

Featured on OurMaine Homes, a local television program highlighting local businesses in the construction and home maintenance industry, R.C. North has received praise from fellow contractors and customers alike. The business is also an active member of the State of Maine Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Association and is engaged in the community as a member of the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce.

Last month, Senator KERRY and I held a hearing in the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship that focused on the devastating impacts that the rising price of home heating oil is having on homes and small businesses. During that hearing, what has long been apparent was reiterated for all to hear—namely, that without a proactive approach to stem this crisis and achieve real results, the unmistakable tsunami that is heading for Maine as winter approaches will be far worse than we have seen. The American people have come to recognize this fact, and companies such as R.C. North Plumbing & Heating have filled the demand that Americans have for energy-efficient heating and cooling systems. The company's foresight and persistence in leading Maine's development of solar heating is commendable. I thank everyone at R.C. North for their dedication, and wish them success in continuing to broaden Maine's exposure to energy efficiency as well as alternative forms of energy.●

RECOGNIZING JON GARREY

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Jon Garrey, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Jon is a graduate of West Central High School in Hartford, SD. Currently he is attending Grinnell College, where he plans to major in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jon for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING HEATH-HEADLEY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY POST NO. 0199

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize the Heath-Headley American Legion Auxiliary Post No. 0199 for their Veteran's Day program entitled "Honoring Those Who Served". This event took place on November 9, 2007, at the Henry School Gymnasium with the help of the school's students and staff.

The day's events were held to honor all veterans who have served their country. Local veterans were invited by the auxiliary which publicized the

event, registered guests, decorated the school, helped serve lunch, and organized the event with school personnel.

The Kampeska Marine Corps League presented and retired the colors. The Henry School Band, directed by Mrs. Deanna Martens, played patriotic music. Students sang "Proud of Our Veterans" and gave a "Living Flag" presentation. Superintendent Brian Sieh welcomed all and presented the guest speaker, Army National Guard Chaplain Joseph Holzhauser, who addressed the crowd on the topic, "Why All The Fighting?"

Voice of Democracy winner, student Shantel Gassman, presented her winning essay and was awarded a plaque and a scholarship from Watertown Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Duwayne Mack. Students Matthew Harms and Owen Redinger gave a proper flag folding demonstration and presented the flag to the guest speaker.

The Henry High School choir sang "God Bless America" and students Randy Owen and Sarah Montgomery played echo taps. A flag retirement ceremony followed the program under the direction of Marine veteran Joel Montgomery.

The school technology committee took pictures of all veterans and gave prints to each as a thank you. The pictures were taken in front of a mural that senior students and auxiliary member Jane Green created. It depicts the American eagle with wings made of over 200 stars, each naming a local veteran.

Auxiliary members who helped with the activities include Donna Clyde, unit president; Veta Aker, unit treasurer; Jean Lian, unit chaplain; Wanda Clyde, membership chairman; Christy Clyde, junior auxiliary member; Jane Green, unit member and school coordinator for the program. Violet Wicks, district III president, was the auxiliary's guest for the day.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the Heath-Headley American Legion Auxiliary Post No. 0199 and Henry School to thank our veterans for their dedication and service to our country.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SULLY COUNTY AND ONIDA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Sully County and the town of Onida, SD. They will commemorate the 125th anniversary of their founding with celebrations August 7–10, 2008.

Sully County and Onida were founded in 1883. Onida was named after Oneida, NY, with the intentional misspelling. Sully County was named after the builder of Fort Sully, General Alfred Sully. Since their beginning 125 years ago, the communities of Onida and Agar have continued to serve as strong examples of South Dakota values and traditions.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Sully County on

this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY AND RELATED MEASURES DEALING WITH THE FORMER LIBERIAN REGIME OF CHARLES TAYLOR—PM 56

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency and related measures dealing with the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2008.

Today, Liberia continues its peaceful transition to a democratic order under the administration of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. The Government of Liberia has implemented reforms that have allowed for the removal of international sanctions on Liberian timber and diamonds, and Liberia is participating in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative to ensure that its natural resources are used to benefit the people and country of Liberia, rather than to fuel conflict. Charles Taylor is standing trial in The Hague by the Special Court for Sierra Leone. However, stability in Liberia is still fragile.

The regulations implementing Executive Order 13348 clarify that the subject of this national emergency has been and remains limited to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor and specified other persons and not the country, citizens, Government, or Central Bank of Liberia.

The actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons—in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources, their trafficking in illegal arms, and their formation of irregular militia—continue to undermine Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, and for these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to

continue the national emergency with respect to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 16, 2008.

TRANSMITTING THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND POLAND ON SOCIAL SECURITY, CONSISTING OF A PRINCIPAL AGREEMENT AND AN ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT—PM 57

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1), I transmit herewith the Social Security Act, Agreement Between the United States of America and Poland on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement. The agreement was signed in Warsaw on April 2, 2008.

The United States-Poland Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Poland Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement, along with a paragraph-by-paragraph explanation of the provisions of the principal agreement and the related administrative arrangement. Attached to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, a report on the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend to the Congress the United States-Poland Social Security Agreement and related documents.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 16, 2008.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 496. An act to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3032. An act to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to permit candidates for election for Federal office to designate an individual who will be authorized to disburse funds of the authorized campaign committees of the candidate in the event of the death of the candidate.

H.R. 6296. An act to extend through 2013 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission.

H.R. 6455. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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

H. Con. Res. 299. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

H. Con. Res. 385. Concurrent resolution condemning the attack on the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in July 1994, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 3268. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act, to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy commodities, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 6455. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 3270. An original bill to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-422).

By Mr. BYRD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution, Fiscal Year 2009" (Rept. No. 110-423).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 3248. A bill to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

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 Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3269. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish an award program to honor achievements in nanotechnology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 3270. An original bill to reauthorize the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 3271. A bill to amend the definition of commercial motor vehicle in section 31101 of title 49, United States Code, to exclude certain farm vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 3272. A bill to make emergency supplemental appropriations for the National Institutes of Health for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 3273. A bill to promote the international deployment of clean technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3274. A bill to reauthorize the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3275. A bill to establish a pilot program to preserve affordable housing options for low-income individuals; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 3276. A bill to provide for the application of sections 552, 552a, and 552b of title 5, United States Code, (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3277. A bill to amend title 31 of the United States Code to require that Federal children's programs be separately displayed and analyzed in the President's budget; to the Committee on the Budget.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated: