Wisconsinites value a clean environment, not just for purely aesthetic or philosophical purposes, but because a clean environment ensures that Wisconsin and the United States as a whole remains a good place to raise a family, start a business, and buy a home. We understand that by protecting our environment we are protecting our economy. And, it is important on this Earth Day 2005 that we continue to fight for strong environmental laws, and we press for strong environmental leadership in Congress. Let’s continue to move forward, not roll back.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF LITTLE ROCK

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of the oldest houses of worship in Arkansas. This month the First Missionary Baptist Church of Little Rock, AR, will celebrate its 160th anniversary.

The First Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1845 by Wilson Brown, a slave, who felt led by God to establish a house of worship. In order to fully understand this remarkable achievement we must look at the era in which this church was founded.

First Missionary Baptist Church was established 15 years before the Civil War began and 18 years before the Emancipation Proclamation. Men and women of African descent during those times were viewed as property and had no legal rights. It certainly took courage and vision to establish a church under such circumstances.

Over the years, the First Missionary Baptist Church family has been a witness to history. Many important figures of the civil rights movement have stood in First Missionary’s pulpit to deliver stirring messages.

Reverend Roland Smith, the church’s fifth pastor, was active in the civil rights movement and invited powerful leaders such as Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to speak from the pulpit. Dr. King spoke in April 1963, just 4 months before the “March on Washington”, and his famous “I have a dream” speech. The podium and bibles he used that day are still on display in the vestibule of the church sanctuary.

In 1991, the church hosted another great leader, the Governor of Arkansas Bill Clinton. A few short months later Gov. Clinton launched his bid to become President of the United States. I guess you might say that the pulpit at First Missionary Baptist Church is a launching pad to greatness.

Although First Missionary Baptist Church has great historical significance, its spiritual significance is most important. For 160 years, this church has been a beacon of hope and a spiritual oasis to thousands of Arkansans. This church has worked hard to fulfill the calling of Christ spoken of in the 4th chapter of Luke—to preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the broken-hearted; to preach deliverance to the captives; and recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. In the end, that is First Missionary Baptist Church’s greatest legacy.

ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to oncology nurses. May 1 marks the beginning of the 10th annual Oncology Nursing Day and Month and this year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Oncology Nursing Society.

As co-chair of the Senate Cancer Coalition, I would like to recognize that oncology nurses play an important and essential role in providing quality, compassionate cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer—or who has a loved one who has been treated—will tell you, oncology nurses provide quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our Nation’s cancer care delivery system.

The Oncology Nursing Society is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 31,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, the Oncology Nursing Society has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society’s mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care.

The Oncology Nursing Society has 19 chapters in my home State of California, which support our oncology nurses in their ongoing efforts to provide outstanding quality cancer care to patients and their families throughout our State.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease. Each year in the United States, approximately 1.37 million people are diagnosed with cancer, another 570,000 lose their battles with this terrible disease, and more than 8 million Americans count themselves among a growing community known as cancer survivors.

In 2005, the American Cancer Society estimates that in the State of California there will be 135,030 new cancer diagnoses, and 48,890 cancer deaths. At the same time, in 2005, the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA, estimates that in the State of California there will be a shortage of 18,409 nurses or a ten percent unmet need for nurses overall.

We must do more as a Nation to prevent the pain and suffering caused by cancer and to support the oncology nursing workforce.

Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Over the last ten years, the setting where treatment for cancer is provided has changed dramatically. An estimated 80 percent of all cancer patients receive care in community settings, including cancer centers, physicians’ offices, and hospital outpatient departments. Oncology nurses are involved in the care of a cancer patient from the beginning to the end of treatment, and they are the front-line providers of care by administering chemotherapy, managing patient therapies and side-effects, and providing counseling to patients and family members.

I thank all of our Nation’s oncology nurses for their dedication to our Nation’s cancer patients, especially those who care for cancer patients in California. I commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 30 years and congratulate its leaders and members on its 30th Anniversary. The Oncology Nursing Society has contributed immensely to the quality and accessibility of care for all cancer patients and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support the Society and oncology nurses in their important endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ED WILLOUGHBY

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend who recently retired after three decades on the radio. John Ed Willoughby, who has been a familiar voice on WAPI-AM 1070's morning talk-radio show, “The Breakfast Club,” signed off on April 15, 2005. John Ed’s last day on the air was the 30th anniversary of his first day on the air: April 15, 1975. Over the years, I had many opportunities to join John Ed on the air, and I always appreciated his candid, honest, and humorous demeanor.

John Ed was born February 3, 1935, in Birmingham, AL. He attended West End High School, where he excelled on the athletic field as quarterback of the football team, and captain of the baseball and basketball teams.

He attended the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, which is where our friendship began. We met as students, and the University of Alabama, and it was there that we both served as members of the Delta Chi fraternity.

His radio career began in 1975 on WSGN radio with cohost Tommy...
Charles. The duo was an instant success and became Birmingham's top-rated radio morning show for 8½ years. John Ed and Tommy’s passing in 1986. Following Tommy’s death, Doug Layton joined John Ed and they stayed on the air until February of 1998. In June of 1998, John Ed joined his son, J Willoughby and Scott Michael for a morning show devoted to talk radio on WAPI-AM called “The Breakfast Club.” He would finish out his career at WAPI.

I have had the pleasure of being interviewed by John Ed numerous times over the years. Whether it was in-studio in Birmingham, in Washington during one of his visits, or over the phone, John Ed has been informative and fair. His listeners could count on a funny and enlightening show every morning.

John Ed is blessed with a wonderful family. I suspect that his newfound free time will give him the opportunity to enjoy more time with his wife Jean, son J, daughter-in-law Kim and granddaughter Samantha Jean. Incidentally, J Willoughby has assumed the reins from his father, and is on the air with Richard Dixon.

John Ed has been a great friend to me and a familiar and loyal voice to so many in Alabama. He will be greatly missed by his devoted listeners, but I am certain they join me in wishing him the very best as he embarks on many new endeavors.

ATTACHE SHOW CHOIR

- Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Attache Show Choir from Clinton High School in Clinton, MS, is celebrating 25 years of excellence and has gained national recognition as the premier show choir in the country for its outstanding winning tradition. The Clinton High School Attache Show Choir was formed in September 1980 by Winona Costello. Since 1992, the award winning Attache Show Choir has been under the direction of David and Mary Fehr who truly have a passion for excellence.

Since 1980, Attache has established a winning tradition by capturing 52 Grand Champion titles, 5 second place titles, and 4 3rd place titles in 64 competitions during the last 25 years at prestigious competitions throughout the nation. Nationally, Attache has achieved unprecedented recognition and has received numerous awards through the years for Best Vocals, Best Choreography, Best Overall Effect, Most Creative Show, Best Show Design, Best Repertoire, Best Costume Design, Best Visuals, Best Instrumental Combo, Best Rhythm Section, and Best Brochure competing against choirs from all over the nation.

In its last 35 competitions dating back to the 1995/1996 season, Attache has captured the Grand Champion title 35 times. During the last 15 consecutive competitions, Attache has captured Grand Champion titles and therefore, has the longest grand champion winning streak of any show choir in the nation.

In the last 10, Attache has had the privilege of hosting a number of competitions, including Showstoppers Invitational in Orlando, FL, and Show Choir Nationals in Nashville, TN, where they also performed the opening number at the Grand Ole Opry in March 2005. During the 2005 competition season, Attache captured Grand Champion titles at the 10th Anniversary Fame Show Choir Cup in Branson, MO; the Fame Show Choir America in Orlando, FL; the Petal Invitational in Petal, MS and the Buchanan Invitational in Troy, MO.

Attache has gained extensive praise and accolade for their remarkable talent, potential showmanship, and extraordinary success. It is with great pride to recognize the contributions of this nationally known musical group which has brought honor to its school, its community, and to the State of Mississippi.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the President, Mr. Lott, delivered a message before the Senate message 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 1:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 594. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4900 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the “Ray Charles Post Office Building”. H.R. 1001. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1003 South Heatherwilde Boulevard in Pflugerville, Texas, as the “Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building”. H.R. 1072. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 West End Street in Goliad, Texas, as the “Judge Emilio Vargas Post Office Building”.

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

H. Con. Res. 126. Concurrent resolution expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the Congress in the aftermath of the recent school shooting at Red Lake High School in Red Lake, Minnesota.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:37 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 bill:

S. 167. An act to provide for the protection of intellectual property rights, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

MEASURES REFERRED

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