

and gender bias. They received unequal pay, did not have full military status, and were barred from becoming military officers. At the end of the war, the women were ordered to leave military service and paid for their own transportation home. It was not until 1977 that the WASPs who served during the war were provided veterans' benefits.

WASPs were America's first women to fly military aircraft and are a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans. I am so proud of these women from Arkansas, and from all over the United States, who served our country under dangerous and difficult circumstances. While we could never fully express the extent of our appreciation for their service, President Obama signed Public Law 111-40 on July 1, 2009, authorizing Congress to bestow a gold medal in honor of these patriotic Americans. I was honored to be an original cosponsor of the bill and I am happy that Congress has bestowed this long-overdue honor.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

● Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the Tillamook County Creamery Association, a farmer-owned dairy cooperative that was founded 100 years ago. In 1909, 10 small independent cheese plants formed an association in Tillamook County, OR, to produce, distribute, and market quality cheese products that are now sold across the country. Today, Tillamook Cheese is cooperatively owned by 115 dairy farming families. As a national leader in the dairy industry, the Tillamook County Creamery Association produces some of the highest quality milk for cheese-making.

Tillamook County Creamery Association has been honored, not only for their quality dairy products, but for their commitment to community and environmental stewardship. The farmer-owners have been recognized nationally for their dedication to maintaining healthy herds and farmland. They have worked to improve water quality, protect local salmon habitat, and rebuild stream habitats in Tillamook County. In addition to being responsible stewards for Oregon's environment, they've also been advocates in addressing hunger in Oregon communities. In partnership with the Oregon Food Bank, the Tillamook County Creamery Association has contributed countless meals to families in need and worked with school districts to help provide cheese for school lunch programs.

In addition to cheese production, the Tillamook County Creamery Association contributes to the local economy by attracting nearly 1 million tourists every year, making it one of the top tourist attractions in the State. The Tillamook County Creamery Associa-

tion is a shining example of dedication to the State of Oregon and to the health of the coastal economy. The cooperative's mission is "the controlled and profitable growth of consistent, high quality, great tasting Tillamook branded products to meet the demand of the marketplace while optimizing returns to members." The Tillamook County Creamery Association has achieved that vision and much more in Oregon for a century and will undoubtedly carry on that tradition for years to come.

I encourage my fellow Oregonians, my colleagues in the Senate and the entire nation to recognize this anniversary and to congratulate the Tillamook County Creamery Association on 100 years of excellence.●

COMMENDING MAYOR PAT RUSSELL

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I wish to convey my sincere thanks and appreciation in recognizing Pat Russell, from Keene, NH, for her four decades of distinguished service to the State of New Hampshire. On August 1, Pat is retiring from her role as commissioner of the New Hampshire State Liquor Commission, and I am pleased to submit this statement to the RECORD.

Pat Russell has spent her life serving her community, her State, and her country. She was elected to six terms in the New Hampshire House of Representatives and two terms as mayor of Keene. She served with distinction on President Clinton's Council for Developmental Disabilities and for the past ten years she has served on the New Hampshire State Liquor Commission.

To each of these roles, Pat brought a willingness to roll up her sleeves and get to work for those she served. Her record of accomplishment and her wide circle of admirers speak to the qualities that defined her work: intelligence, persistence and devotion to the State of New Hampshire and her beloved city of Keene.

As Governor of New Hampshire, I was looking for someone with these qualities to fill a coming vacancy on the State Liquor Commission. I offered the position to mayor Pat Russell of Keene, who graciously accepted. Since that day in 1999, Commissioner Russell has overseen what she refers to as "a perfectly oiled machine with absolutely fantastic employees." Indeed, under Pat's leadership, the commission has thrived, contributing over \$100 million each year to New Hampshire's general fund.

New Hampshire is proud and grateful for Pat's service and I know her absence will be felt by all who have relied on her leadership and strength. On a personal note, Pat has been a dear friend and mentor to me for over 30 years. I have admired not only her multifaceted professional abilities, but also her commitment to make a difference for the people of New Hamp-

shire. I wish her well in a much-deserved retirement, but I also believe that Pat still has more she wants to do. I know that whatever she does, it will be in the service of others.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing our commissioner, the Honorable Pat Russell.●

COMMENDING THE HARVEY S. FIRESTONE CLASS OF 1969

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, today I would like to congratulate the members of the 1969 Class of Harvey S. Firestone High School in Akron, OH, on the 40th anniversary of their graduation. Graduates of Firestone's Class of '69 have gone on to become distinguished and accomplished educators, scientists, doctors, artists, entertainers, athletes, public officials, entrepreneurs, and moms and dads. This is a tribute not only to those students, but also to their teachers who gave lavishly of their time, attention and knowledge to ensure a sound foundation for almost 400 young men and women.

The State of Ohio has been long recognized for its excellence in education, and the 1969 graduates of Firestone High continue to leave a legacy that is a testimony to that excellence. This weekend these graduates will travel from all parts of the country and beyond to reminisce, and rekindle friendships. I ask Members of the Senate to join me today in congratulating the Harvey S. Firestone Class of 1969.●

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

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 3288. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3293. An act making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.