

Barreto, Jr., and the entire team at the SBA. They responded to each of my requests and demonstrated knowledge, experience and genuine care by helping small businesses get clean, dry, rebuilt and open again for customers and employees. Their enthusiastic outreach truly gave hope to many owners and employees. And, as a U.S. Senator, one can often try to get Federal agencies to help people. From my perspective, the Small Business Administration is demonstrably one of the very best lead teams in the Federal Government. On behalf of Virginians, I thank them for their special care. Many small entrepreneurs are open for business due to our efforts. It is a satisfying job well done.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, regarding the voice vote on the nomination of Major General Robert T. Clark, U.S. Army, yesterday in the U.S. Senate, had such vote been a rollcall vote, I would have voted "nay."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DELEGATE HOWARD "PETE" RAWLINGS

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Delegate Pete Rawlings. He was a big man with a big heart—who leaves an indelible mark on the people of Maryland.

The Baltimore Sun said Delegate Rawlings had "the passion of a civil rights activist and the analytical mind of a mathematician combined with the savvy of a backroom pol." I think that captures him perfectly.

Delegate Rawlings used America's unique opportunity structure to build a life of accomplishment and of service. But more importantly, he expanded that opportunity structure for thousands of others. In over a quarter century in the House of Delegates, Pete Rawlings was known as a man of principle who put his principles into action.

Mathematician and politician, educator and leader, Pete Rawlings may be best remembered for his untiring advocacy to improve education for all. He was an unfailing advocate for education. He used his power and influence to provide an unprecedented State commitment to education, a \$1.3 billion commitment that the State recognized it would be constitutionally bound to fulfill. Maryland's schools are better today because of Delegate Rawlings.

The passing of Delegate Rawlings is a tragedy, but his life was a triumph. His wife, Dr. Nina Cole, and his children, Wendall Rawlings, Lisa Rawlings, and Councilwoman Stephanie C. Rawlings Black are in my thoughts and prayers.

I ask that an editorial from the Baltimore Sun be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The editorial follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, Nov. 16, 2003]

PETE

He'd thunder and preach, he'd deplore and beseech, he'd count pennies and votes and usually come out on the money.

With the death Friday of Del. Howard P. "Pete" Rawlings, Maryland lost an extraordinarily gifted leader and one of the most accomplished politicians of his era—known for both a tight fist and a caring heart.

Mr. Rawlings' intellectual grasp of policy detail and instinct for mastering the levers of power propelled him to a top post in the General Assembly. His greatest contributions arose, however, from his willingness to take on the unpopular yet critical tasks of fiscal management.

He never forgot his West Baltimore constituents, yet he had the rare courage to sometimes tell them no.

Such was the force of his conviction that he managed not only to survive such battles but to prosper. His remarkable legacy includes a new generation of political leaders he mentored along the way.

As a freshman delegate, part of a tiny minority of black lawmakers, Mr. Rawlings claimed his seat on the House Appropriations Committee in 1979 and immediately started breaking the rules. He publicly questioned every spending item, including those dear to the hearts of his committee mates, wanting to know what good the money would do for "his people."

Colleagues rolled their eyes. Who was this guy? They were used to machine-backed black legislators who were reliable votes, and to the "screamers" who would grandstand in protest of the system but never get anything done. In Mr. Rawlings, they found the passion of a civil rights activist and the analytical mind of a mathematician combined with the savvy of a backroom pol.

He was quickly tagged as a "comer," was named to a subcommittee chairmanship and by 1992 was awarded the gavel of Appropriations Committee chairman.

Running Appropriations in Annapolis isn't like in Congress, where the bounty flows seemingly without limit. In Maryland, the budget has to balance. Mr. Rawlings made it his business to try to ensure the taxpayers' money was being spent wisely.

He battled with Baltimore mayors and officials of Morgan State University. He authored reforms in education, housing and health care. He brought home the bacon as he saw fit.

The strongest testimony to his style may be his endorsement of Martin O'Malley in the 1999 mayoral race against black competitors, thus awarding the job of running a majority-black city to a white politician Mr. Rawlings thought better qualified.

Much of Mr. Rawlings' success stemmed from the sense that he was not interested in power for its own sake, but for what he could accomplish. That, and a deep bass voice that boomed with such moral authority it seemed to come from the heavens.

His passing robs Baltimore of its most effective and empathetic advocate. All of Maryland, though, is poorer for his loss. ●

COMMENDING MAJOR FIRMAN RAY ON RECEIVING THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure and pride to rise today to honor a true Montana hero—MAJ Firman Ray. Major Ray grew up in Butte and Stevensville. He attended the University of Montana. To this

day, he remains a staunch Grizzly fan. His mother Tempie Ray is a retired high school librarian in Stevensville. Firman is the nephew of Carl and Martha Davis from Dillon. At the Montana Constitutional Convention, I was Carl's intern. Furthermore, Firman's wife Sheila Hall Ray was my son's babysitter when we lived in Missoula. Firman and his family are 100 percent Montana.

MAJ Firman Ray has a distinguished career with the Army and he is only getting started. He has excelled in each of his positions since he was commissioned in 1991. Firman also survived the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon where his office was hit by the terrorists.

Today, we recognize MAJ Firman Ray to receive the Silver Star for distinguished gallantry in action against the enemy in Somalia in 1993. The Silver Star is the third highest medal awarded for combat service and the fourth highest medal that a soldier may receive. The Silver Star is awarded to a person who, while serving in any capacity with the U.S. Army, is cited for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

For those reasons and so many more, I am honored to announce that today MAJ Firman Ray will finally receive the distinguished Silver Star award for his valorous performance of duty with the U.S. Army in Somalia that is long overdue.

Many of you may remember the movie, "Black Hawk Down." MAJ Firman Ray, then Lieutenant Ray, was part of the team that the movie, Black Hawk Down, portrayed. It was during the predawn hours of September 25, 1993, that a U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter was shot down in Mogadishu, Somalia. Lieutenant Ray was part of AT Platoon that was given the mission to conduct a search and rescue operation at the helicopter crash site. Clearly understanding the urgency of the situation, Lieutenant Ray took his two lead MK-19 gun vehicles and instructed them to quickly advance to the crash site. Upon entering the site, intense small arms fire and sporadic rocket propelled grenade fire erupted. The gunners under Lieutenant Ray's command were able to destroy three enemy positions in a building just north of the crash site. While attempting to again secure the site, another firefight ensued on the west side. Lieutenant Ray dismounted and on the run, dodged under considerable fire to position the gun vehicles to establish security. Lieutenant Ray's unit was again under fire two more times where Firman moved the gun vehicles into strategic positions that were vital to

suppressing enemy fire. Once the perimeter was finally secured, Lieutenant Ray assisted in collecting the remains of the soldiers killed in the helicopter crash.

Shortly afterwards, the stillness was broken by yet another attack and a firefight resumed. During the next 30 minutes of battle and under fire, Lieutenant Ray ran to and from each gun vehicle's position, directing counter fire and ensuring adequate ammunition. The mission was complete and all personnel and sensitive equipment attempted to withdraw to the airfield. Lieutenant Ray directed his rear security gun vehicle to assume the lead and, again, enemy militia began firing with small arms and RPG's, inflicting casualties. With four blocks to go, Lieutenant Ray remained dismounted and slowly moved south, deftly crossing intersections proven treacherous by prior American casualties.

From the onset to outcome, Lieutenant Ray was first in and last out. He performed his duty with bravery and poise. He is a decisive leader who inspires fierce soldier loyalty, trust, and cohesiveness. Because of his quick and intelligent decisions, and due to his confident direction, Lieutenant Ray's platoon, under the most extreme battle conditions, provided the decisive ingredient to the success of the mission. Due to his combat performance, Firman Ray is deserving of the Silver Star for distinctive recognition as an exceptional soldier and leader of men.

I commend Major Ray for his heroic efforts in Operation Restoration Hope and I am proud that he receives the Silver Star today. He exemplifies valor, bravery, and courage. Major Ray put his life on the line to defend our country. He put his life on the line to save his men. For that, we all owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

We are proud to call MAJ Firman Ray a Montanan. And as Montanans and Americans, we are eternally grateful for his selfless service to our country, which has made our Nation a safer place and has helped to promote and defend democracy across the globe.

Firman, as you know, receiving a Silver Star Medal is quite an accomplishment. I can think of no one more deserving than you. From one Montanan to another, thank you for your commitment to your country, service to your community, and for making America safer for each and every one of us. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which

was referred to the Committee on Finance.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:48 a.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, without amendment:

S. 254. An act to revise the boundary of the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes;

S. 867. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 710 Wick Lane in Billings, Montana, as the "Ronald Reagan Post Office Building"; and

S. 1718. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3710 West 73rd Terrace in Prairie Village, Kansas, as the "Senator James B. Pearson Post Office".

The message also announced that the House passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 280. An act to establish certain National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1189. An act to increase the waiver requirement for certain local matching requirements for grants provided to American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1204. An act to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to establish requirements for the award of concessions in the National Wildlife Refuge System, to provide for maintenance and repair of properties located in the System by concessionaires authorized to use such properties, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1274. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey to Fresno County, California, the existing Federal courthouse in that county;

H.R. 1651. An act to provide for the exchange of land within the Sierra National Forest, California, and for other purposes;

H.R. 1658. An act to amend the Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act to validate additional conveyances of certain lands in the State of California that form part of the right-of-way granted by the United States to facilitate the construction of the transcontinental railway, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2130. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 121 Kinderkamack Road in River Edge, New Jersey, as the "New Bridge Landing Post Office";

H.R. 2907. An act to provide for a land exchange in the State of Arizona between the Secretary of Agriculture and Yavapai Ranch Limited Partnership;

H.R. 3287. An act to award congressional gold medals posthumously on behalf of Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine, Harry and Eliza Briggs, and Levi Pearson in recognition of their contributions to the Nation as pioneers in the effort to desegregate public schools that led directly to the landmark desegregation case of *Brown et al. v. the Board of Education of Topeka et al.*; and

H.R. 3300. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15500 Pearl Road in Strongsville, Ohio, as

the "Walter F. Ehrnfelt, Jr. Post Office Building."

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

H. Con. Res. 69. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Althea Gibson should be recognized for her groundbreaking achievements in athletics and her commitment to ending racial discrimination and prejudice within the world of sports; and

H. Con. Res. 313. Concurrent resolution to urge the President, on behalf of the United States, to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in recognition of his significant, enduring, and historic contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace and to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of His Holiness' inauguration of his ministry as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

S. 1066. An act to correct a technical error from Unit T-07 of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System;

S. 1590. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 315 Empire Boulevard in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, New York, as the "James E. Davis Post Office Building";

S. J. Res. 18. Joint resolution commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years; and

S. J. Res. 22. Joint resolution recognizing Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research.

The enrolled bills and joint resolutions were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 4:52 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 1824. An act to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1813. An act to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign centers and programs for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1588. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2004 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities