

and office space needs, and I've asked my staff to take a closer look at this issue in anticipation of marking up the fiscal year 2009 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

I also intend to continue to work with Secretary of State Rice on resolving travel issues impacting members of the Africa National Congress, which is an unnecessary irritant in U.S.-South African relations.

Finally, although Argentina is not a major recipient of U.S. foreign assistance—some \$2 million was provided in fiscal year 2008—relations between our countries have been historically good. I encourage my colleagues to continue to follow counterdrug and counterterrorism developments in that country—and region.

ILLEGAL LOGGING

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, the extension of the Lacey Act within this legislation to cover imported timber and wood products sends a strong signal that the U.S. Congress is serious about supporting the President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging.

The practice of illegal logging—both in the United States and abroad—is a deplorable act that poses environment threats as well as threats to legitimate businesses that operate within the rule of law.

It is crucial, that as this legislation is implemented, a clear distinction be drawn between “innocent” owners in the supply chain who in good faith trade in wood products that they believe to be legally harvested abroad, and those who knowingly traffic in illegal material.

It is the concern of Congress that this line be clearly drawn when prosecutions occur under this act.

Therefore, I support the provision included in this act that places the burden of proof in civil forfeiture cases on the government, as provided by the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RALPH JACKMAN

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of the Nation, and my colleagues in this body, the remarkable career of Ralph Jackman of Vergennes, VT, who has served that small city as its volunteer fire chief for the past 54 years. While it is difficult to confirm this fact definitively, it is my understanding that Ralph Jackman is the longest serving fire chief in the history of this country. This historic longevity of service is deserving of celebration, as is the quality of leadership he has brought to his community, his State and this Nation.

In much of rural America, volunteer firefighters are not just first responders, but the heart of their communities, an essential part of the glue that holds those communities together.

Everywhere across America, young people hear, and for decades have heard, the call to serve their communities; everywhere across America, and most certainly in Vermont, they answer that call at an early age. Like so many volunteer firefighters, Ralph joined his department when he was in his early twenties.

In 1953, at the age of 30, Ralph Jackman was named chief of the Vergennes Fire Department. He has served in that capacity for over half a century, protecting the citizenry and their property in this city near Lake Champlain. In large part owing to Mr. Jackman's leadership, the department was able to successfully upgrade its fire station, recruit many new members and acquire the large array of vehicles, equipment, and apparatus that his fire department needed.

Testimony to his leadership are the positions he has held and the honors he has received: two-time past president of the Vermont State Firefighters Association, past president of the Addison County Firefighters Association, ACFA, the Robert B. King Fire Chief of the Year and as the Frances J. Shorkey Fire Chief of the Year.

Today, even though he is in his eighties, Ralph Jackman continues to serve as the active fire chief in Vergennes and manages all the day-to-day operations of the department.

Not content with his service as a firefighter, and desiring to serve further, in addition to his role as fire chief, Ralph Jackman answered his Nation's call: he is a World War II veteran, and served in the Army Reserves from 1946 to 1972. He is also a member of the American Legion Post 14, continues to serve as Vergennes fire warden, and has been a member of the Rotary Club for 55 years. He has also been an organizer for Meals-On-Wheels.

I am proud of the work that Chief Jackman has done for the city of Vergennes, the State of Vermont and for the spirit of public service and volunteerism in this country. Mr. Jackman's dedication to his family, to his fellow volunteer firefighters, the fire service, and to the people of his community is worthy of commendation, and today I commend him in the highest terms.●

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF JIM MCCRINDLE

• Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a dedicated public servant and a patriotic American from my home State—Mr. James “Jim” McCrindle. Jim passed away on June 1, but his legacy lives on through all that he accomplished and all those he touched.

In 1961, Jim immigrated to America from Ayr, Scotland, to pursue an education and earn his piece of the American dream. He joined the U.S. Army in 1962 and attained the rank of specialist five.

Following his military service, Jim began serving our Nation in a different

capacity through his involvement in the Department of Defense's Morale, Welfare & Recreation, MWR, services and programs. His work helped to enhance the lives of these employees by promoting fitness, good health, and camaraderie.

Jim went on to fulfill his goal of receiving an education by attaining a degree in hospitality management from Cornell University. He would use these skills to support the soldiers he greatly respected and admired.

Throughout his life, Jim strived to bring comfort to members of our armed services. Among his many accomplishments, he managed the Armed Forces Recreation Center—Europe, helped to plan and execute the Department of Defense's R&R program during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and was instrumental in the development of Shades of Green—a Walt Disney World Resort for members of our military.

Jim served as the hotel's manager and helped it to achieve great success. Since its opening in 1995, Shades of Green has routinely achieved one of the highest occupancy rates of any American hotel.

Jim managed Shades of Green up until his passing early this month. It was truly his pride and joy, and was one of his many contributions to our Nation. I applaud his steadfast commitment to improving the lives of others. On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I would like to honor this great American for reminding us all of what makes our Nation great.●

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the American Business Women's Association, ABWA, which will be holding their 2008 National Women's Leadership Conference in Covington, KY. For nearly 60 years the ABWA has identified and addressed the needs of working women. Local ABWA chapters continuously contribute to the professional development of their members through educational programs, along with charitable opportunities, networking, and scholarships. The national scholarships sponsored by ABWA have helped thousands of women meet their educational goals.

With several Kentucky and Ohio chapters and networks sponsoring this year's conference, over 1,000 women from around the country are expected to attend. In addition to meeting distinguished speakers, members will attend seminars and workshops on professional development, industry trends and techniques to improve their job skills.

By improving the lives of women for more than a half century, the American Business Women's Association has proven itself to be an exemplary professional development organization. I