor, she grew the economy, created an ethics commission, pursued insurance reform, established rehabilitation programs for prison inmates, and fought crime. And she even found the time to earn a motorcycle driver's license on the occasion of her 60th birthday.

Even after she left office, she never stopped working on new ways to encourage women to get involved. One of her last projects, the creation of the Ann Richards School for Young Woman Leaders, is slated to open in Austin in 2007. It will be a tribute to her legacy to see the remarkable new generation of leaders the school will nurture.

Today, her loving children Cecile, Daniel, Clark and Ellen, and her eight grandchildren, are testament in themselves to Ann's generosity of spirit and enduring influence.

Ann Richards had an ability to draw people to her with her warmth and good humor, and her sharp wit and homespun wisdom was legendary. She was never afraid to stick up for what she believed in. She will truly be missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JEAN SMITH

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor Jean Smith of Tiospaye Topa School in Howes, SD. Jean was named the 2006 Teacher of the Year by the National Indian School Board Association.

As the computer teacher and technology coordinator at Tiospaye Topa School, Jean has played an integral and unique role in furthering the education of South Dakota's students. Her initiative, expertise, and kind heart has created an exceptional learning en-

vironment at Tiospaye Topa School. Her selfless dedication to educating students for almost 20 years is truly commendable. I am proud to have such a fine teacher influencing our State's future leaders.

Jean is a graduate of the University of South Dakota. She resides in rural Gettysburg with her husband, Frank, and children, Lindsay and Kyle. Today I rise with Jean Smith's friends, family, and colleagues in honoring her selfless dedication and service to South Dakota's students.●

RECOGNIZING REVEREND STAN GRUNEICH

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the appointment of Reverend Stan Gruneich of Flandreau, SD, to the post of National Chaplain for the American Legion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Reverend Gruneich for his years of service and congratulate him on his promotion to this prestigious post.

Reverend Gruneich was chosen as the National Chaplain after years of serving as Department Chaplain for the American Legion Department of South Dakota. He has graciously provided guidance and leadership to America's veterans and their families throughout his tenure, and will now continue to do so at the national level.

It gives me great pleasure to commemorate Reverend Stan Gruneich on this special occasion and to wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RAPID CITY WEED AND SEED

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the hard work and amazing results of the Weed and Seed organization of Rapid City, SD.

The Rapid City group will cease operations later this month after nearly a decade of tireless efforts to rehabilitate a significant portion of the residential and business area in the community.

In partnership with organizations that included the Rapid City Police Department, the Center for Restorative Justice, Volunteers of America, the Project Safe Neighborhood/Gunwise Program and Good Housekeeping, dozens of individuals came together to address neighborhood crime, abuse, housing and aesthetic issues.

Primarily focused on the East North and East Boulevard neighborhoods, the Rapid City Weed and Seed organization worked with the Rapid City Police Department on a zero tolerance policy with an aggressive police presence in areas that were beset with crime, homelessness and urban blight issues.

The group worked with Rapid City leaders to aggressively enforce city codes involving housing. Vacated and rundown homes and businesses were torn down and replaced with new and thriving businesses and new homes. Other businesses, homes and apartment

complexes were expanded and renovated during this time frame. Efforts to revitalize Roosevelt Park resulted in the construction of a new ice arena and indoor swimming pool, as part of the city's 2012 economic development program. A business association was formed to bring together local business owners to discuss relevant issues of importance. The Weed and Seed organization also developed an "Adopt a Creek" program with 23 sections of Rapid Creek adopted by local companies, organizations and families. The first major cleanup of Rapid Creek since the tragic 1972 flood resulted in the collection of 18 tons of trash, including debris from the 1972 flood event.

Four townhall meetings were conducted with local residents and annual picnics were sponsored to develop a sense of camaraderie and connection between neighbors.

As a result of these efforts, the East North and East Boulevard areas have once again become a source of pride for the community. This sense of pride is now reflected in the residents and businesses located in the area. These results are due in large part to the collective work of the Rapid City Weed and Seed organization and the partnerships that were developed with city officials, law enforcement agencies and the local businesses.

Funded through a 5-year Weed and Seed grant of \$1.025 million, the local organization will cease operations later this month. I wish to recognize the vision and hard-working efforts of the dozens of Rapid City citizens and officials who have provided tireless efforts to rehabilitate and renovate a key part of the community.

I wish to recognize the help of executive director Patricia Pummel and board members Wayne Asscherick, Phyllis Boernke, Dave Bussard, Jim Castleberry, Patrick Clinch, Cynthia Clinch, Linda M. Colhoff, Richard Cooper, Lt. Ray Cornford, Darcy Dennison, Lee Dennison, Ken Edel, Fred Eisenbraun, Lawren Erickson, Dan Island, Adeline Kalmbeck, Jim Kinyon, Craig Kirsch, Eileen Leir, Burt Long, Carol Long, State legislator Alice McCoy, Jim McCoy, Dave Morgan, Lou Morgan, Sharon Oney, Kenneth Palmer, Gloria Pluimer, Alys Ratigan, Kerri Severson, Mickey Snook, Roberta Stevens, Betty Strobel, Raymond Summers, Patricia Trumble, William Trumble, Holli Vanderbeek, Jerry Walenta, Lt. David Walton, Les Wermers, Dexter Wittman, Rapid City Mayor Jim Shaw, former mayor Jerry Munson and Connie Ewing.

Thanks to the efforts of these individuals, other concerned and committed citizens, and officials in Rapid City, the East North and East Boulevard areas of Rapid City have been effectively rehabilitated. The efforts of this organization may serve as a model for other Weed and Seed organizations in the country. Although ceasing operations, the vision and tireless efforts of individuals in the Rapid City Weed and

Seed organization will be maintained. I wish to commend the energetic and innovative work of the Rapid City Weed and Seed organization and the individuals involved in their great work over the past several years.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. ESTELLE R. RAMEY

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, on September 8, our Nation lost a great American and my husband and I lost a wonderful friend of over 20 years. Dr. Estelle R. Ramey was a respected endocrinologist, physiologist, and feminist. She was a woman of great wit and wisdom who fought gender discrimination in the scientific professions and in the conduct of medical research. Dr. Ramey died of Alzheimer's disease at the age of 89.

Estelle Rubin Ramey was born in Detroit and raised in New York City. Her mother, a wise but impoverished and illiterate immigrant, insisted that her daughter be educated. At the age of 15 in the midst of the Great Depression, Dr. Ramey was able to attend Brooklyn College for the price of a library card. Ignoring the gender restrictions of his time, one of her professors made it possible for Estelle to have the opportunity to teach chemistry at the new Queens College while working for her master's in chemistry at Columbia. While at Columbia she met her husband, James Ramey, who was a student at the law school. Their love affair lasted for over 65 years. Estelle, with her trademark wit and self-deprecation, would attribute their successful marriage to never once having had a meaningful conversation.

Dr. Ramey earned her doctorate in physiology and biophysics at the University of Chicago and upon returning to Washington, she became a faculty member at Georgetown Medical School where she taught for over 35 years. Her decades of research in endocrinology brought her accolades and recognition in the world of medicine, while her ability to express the cause for gender equity with honesty and a rapier wit made her a popular speaker, and eminently quotable. However, as it was stated so well in her September 10 obituary in the Washington Post, "Her wit was rooted in statistics, scientific research and personal experience with discrimination." In 1971, she was a founder and second president of the Association for Women in Science, an organization dedicated to achieving equity and full participation for women in science, mathematics, engineering and technology.

Estelle was known to all of us who loved her as Stelle, and at Georgetown Medical School as "La Belle Estelle." These endearing nicknames are a testament to her boundless humanity. She and her husband Jim felt very strongly about how little, if anything, it took to extend a helping hand to someone else. She wrote in a book entitled "Letters to our Grandchildren": "If I could

leave you with any advice, it would be to speak words of caring not only to those closest to you, to all the hungry ears you encounter on your journey through a cold world. Stop on the mountain climb to bring along all those less lucky, less agile or well endowed. It will make the view even more beautiful when you get to the top. For my own epitaph, I ask that it be: 'I loved and was loved and all the rest was background music.'"

Dr. Ramey leaves her husband Jim and two children: attorney Drucilla Stender Ramey of New York and James Ramey of Bethesda, MD, a physician. Estelle Ramey will be missed greatly by those of us who had the benefit of her warmth and friendship, and she will be remembered for her dedication to her family, to science and her profession, and to all women.●

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 including withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 18, 2006, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 2590. An act to require full disclosure of all entities and organizations receiving Federal funds.

S. 2784. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, in recognition of his many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, non-violence, human rights, and religious understanding.

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-8308. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's initiation of a standard competition of the 57th Maintenance Group; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8309. A communication from the Chief of the Bureau of Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Government Securities Act Regulations: Applicability to

Over-the-Counter Derivatives Dealers" (RIN1505-AB70) received on September 11, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8310. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pennsylvania Regulatory Program" (PA-146-FOR) received on September 15, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8311. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Kentucky Regulatory Program" (KY-250-FOR) received on September 15, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8312. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Colorado Regulatory Program" (CO-031-FOR) received on September 13, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-8313. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the CALFED Levee Stability Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8314. 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 "Alabama: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL 8219-5) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8315. 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; West Virginia; Redesignation of the Huntington, West Virginia Portion of the Huntington-Ashland 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan" (FRL 8219-9) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8316. 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 Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Vermont; Negative Declaration" (FRL 8219-2) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8317. 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 "Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL 8085-1) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8318. 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 "Endosulfan, Fenarimol, Imazalil, Oryzalin, Sodium Acifluorfen, Trifluralin, and Ziram; Tolerance Actions" (FRL 8077-9) received on September 14, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8319. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant