

of these children. They have established two adoption placement centers in Romania. Moreover, they have inspired others to open their hearts and homes to the orphaned children of Romania.

I want to applaud Dennis and Debbie Sparrow for their devotion to helping adoptive parents and children. These "Angels in Adoption" have not only made a difference in hundreds of young lives, but they have also raised the awareness of the benefits of adoption. The hard work of these angels is an inspiration to others and a blessing to the children whose lives they have touched.●

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPS

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, today I congratulate United Parcel Service on the occasion of its 95th anniversary, and to ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of one of the Nation's most successful companies, a company that employs more than 371,000 men and women worldwide.

UPS was founded on August 28, 1907, in a small office under a sidewalk in Seattle, WA, where founder Jim Casey started what has become the largest transportation company in the world. Now headquartered in Atlanta, GA, UPS is considered the world leader in package delivery, and has been recognized for 4 straight years as the "World's Most Admired Delivery Company" by Fortune magazine.

Customers around the globe rely on UPS to ship nearly 13 million packages a day, creating a volume of 3.4 billion packages annually. UPS.com is one of the busiest websites on the Internet, allowing customers to enhance the customer service and efficiency of their e-commerce.

And UPS employees are among the best in the business, a result of working in an environment that enables growth and opportunity. In return, UPSers provide countless hours of volunteerism to organizations such as the United Way. In fact, last year alone, employees donated more than \$50 million to the United Way, more than any corporation in the 115-year history of the United Way.

The true spirit of UPS is shown in the legacy carried out by its employees over the last 95 years. UPS is an example of what's right in corporate America today, and I am proud to congratulate them on 95 years of exemplary service.●

WELCOMING BOETTGER BABY

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to announce the birth of a fine young lady, Emily Copeland Boettger. Emily is the first child of Scott and Sally Boettger, and was born on May 8, 2002. Scott and Sally live in Hailey, ID, and are active in natural resources and environmental issues in the State.

Scott serves as the Executive Director of the Wood River Land Trust, and Sally serves as the Director of Development of The Nature Conservancy in Idaho. I have spent time in the Boettger's home and enjoyed their expertise and experience in outdoor activities. I'm happy to report that mother, father, and baby are doing well, although Scott and Sally are probably getting used to fewer hours of sleep.

Emily is the granddaughter of Cherry and William F. Gillespie, III, of Wilmington, DE, and Doug and Gail Boettger of Spring City, PA. I know they join with me in sending best wishes and welcome greetings to young Emily.

It is always a joyous event to bring a new family member into the world. Emily has been much-anticipated and has held a place in the hearts of her parents and family for many months now as they have awaited her arrival. As the father of five myself, I know that Scott and Sally are in for a most remarkable, frustrating, rewarding, and exciting experience of their lives. Emily will make certain of that. Our best wishes go out to the Boettger family on this most auspicious occasion.●

IN MEMORY OF IRA YELLIN

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to reflect on the rich life and legacy of an exceptional Los Angeles leader and friend, Ira Yellin.

Ira died of cancer on September 10, 2002, of complications from lung cancer at his home in Santa Monica Canyon. He was 62 years old. This was a sad day for so many people throughout California, whose lives were touched by Ira's unyielding commitment to making our community a more beautiful and better place to live.

Although a strong supporter of many civic organizations, Ira was most well-known for his extraordinary dedication to restoration of several of Los Angeles's historic gems. While eating at Grand Central Market, waiting for a train at Union Station or admiring the beautiful restoration of City Hall, we have Ira to thank for helping to restore and maintain these wonderful places. Those who have visited Los Angeles' recently dedicated Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels may also thank Ira, for playing a role in its design.

Born in 1940 near Boston, MA, and raised in Van Nuys, CA, Ira often visited downtown Los Angeles with his father, who instilled in his son the passion for city life and the importance of making the world a better place. Years later, Ira attended Princeton University and Harvard Law School, and returned to California where he received a master's degree in law from the University of California, Berkeley. After he finished his studies, he spent a year in the Marines before settling in Los Angeles.

In 1967, Ira worked as a lawyer at a Beverly Hills firm while helping to run

a non-profit legal advocacy organization. Then, in 1975, he left the firm to work in real estate development and management, overseeing building projects throughout California and on Los Angeles' Westside. However, Ira realized he was more drawn to downtown buildings in need of restoration than the state-of-the-art build on Los Angeles' affluent Westside. In 1985, Ira began his own real estate firm and dedicated his life to the revival of buildings throughout Los Angeles.

Ira's passion for turning neglected buildings into treasures for the community made him a great asset to Los Angeles. His dedication to community service benefitted many cultural and civic organizations. Ira was active with the Skirball Cultural Center, the J. Paul Getty Trust and served as past president of the American Jewish Committee.

I will miss Ira Yellin. Until the very end, he pursued his vision and turned dreams into realities. Although his presence will be greatly missed, his wonderful work will be long remembered for generations to come.●

ON THE WORK OF ATF SPECIAL AGENT JOHN CARR 2002 MEDAL OF VALOR RECIPIENT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am proud today to recognize the courage of Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, ATF, Special Agent John Carr, who was recently honored with the Federal Bar Association's, FBA, distinguished 2002 Medal of Valor Award in Los Angeles. For the past 13 years, the FBA has presented the award to federal employees who demonstrate outstanding service in their field of work.

Special Agent Carr earned his award for working undercover to catch violent gang members staging a series of home invasion robberies. Carr transformed his look, acquainted himself with the criminals, and pretended to help them in their operation. Carr gave the criminals false information, which led them to traps planned by the ATF. Thanks to Carr's work, many dangerous criminals were caught and taken off our streets.

John Carr risked his life working on this assignment. There are not many people who would make such a great sacrifice for others to feel safe in their homes. Through his courage, bravery and steadfast dedication, Carr prevailed in the face of danger. I extend my sincere congratulations to John Carr on this honor, and thank him for his great work.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO NICK COSMA

● Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my most sincere words of support and encouragement to Mr. Nick Cosma. Today Nick will stand and take his oath to become a citizen of the United States.

I believe it is particularly important during such times as these to reflect upon the dream that America represents to so many people like Nick around the world. A strong family, an adventurer's spirit and a solid character are essential ingredients to brave the challenges of an unknown land. While it certainly isn't an easy task to come from afar and try to make a better life in the United States, people continually come to these shores in search of opportunity, freedom and personal liberty. America is a country full of opportunity for those who are willing to work hard. Nick's hard work and dedication has brought him through our legal process to a junction where he can call himself an American.

Today Nick will have earned all of the rights and responsibilities that come with citizenship. I know this is a proud day for Nick and his wife Abra and their family and friends. As I understand, Nick has already been shopping for a fireproof safe to house his new American passport. It is apparent that Nick is already taking his new responsibilities seriously.

So with that, I offer congratulations to Nick Cosma and his family on his day of becoming a citizen.●

TRIBUTE TO ODILE GROGAN

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following tribute by my nephew, Joseph P. Kennedy II, be printed in the RECORD in honor of Odile Grogan, a dear friend of all of the Kennedy family.

The tribute follows:

TRIBUTE TO ODILE GROGAN

(By Joseph P. Kennedy II)

More than 20 years ago, my good friend Rick Grogan has the great fortune of meeting a savvy and stylish Parisian, Odile Claude Emelie Basch, who was working in New York City, running programs in support of the arts.

The timing was perfect. Rick, turning his sights to a career in international business, found a companion conversant in languages, accustomed to travel, and filled with the same spirit of adventure that has always animated his life.

Before meeting Rick, Odile's consuming passion was the arts.

The Gallic phase of her arts education took place in the Left Bank of Paris, renowned as a world center of culture. She attended the Ecole Alsacienne, located near the Montparnasse cafés frequented by artists and writers for over a century. Her talents were then nurtured at the Lycee Fenelon in the Quartier Saint Germain-des-Pres, just a few yards from Pablo Picasso's former atelier on Rue des Grandos Augustins.

After receiving the Baccalaureate, she took up studies at the arts-intensive Finch College in New York City, whose students have ranged the artistic gamut from Grace Slick to Isabella Rossellini.

She went on to receive an M.A. in art history from Queens College and subsequently applied both her management and art history skills directing visual and performing arts patron programs under Phillip Morris's legendary chairman, Joseph F. Cullman III. Her guidance led to innovative partnerships between the company and such institutions

as the Whitney Museum, which opened a branch in the company's newly built headquarters.

It was during her tenure at Phillip Morris and Odile walked onto the canvas of Rick Grogan's life.

In Odile, he found someone at ease in every facet of conversation, with views as varied and forceful as his own. Whether discussing politics, cuisine, painting, or education, Odile proved not just a font of opinions and facts but a master of epithets and one-liners, in two tongues, no less.

Just out of Harvard Business School, Rick married Odile in 1981 and they moved to London, where Rick worked as a consultant for Bain Company. Rick thought they might spend a year or two in England before returning to the U.S.

Odile thought otherwise. As a tribute to her powers of persuasion, she convinced her deal-maker husband that London was just the right place for the family, conveniently located between France and America.

Rick bought the argument if not the logic and so they settled into life in England, their lives soon graced by Alexandra, Nicholas, and Charlotte, wonderfully gifted children who feel at home anywhere from Harvard Square to Piccadilly Circus to Place de la Concorde.

In spite of all her household demands, Odile never neglected to devote time and energy to her beloved arts. A benefactor of the Serpentine Gallery in London's Kensington Gardens, she has encouraged policies to bring a wider public into museums, using the arts to uplift and liberate the human spirit across broader demographics.

Her cultivated judgment has also been sought by the Tate Museum, where she serves on the acquisition committee.

Several years ago, the enviable rhythms of the Grogans' family life were interrupted by a cycling accident in the French countryside. Rick lay near death in a coma.

Odile, at his side every moment, took full charge of his medical care and recovery. "He is my husband," she declared. "I can take care of him."

And so she did, sitting long hours by his hospital bed, watching for this eyes to open and recognition to light up his expression. With her help and the force of her spirit, Rick did awaken and recover.

The mishap was an awful physical setback but one that brought forth a remarkable discovery for Rick.

He learned that Odile was not just a caring wife and a loving mother, not just a skilled hostess and devoted patroness, not just a talented linguist and art history scholar, but an angel of mercy.

All the advantages of education and career mean little without love in our lives. When that love finds its greatest expression in our hour of need, we can indeed count ourselves among the blessed.

This past June, Rick brought together a wide circle of their family and friends to celebrate all that Odile has meant to him in their years together. The gathering at Versailles Palace was an extraordinary expression of Rick's love.

But the gilt and glitter of that magnificent setting paled in comparison to what shined forth in from the hearts of all there assembled in tribute to Odile.

In the many decades I have known Rick, he has enjoyed tremendous success in academics, athletics, and business. However, the triumph that counts the most is the crown of his heart, his incomparable wife Odile, my good friend's own angel of mercy.●

NATIONAL SCHOOL BACKPACK AWARENESS DAY

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, fall has come and across the country, students

are returning to school facing a public health risk from what many see as a completely benign and essential back-to-school supply, the school backpack.

More than 40 million American students carry backpacks to and from school each day. Health experts say that many of our children are hauling around too much weight, and that extra weight can adversely affect their healthy growth and development. Children carrying backpacks that are overloaded or improperly worn are putting themselves at risk for musculoskeletal pain, including back, neck, and shoulder pain, adverse affects on posture and the developing spine and compromised breathing and fatigue.

The good news for parents and kids is that many of these problems can be avoided by taking some very simple steps to help lighten the load. And the first step is education, raising awareness among parents, educators and kids about these potential risks and offering solutions to address them.

To that end, the American Occupational Therapy Association, AOTA, is sponsoring the first of its kind National School Backpack Awareness Day this week, on Wednesday, September 25. On that day, health professionals will hold events in schools across the country to weigh-in backpack-wearing kids and demonstrate the risks of injury that can result from carrying packs that are worn improperly, or are too heavy. Experts say that students should carry backpacks that weigh no more than 15 percent of their total body weight. Occupational Therapists, thousands of whom work every day in America's schools, will offer simple steps in how to properly pack, select and wear school backpacks.

Nashville, TN, Occupational Therapists will be at the Nashville State Technical Community College helping students learn more about the issue. In Knoxville, there will be a backpack weigh-in and Awareness Day event at Pond Gap Elementary School. I am proud to see these communities taking a leadership role on this important public health issue and I encourage other communities to take similar action on this day to help prevent health care problems that can arise.

Surely, we can all appreciate the bottom line lesson in this important public health education campaign, an ounce of prevention is worth of a pound of cure.●

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 Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2989. A bill to protect certain lands held in fee by the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians from condemnation until a final decision is made by the Secretary of the Interior regarding a pending fee to trust application for that land; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.