

for social, mental, and physical development, but also has maintained a consistent adherence to community service. As one of the first 50 YMCAs chartered in North America, this institution, whose humble beginnings originated in the basement of the Second Presbyterian Church on Monument Circle, has grown to tremendous proportions. Currently serving more than 140,000 Hoosiers, the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis has partnered with over 120 churches, schools and other community groups to reach out to both the urban community along with the surrounding counties. In 2003, 4,688 volunteers, under the direction of the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis, donated their valuable time and energy to provide nearly 98,000 hours of service. Additionally, YMCA branches in Indianapolis presented almost \$4 million for scholarships, program subsidies and varied community services.

I am pleased to take a moment to acknowledge the outstanding efforts the YMCA of Greater Indianapolis has afforded for the past century and a half, and I look forward to their future leadership in building stronger families and a stronger community.●

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL ED EBERHART

● Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I would like to praise a man who for more than 36 years has served his country with honor and distinction. General Ralph E. Eberhart, or Ed his friends call him, will soon be retiring from the United States Air Force. He embodies that which we most value in our military leaders—visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and mission accomplishment.

I would like to personally thank General Eberhart for his service to our great Nation. Not only do I remember our many discussions pertaining to national security, but I fondly recall sharing stories about Colorado. You see, General Eberhart started his long journey at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. As fate would have it, he will soon be finishing his career where he started—in the great state of Colorado.

In the Spring of 1968, Ed Eberhart was sworn in as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Since that day, General Eberhart has successfully mastered nine aircraft and totaled more than 5,000 flying hours in the cockpit. His service spanned tours of duty in Vietnam, Germany, Japan, and perhaps the toughest, at the Pentagon. General Eberhart's career was highlighted with numerous awards and decorations, and he has successfully attained four stars in the United States Air Force. In every job that the General has held, he has successfully fulfilled his obligations and made the advancements only a select few of his peers have made.

In February 2000, General Eberhart's success awarded him the honor of lead-

ing a combatant command for the United States, and he was soon confirmed as a triple-hatted commander. He was given the awesome responsibility of commanding not only the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, but also U.S. Space Command and Air Force Space Command.

During his tenure as Commander of U.S. Space and Air Force Space Command, General Eberhart successfully led military space into a new era. The United States relies upon our space superiority and without it, we cannot maintain dominance of the battlefield. General Eberhart guided our spacelift operations to a 100 percent success rate, thus maintaining our assured access to space. Additionally, when he took command of U.S. Space Command, the United States had just begun to appreciate the value that space-based capabilities bring to the fight—especially after our air campaign in Kosovo. Because of General Eberhart's direction in the space arena—specifically regarding precision guided weapons—we were able to increase the effectiveness of our present capabilities by further integrating space capabilities with air, maritime and land assets. U.S. Space Command's contributions were later seen as the hallmarks of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, which traces directly back to General Eberhart and his vision for the full integration of space and terrestrial units.

The general was also at the focus of our post-September 11 world while in command of NORAD. In 2001, Operation Noble Eagle saw NORAD go from having 14 military aircraft on alert around the Nation to more than 100 in a very short period of time. The response was necessary to protect our skies from internal threats that had manifested themselves in the most horrible of weapons—airliners filled with unsuspecting travelers. General Eberhart soon saw himself having to support continuous combat air patrols, including all the supporting logistics such as tankers and integrating NATO AWACS into that mission.

Ultimately, that fateful day of September 11 triggered not only a change in the focus of NORAD missions, but also showed the need for a unified command that focused on protecting our homeland. And who did the President of the United States trust to lead this new command? General Ed Eberhart. So again, Colorado was fortunate enough to be called home by General Eberhart as he began the challenge of building Northern Command while continuing to lead NORAD. As the combatant command charged with the defense of the homeland, Northern Command reached full operational capability ahead of schedule. Under General Eberhart's leadership, we have seen this unified command continue to fulfill its duties of protecting the American homeland.

It is apparent that while leading these commands, General Ed Eberhart

exemplified visionary thinking. He tackled transformation in the space arena by stressing joint integration of space capabilities and then transformed the way the U.S. military defends our borders and supports civilian agencies with Northern Command.

I cannot express enough gratitude to General Eberhart for his service to our country while in the United States Air Force. We in Colorado were proud to host him as a cadet at the Academy, and continue to be proud when he took command in our great State nearly 30 years later. It was in these roles that I was thankfully given the opportunity to know Ed Eberhart on a personal and professional basis. As General Eberhart prepares to fly off into the wild blue yonder of retirement, I would again like to thank him for his 36 years of blood, sweat, and tears to our Nation, and I wish him and his wife, Karen, the very best in the future.●

RICHARD D. "DICK" LLOYD

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, there is a standing joke among longtime Alaskans that visitors who come to Anchorage to view our glittering skyline, set off against the grandeur of the Chugach Mountains and the placid beauty of the Cook Inlet, haven't seen the "real Alaska."

Whether one agrees with this observation or not, all will agree that one does not have to travel far from Anchorage to experience our unique natural beauty and abundant wildlife. About 45 minutes from downtown Anchorage, easily accessible on paved roads, there is an oasis in Chugach State Park called the "Eagle River Nature Center."

The Eagle River Nature Center nestled in the Chugach Mountains is home to interpretive programs all year around. It is the starting point for miles of well-groomed hiking trails from which one can view moose and occasionally encounter bear. It has been described in terms like "glorious, enchanting and captivating." A place to view snow covered mountains in hues of pink and orange illuminated by the alpenglow sunset. It is a place where John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt would feel right at home.

Born as the Chugach State Park Visitor Center, the facility was in danger of being lost to budget cuts. By 1996, the budget had dwindled to a mere \$14,000 from \$185,000 in 1981. The center needed a savior.

Then along came a remarkable individual, Richard D. "Dick" Lloyd. Dick recognized that volunteers can accomplish things that government agencies cannot and organized the existing volunteers into a non-profit organization to operate the facility. Dick and his wife Carole and Asta Spurgis formed the Friends of the Nature Center which took over and revitalized the visitor center and turned it into the world-class nature center it is today.

I have the sad duty of informing the Senate that Dick Lloyd passed away on

August 22, 2004 from pancreatic cancer at the age of 60. Dick's death was not sudden. He learned of his condition just before Christmas of 2002 when doctors predicted that he would have a few months to live.

But Dick didn't view this diagnosis as an excuse to slow down. Much to the contrary, he devoted his remaining days to the nature center he loved, sledding down the hills adjacent to the center in the winter, giving encouragement to young people maintaining the trails in the summer perched on a lawn chair because he was too weak to offer physical help. Some twenty days before his death he was promoting the nature center's hike-a-thon event called the "Coyote Crawl". In the words of his beloved wife Carole, "That was Dick. He was taking care of his baby to the end."

As Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director and co-founder of the Friends of Eagle River Nature Center, Dick's hard work, vision and stamina led the way in transforming the center into a model for public-private partnership in managing public parklands. Today, through his dedication and leadership, it is a centerpiece of Chugach State Park, providing unparalleled educational, economic and outdoor opportunities on a year-round basis.

For local students, it provides hands-on learning experiences with classes on natural sciences and the environment. For the Eagle River community, it generates significant economic activity by attracting tens of thousands of visitors each year from around the area and around the world. And for those who simply share Dick's love of Alaska's wild outdoors, it offers countless camping, hiking and other recreational opportunities.

Through the legacy of the Eagle River Nature Center, generations to come will share in the legacy of Richard D. Lloyd, a man with the vision to have a dream, the courage to pursue it and the strength to make it a reality.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a nomination and a withdrawal which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, an-

nounced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 918. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a demonstration grant program to provide patient navigator services to reduce barriers and improve health care outcomes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2023. An act to give a preference regarding States that require schools to allow students to self-administer medication to treat that student's asthma or anaphylaxis, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2119. An act to provide for the conveyance of Federal lands, improvements, equipment and resource materials at the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina, to the State of North Carolina.

H.R. 2929. An act to protect users of the Internet from unknowing transmission of their personally identifiable information through spyware programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2984. An act to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to remove the requirement that processors be members of an agency administering a marketing order applicable to pears.

H.R. 3015. An act to provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State.

H.R. 3514. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands and improvements associated with the National Forest System in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3858. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research, and to provide for better coordination of Federal efforts and information on islet cell transplantation.

H.R. 4504. An act to improve protections for children and to hold States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4555. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards.

H.R. 4569. An act to provide for the development of a national plan for the control and management of Sudden Oak Death, a tree disease caused by the fungus-like pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4620. An act to confirm the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to collect approved State commodity assessments on behalf of the State from the proceeds of marketing assistance loans.

H.R. 5011. An act to prevent the sale of abusive insurance and investment products to military personnel.

H.R. 5042. An act to amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1994 to ensure that the dependents of employees of the Forest Service stationed in Puerto Rico receive a high-quality elementary and secondary education.

H.J. Res. 57. Joint resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in recognition of the contributions of the seven Columbia astronauts by supporting establishment of a Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center.

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

H. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that private health insurance companies should take a proactive role in promoting healthy lifestyles, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 250. Concurrent resolution recognizing community organization of public access defibrillation programs.

H. Con. Res. 306. Concurrent resolution honoring the service of Native American Indians in the United States Armed Forces.

H. Con. Res. 480. Concurrent resolution recognizing the spirit of Jacob Mock Doubl and his contribution to encouraging youth to be physically active and fit and expressing the sense of Congress that "National Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day" should be established in Jacob Mock Doubl's honor.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 33. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments:

S. 878. An act to authorize an additional permanent judgeship in the District of Idaho, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agree to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4850) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5011. An act to prevent the sale of abusive insurance and investment products to military personnel; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SPECTER for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

*Robert Allen Pittman, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Human Resources and Administration)

Robert N. Davis, of Florida, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term prescribed by law.

Mary J. Schoelen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of fifteen years.

William A. Moorman, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of fifteen years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)