

I extend further praise to the U.S. Navy for its authorization of Dr. Ferrari's early release. Mr. President, if it were not for this authorization, Dr. Ferrari would have had to complete another year of duty.

As a former Secretary of the Navy, I believe this is a win-win situation for the U.S. Navy and the people of Highland County. The Navy has a long and distinguished history in Virginia, and I appreciate this good neighbor effort.

Dr. Ferrari and the Highland Medical Center will play an important role in providing first-class health care to the community. Moreover, this partnership represents another important step toward positive community and economic growth.

Mr. President, let me say once again that I applaud the Navy, Highland Medical Center and Lt. Carolyn Ferrari, M.D. I am proud that my office was able to play a small role in this very good development for the citizens of Highland County and the surrounding area.●

SIGNIFICANT ALASKA MILESTONE

● Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, Mark Stasik and Daryl Miller, of Talkeetna, recently achieved a great distinction in our State of Alaska—they endured a 45 day, 350 mile circumnavigation of the Denali and Foraker massifs, in Winter, on foot. Along the way, the men crossed four remote mountain passes, traveled approximately 100 miles on 16 glaciers, 80 miles on rugged and diverse, high mountainous terrain, 115 miles on frozen rivers, creeks, and lakes, and 55 miles amidst dense boreal forest. There was an estimated elevation gain and loss of 60,000 feet, the equivalent of two Mt. Everests. The two men also encountered temperatures as low as 60 degrees below zero and winds up to 100 mph, while carrying 150 pounds of gear per person.

This expedition not only shows the personal strength and perseverance of these Alaskans, but it also provided scientific and educational data for the Denali National Park. This was the first expedition of this kind. I am sure the family and friends of Mark and Daryl are very proud of their achievement.

Mr. President, I ask that an article entitled "Off The Couch" from the Climbing Magazine be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From Climbing Magazine, June 15-Aug. 1, 1995]

OFF THE COUCH—TALKEETNA LOCALS COMPLETE GRAND CIRCUMNAVIGATION

Leaving from their couches in downtown Talkeetna, the Alaska Range veterans Mark Stasik and Daryl Miller endured a 45-day, 350 mile circumnavigation of the Denali and Foraker massifs—a first in winter. Calculating an elevation gain/loss of 60,000 feet for the trip, Stasik and Miller experienced expectedly horrendous conditions, including 60-below temperatures and 100 mph winds. They also weathered a tent fire, a fall through river ice, the loss of their maps, and

three days of travel without food or fuel. The route-finding involved crossing four remote mountain passes, 100 miles over 16 glaciers, 115 miles along (usually) frozen rivers, creeks, and lakes, 80 miles of rugged mountain terrain, and 55 miles of dense boreal forest undergrowth—all while toting sleds and packs weighing in at 150 pounds per person. The extremes of terrain and conditions savaged their equipment: Miller broke two ski bindings, and then his skis, then both of his snowshoes, before borrowing Stasik's backup pair. "It was a product tester's wet dream," says Stasik.

Stasik and Miller share a great deal of Alaskan experience, with 14 Denali expeditions between them, numerous other backcountry trips, and involvement in search-and-rescue operations. Having seen the yearly circus of climbers on Denali, many unprepared for and disrespectful of the dangers, Stasik and Miller hope to make a statement with their expedition. "It was important for us to strip down to the rawest elements, to show how locals could do it, on foot, off the couch, and out the back door, to assimilate the experience into an everyday frame of reference, without it needing to become a Spandex production," says Stasik. "All this hype and lionization of climbing has gotten to be a tad much."●

TRIBUTE TO "THE GRAND OL' LADY" OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, MABEL RICHARDSON

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Mabel Richardson, a truly dedicated and respected New Hampshire public servant who passed away this week. Mabel, who was known to many as the Mountain Lady and the Grand Ol' Lady, served as a Republican lawmaker in the New Hampshire House of Representatives for 34 years. She was a role model for me and many other New Hampshire elected officials.

While Mabel may no longer be with us, she has left behind remarkable political legacy. From 1946 to 1980, she served as a State representative, was a strong advocate of public education and helped establish the New Hampshire Vocational-Technical College in Berlin. She was also a delegate to the National Republican Convention in the 1970's and was Chairman of the Order of Women Legislators and the State Republican Party. On her 90th birthday in 1986, then-Governor, John Sununu, read a proclamation of appreciation for her 34 years as a representative, and 4 years later then-Governor, Judd Gregg, named her Republican of the Year. She retired from politics when she was 83 years old.

Mabel lived a long, happy life of 99 years. She was born in Randolph, NH, raised on a farm and educated in a one-room schoolhouse. In 1960, she and her husband Herbert Randall Richardson became directors of the Odd Fellows' Old Folks Home in Concord, and before that they managed the Androscoggin Valley Country Club.

Many people in New Hampshire called Mabel the Mountain Lady because of her love of the White Mountains, where she had led many mountain climbs while working with the youth extension program.

I am amazed at the stamina and energy this lady had even in the later years of her life. As a representative in the New Hampshire Legislature, she was devoted to improving the lives of New Hampshire citizens. Undoubtedly, she will be missed by the many people who were touched by her devotion and hard work. I have always admired this woman, who gave so much to her State. She was truly a New Hampshire landmark, and her memory will live on—as solid as the White Mountains that she loved for her century-long life.●

THE 15TH ANNUAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

● Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this week is National Peace Officers' Week, and the 15th Annual Peace Officers' Memorial Service is occurring today on the West Front of the Capitol.

We Americans go about our daily routines with the comfort that we can do so safely. We tend to forget that this comfort is the result of the efforts of thousands of dedicated peace officers around the country who are working to protect us from crime 24 hours a day.

While we are resting comfortably at home in the twilight hours of early morning, many peace officers are protecting our neighborhoods, patrolling our streets, and often putting themselves in harm's way. Their efforts are not without sacrifices. Police work does not always lend itself to family schedules. There are times when the children's weekend soccer matches are missed, when dinner is enjoyed in a patrol car, and when officers do not have the opportunity to tuck their children into bed. And, there is always the lingering anxiety of the spouse, worrying if tragedy will strike.

Mr. President, I am a cosponsor of Senator KEMPTHORNE's Senate Resolution 251, a resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifices of the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

A preliminary report of the National Association of Police Chiefs noted that 145 law officers died in the line of duty in 1995, including 13 in the Oklahoma City bombing.

While I am pleased to report that Alaska did not lose any peace officers in 1995, Alaska has lost 28 peace officers in the line of duty since statehood.

Today, we honor the memory of all fallen peace officers, and grieve for their families. In particular, I honor the memory of the 28 Alaskans who paid the ultimate price.

I will read the names of those 28 Alaskan peace officers and ask that their names be inserted in the RECORD of today's Senate proceedings. They are: Doris Wayne Barber, Earl Ray Hoggard, Dennis Finbar Cronin, Harry Edward Kier, Jimmy Earl Kennedy, Louie Gordon Mizelle, Ignatius John Charlie, Donald Thomas Dull, Karl William Reishus, Benjamin Franklin

Strong, Thomas Charles Dillon, Johnathon Paul Flora, Richard James Adair, Troy Lynn Duncan, Roland Edgar Chevalier, Jr., David Cameron Harris, Anthony Crawford Jones, Kenneth Grant Nauska, Gary George Wohfiel, Frank Stuart Rodman, Larry Robert Carr, John David Stimson, Gordon Brewster Bartel, Harry Biddington Hanson, Jr., Ronald Eugene Zimin, Robert Lee Bittick, Leroy Garvin Bohuslov, and Claude Everett Swackhammer.

Mr. President, in closing I bring to the attention of my colleagues the Blue Ribbon Campaign organized by Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc., also known as COPS.

Blue ribbons are being flown this week from patrol antennas nationwide to ask communities to support law enforcement, and to remember those officers who have given their lives in the line of duty. You can see them flying proudly from our Capitol Hill Police patrol cars.

In keeping with this sign of support and remembrance, I urge all Alaskans to fly blue ribbons from their car antennas this week.●

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's executive calendar: All nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, en bloc, as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE, ARMY, MARINE CORPS, NAVY

Air Force nominations beginning Brian H. Benedict, and ending Daniel K. Roberts, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 20, 1996

Air Force nominations beginning Michael G. Colangelo, and ending John J. Barlettano, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 20, 1996

Army nominations beginning Ralph G. Benson, and ending Jesse L. Thornton, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 1, 1996

Army nominations beginning Wesley S. Ashton, and ending Valerie E. Holmes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 26, 1996

Army nominations beginning Andre B. Abadie, and ending Steven Paul Zynda,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 26, 1996

Army nomination of Mark H. Lauber, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning Jeffery Dootson, and ending Jon E. Schiff, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning Daniel Bolas, and ending Paul S. Darby, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning Richard R. Eckert, and ending Robert S. Knapp, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning Ernest R. Adkins, and ending James C. Robertson, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning *Raymond A. Constabile, and ending Neil W. Ahle, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Army nominations beginning *William E. Ackerman, and ending *Myrna E. Zapata, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996

Marine Corps nominations beginning Michael C. Albano, and ending Richard C. Zilmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 20, 1996.

Marine Corps nominations beginning William S. Aitken, and ending Douglas P. Yurovich, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 20, 1996.

Marine Corps nominations beginning Joel H. Berry III, and ending Wayne R. Steele, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996.

Marine Corps nominations beginning Craig R. Abele, and ending Paul E. Zambelli, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 1996.

Marine Corps nominations beginning Carlton W. Adams, and ending Donald C. Prograis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 1996.

Navy nominations beginning David L. Aamodt, and ending Schon M. Zwakman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 15, 1996.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

AMENDING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2066, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2066) to amend the National School Lunch Act to provide greater flexibility to schools to meet the dietary guidelines for Americans under the school lunch and school breakfast programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the bill before us today amends the National School Lunch Act to provide greater flexibility to school food service authorities to meet the USDA dietary guidelines for Americans. It is a positive step in providing healthy meals for our Nation's school children.

As I have stated on numerous occasions, the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs work. School food service authorities have worked for nearly 50 years feeding millions of children each school day healthy meals. In recent years they have worked even harder to reduce the fat and sodium in the meals. I support these changes made by school food authorities to improve the nutritional profile of school meals; and I believe it is important to provide them adequate flexibility to serve meals that meet the USDA dietary guidelines for Americans and the recommended dietary allowances.

The purpose of the bill, which is similar to one introduced by the distinguished Senator from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, is not to delete or postpone the implementation of the dietary guidelines as contained in the Healthy Meals for Healthy Americans Act of 1994. It is, however, to provide needed flexibility and clarity to meet these requirements in a cost efficient manner. Guidelines issued by the Department of Agriculture to assist schools in meeting nutrition requirements should reflect the intent of the bill and should not require intensive paperwork or sophisticated nutrient analysis of meals prior to food service.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently issued a policy statement revising the instructions for crediting grains and breads in the National School Lunch Program. The policy statement is complicated and potentially costly to schools. While I support the philosophy of the Department to assist schools in meeting the dietary guidelines, I question the need for such an explicit policy statement. It is my hope that this legislation, along with assistance from the Department of Agriculture, will help school food service authorities serve meals that meet the nutritional requirements and children will eat.

This legislation has strong support from the Indiana School Food Service Association and the American School Food Service Association. It is also supported by the Clinton administration.

I urge Senators to support the bill.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, today the Senate is considering H.R. 2066, a bill that is virtually the same as S.