

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PRUDENTIAL AWARD
MASSACHUSETTS HONOREES

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to congratulate and honor two young Massachusetts students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Alyssa Bickoff of Brookline and David Poritz of Amherst have been named State honorees in the 2007 Prudential Spirit of Community awards program. One high school student and one middle school student from each State are honored annually.

Alyssa Bickoff, an eighth-grader at Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton, is being honored for her efforts in raising nearly \$25,000 to help find a cure for ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Alyssa's father lost a best friend to the neuromuscular disease, which motivated her commitment to help raise money to fund the research necessary to find a cure. Alyssa raised this money by selling specially inscribed wristbands and participating in fund-raising walks. The money that Alyssa raised has been used not only to fund research, but has also purchased wheelchairs and mobility items for patients. Alyssa's story is a true example of hope for a brighter America.

David Poritz, a senior at Amherst Regional High School, is recognized for founding a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping communities adversely affected by oil contamination in the Amazon River basin of Ecuador. David researched cases involving oil contamination in Ecuador. He spent a month learning to speak Spanish fluently, and then organized a drive throughout New England collecting 12,500 pairs of shoes for children in Ecuador. Since then, David's organization, Esperanza International, Inc., has raised money to furnish educational materials to impoverished schools, and provide medical supplies and support to local clinics. He has guided groups of students and teachers to the Ecuadorian jungle, spoken with Ecuadorian cancer patients, and served as a liaison for doctors and other medical specialists visiting the area. David believes in the importance of reaching out and helping those in need. His attitude and dedication to help the people of Ecuador is highly commendable and inspiring to other young Americans.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate that Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions both of these young people have made. People of all ages need to think about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods. Young volunteers like David and Alyssa are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought these young role models to our attention—the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 11 years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 75,000 young volunteers at the local, State and national level.

Both Alyssa Bickoff and David Poritz should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. As part of their recognition, they will come to Washington in early May, along with 100 other 2007 Spirit of Community honorees from across the country, for several days of special events, including visits to their Senators' offices on Capitol Hill.

I applaud both of them for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. I also would like to salute other young people in my State who were named Distinguished Finalists by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for their outstanding volunteer service. They are: Matthew Chase of Dover-Sherborn High School in Dover, Kelsey Chisholm of Lynnfield High School in Lynnfield, Cieu Lan Dong of Cambridge, Elizabeth Handel of Needham High School in Needham, Gregg Katz of Nipmuc Regional High School in Upton, and Courtney Mota, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School of Rehoboth.

All of these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in their communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 30. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project.

H.R. 407. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of establishing the Columbia-Pacific National Heritage Area in the States of Washington and Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 487. An act to amend the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act to provide compensation to members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for damage resulting from the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1025. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the capacity of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas.

H.R. 1080. An act to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land within the GT Park Subdivision, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1114. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey, to conduct a study on groundwater resources in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1140. An act to authorize the Secretary, in cooperation with the City of San Juan Capistrano, California, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of an advanced water treatment plant facility and recycled water system, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1642. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that, to the extent possible, an enhanced-use lease for a homeless housing project at the Department of Veterans Affairs facility known as the Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center, located in North Hills, California, shall provide that such housing project shall be maintained as a sober living facility for veterans only, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1737. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired waters in the area of Oxnard, California.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

At 5:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. Con. Res. 21. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

The message further announced that the House insists upon its amendment to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Ordered, that Mr. SPRATT, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. RYAN of