to the unfathomable service and sacrifice of the many Americans exceptional enough to wear the uniform—not only the 21.8 million veterans alive today, including more than 134,000 from the State of Maine, but also those who are no longer with us. Featuring stunning black granite tiles etched with digitized pictures of veterans, the wall serves as a fitting and moving tribute to those who so ably and courageously served under the Stars and Stripes to protect and preserve the cherished principles that have made our nation the greatest on earth. And, while new tiles are added twice yearly—at Memorial Day and Veterans Day—the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall is always open and provides an opportunity for each of us to express our boundless gratitude to those who have placed service above self not just on national holidays, but on every day of every month of every year.

On August 3, 2012, the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall will officially be dedicated and will feature remarks from Maine's esteemed First Lady Ann LePage, as well as officers and representatives of USCGC *Abbie Burgess*, USCGC *Tackle*, USCGC *Thunder Bay*, USS *San Antonio*, the United States Marine Corps, and the Maine Army National Guard.

On the occasion of the official dedication of the Midcoast Area Veterans Memorial Wall, I convey my deep and abiding appreciation to the many dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the past 16 years to bring this day to fruition. This faithful and successful effort exemplifies the very best of what it means to be a Mainer and an American.●

TRIBUTE TO ALLYSON BURNS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Allyson Burns, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple of months.

Allyson is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Creighton University in Omaha, NE where she is majoring in psychology and creative writing. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Allyson for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TYLER FITZ

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Tyler Fitz, an intern in my Washington, DC, 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.

Tyler is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. He is also a graduate of South Dakota State University where he majored in history and Spanish. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN GOODFELLOW

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Stephen Goodfellow, 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.

Stephen is a graduate of Boiling Springs High School in Boiling Springs, PA. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in economics and finance. 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 Stephen for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEX HALL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Alex Hall, an intern in my Washington, DC, 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.

Alex is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of New Mexico where he is majoring in philosophy and psychology. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO KODY KYRISS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Kody Kyriss, an intern in my Aberdeen, 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.

Kody is a native of Lesterville and a graduate of Menno High School. Currently, he is attending Northern State University, where he is pursuing degrees in English and political science. He is a very 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 Kody for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN RAPOSA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Megan Raposa, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Megan is a graduate of St. Thomas More High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, she is attending Augustana College where she is majoring in business communications and government. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN SMITH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Brendan Smith, an intern in my Washington, DC, 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.

Brendan is a graduate of Lyman High School in Presho, SD. Currently, he is attending South Dakota School of Mines and Technology where he is majoring in chemical engineering. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

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

TRIBUTE TO JAMES WHITCHER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize James Whitcher, an intern in my Washington, DC, 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.

James is a graduate of Hot Springs High School in Hot Springs, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, where he is majoring in athletic training. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)