

construction of Pueblo Dam, the largest component of the Fry-Ark Project, remains one of the most memorable events in the history of southern Colorado.

Those of us in the West know that the development and responsible management of water is critical to people, to agriculture, to business and to the future. The Southeastern District has worked day in and day out for over five decades to ensure that the project's purpose is fulfilled. They work tirelessly in partnership with the people of the Arkansas Valley, with their Federal partner, the Bureau of Reclamation, and adroitly navigate the rules and regulations of Colorado water law to serve the people who depend on this water.

I commend the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District for its diligence, and I commend the many distinguished people of the Arkansas Valley who have guided the district during its first 50 years as members of its board of directors. They established a tradition of vision, leadership, and distinction that will serve the people of southeastern Colorado well into their next 50 years.●

RECOGNIZING MIKE GEISEN

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mike Geisen for winning the National Teacher of the Year Award. The National Teacher of the Year Program was founded in 1952 by the Council of Chief State School Officers. By rewarding teachers who have affected their students and communities positively, the program focuses public attention on some of the philosophies, methods, and wisdom behind successful teaching. It has been delightful to learn of Mike's contributions, and I am thrilled that he will be traveling around the world to share his insights as Teacher of the Year.

Mike Geisen teaches seventh grade science at Crook County Middle School in Prineville, OR, but his colleagues and students would call that an understatement. Crook County Middle School principal Rocky Miner observed that before Mike assumed chairmanship of the school's science department, students' science test scores had stagnated, with about 55 percent of students meeting or exceeding State standards. Less than 2 years after Mike took the job, 72 percent of Crook County students were meeting or exceeding State standards.

It is clear that other educators have noticed Mike's successes and are starting to seek his advice. In October of last year, Oregon State superintendent Susan Castillo presented him with the Oregon Teacher of the Year Award. A month later, Mike spoke at the Oregon School Boards Association Conference in Portland about the need for schools to shift their attention to skills—such as collaboration, innovation, and adaptability that are more relevant in a globalized economy.

There is no question that Mike can teach and that he can raise test scores, but his focus is not directed at the statistical indications of success as a teacher. In his application for the National Teacher award, Mike wrote the following about America's youth: "These young people are our equals. They are not simply numbers, conglomerations of hormones, or future products. All the latest programs, fads, and statistics are meaningless to a child who isn't cared for on a deeper level. Whether you are a teacher or parent, businessperson or retired, young or old: reach deep down into each child with humor, love, and compassion and they will learn from you. They will learn much more than just how to read and write; they will learn they are wonderfully human."

Mike Geisen, or Mr. G, I thank you for your unique contributions. You are truly an inspiration to us all. As Henry Brooks Adams once remarked, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." Mr. G, your influence will no doubt continue for generations.●

HONORING LOUISIANA HONORAIR

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I acknowledge and honor a very special group, the Louisiana HonorAir. Louisiana HonorAir is a not-for-profit group that flies as many as 200 World War II veterans a year up to Washington, DC, free of charge. On May 3, 2008, a group of 95 veterans will reach Washington as part of this very special program.

I want to take a moment to thank all the brave veterans visiting our Capital City this trip:

Eldon L. Adams; Pat W. Aertker; Kent L. Babb; Luca Barbato; Brant Barnett; Lennie J. Benoit; Nesby J. Bergeron; Warren J. Bourgeois; Edward Breaux; Norman A. Briggs; Lloyd O. Bruchhaus; Edward G. Burleigh; Ralph D. Caillier; Norman W. Cameron; Robert T. Casanova; Viel P. Caswell; Reece J. Chenevert; Albert L. Clifton; William L. Clifton; Vincent C. Cuccio.

Thomas C. Darbonne; Charles W. Derbes, Sr.; Charles R. Doucet; Lloyd J. Doucet; Walter H. Duhon; Andrew V. Fontenot; Joseph F. Fontenot; James R. Gibson; Ernest J. Glavaz; Raphael I. Guidry; Clyde L. Hahn, Sr.; Marion T. Harmon; Didier J. Hebert, Jr.; Osburn Hebert; Herbert J. Hernandez; Richard M. Hollier; Hubert J. Hulín; Isaac Huval, Sr.; Edward B. Jennings; Norvell C. Johniken.

Raymond Kidder, Jr.; Ruth M. Kilgore; Percy J. Lalonde; John G. Lambousy; Isaac W. Lantz; Antoine C. LeBlance; Emile J. LeBlanc; Viealy J. Leger; Joseph H. LeGrand; Daniel J. Lejeune; Lionel Lejeune; James R. LeMaire; Bernard Libersat, Jr.; James C. Martien, Jr.; Robert McDaniel; Humer L. Miller; Eugene O. Munson; Francis Myers; James R. Odum.

Theodore R. Poynter; Joseph R. Prejean; Jack M. Proffitt; David R. Pulver; Johnny M. Rabalais; Aldon J. Richard; Erman L. Richard; Winson Richard; Roy J. Roberie; Arthur L. Rozas; Eddie E. Salassi; Joseph San Filippo; LeeRoy J. Savoie; Lawrence Schambaugh; Clanice J. Schexnyder; Gordon L. Sibille; Ellis Soileau; Louis Soileau; Wallace R. Stelly; Nolan J. Stephens.

Harold L. Stevens; Joe P. Stevens; George Stout; Clarence Tauzin, Sr.; George J. Tellifero; Edward A. Thistewaite; Dallas E. Thomason; Michelle Trahan; Idolphus C. Turnley, Jr.; Harris J. Veillon; Charles C. Verzwylt; Dudley Vice; Stanley R. Wall; Edward R. Williams; Charles C. Willoughby; Richard G. Wilson.

While visiting Washington, DC, these veterans will tour Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. This program provides many veterans with their only opportunity to see the great memorials dedicated to their service.

Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their devotion and service to our Nation. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3196. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Sussex Street in Port Jervis, New York, as the "E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building".

H.R. 3468. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1704 Weeksville Road in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "Dr. Clifford Bell Jones, Sr. Post Office".

H.R. 3532. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5815 McLeod Street in Lula, Georgia, as the "Private Johnathan Millican Lula Post Office".

H.R. 3720. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, as the "Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building".

H.R. 3803. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3100 Cashwell Drive in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the "John Henry Wooten, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 3936. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Helen Highway in Cleveland, Georgia, as the "Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building".

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3988. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3701 Altamesa Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack Post Office Building".

H.R. 4166. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 East Copeland Drive in Lebanon, Missouri, as the "Steve W. Allee Carrier Annex".

H.R. 4203. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3035 Stone Mountain Street in Lithonia, Georgia, as the "Specialist Jamaal RaShard Addison Post Office Building".

H.R. 4211. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office".

H.R. 4240. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10799 West Alameda Avenue in Lakewood, Colorado, as the "Felix Sparks Post Office Building".

H.R. 4454. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3050 Hunsinger Lane in Louisville, Kentucky, as the "Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Military Heroes of Louisville Memorial Post Office Building", in honor of the servicemen and women from Louisville, Kentucky, who died in service during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

H.R. 5135. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Greenway Street in Derby, Kansas, as the "Sergeant Jamie O. Maugans Post Office Building".

H.R. 5220. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3800 SW. 185th Avenue in Beaverton, Oregon, as the "Major Arthur Chin Post Office Building".

H.R. 5400. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 160 East Washington Street in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, as the "Sgt. Michael M. Kashkoush Post Office Building".

H.R. 5472. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Julia M. Carson Post Office Building".

H.R. 5489. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the "Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office."

At 5:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that in accordance with the request of the Senate, the bill (H.R. 493) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment, and all accompanying papers are hereby returned to the Senate.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 7:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4286. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

H.R. 4169. An act to authorize the placement in Arlington National Cemetery of an American Braille tactile flag in Arlington National Cemetery honoring blind members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and other Americans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5492. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to construct a greenhouse facility at its museum support facility in Suitland, Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 5493. An act to provide that the usual day for paying salaries in or under the House of Representatives may be established by regulations of the Committee on House Administration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 209. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Museum of the American Quilter's Society, located in Paducah, Kentucky, should be designated as the "National Quilt Museum of the United States"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 2902. A bill to ensure the independent operation of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5715. An act to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1922. To designate the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and the surrounding Federal land in the State of Florida as an Outstanding Natural Area and as a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

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-6005. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that has been identified as Navy case number 07-05; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-6006. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that has been identified as case number 05-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-6007. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, relative to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6008. A communication from the Special Counsel, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Review Amendments" (RIN1557-AC79) received on April 24, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6009. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grants to States for Operation of Qualified High Risk Pools" (RIN0938-AO46) received on April 24, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6010. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, weekly reports relative to post-liberation Iraq for the period of February 15, 2008, through April 15, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6011. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of action on a nomination for the position of Assistant Administrator, received on April 24, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6012. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Participant's Choices of TSP Funds" (5 CFR Part 1601) received on April 24, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6013. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the applications for the interception of wire and other communications during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-322. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to ensure that insurance companies comply with HB 1-A and pass savings on to policyholders; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-323. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to pass legislation allowing counties additional flexibility related to deferral of property taxes, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

POM-324. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to place a constitutional amendment on the statewide ballot