

on one thing—supporting the research efforts that may find a cure for their son and others like him. As we make decisions that have the power to spark or extinguish the hopes of millions that the cures they pray for may be found, we should keep the Benigno's in mind.

One point is very clear—this new law and the hope it nurtures are a credit to Mr. Benigno's dedication, courage, and perseverance. He is an inspiration to all of us, and a testament to what one determined citizen can achieve in our democracy.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM B. SCHATZ

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Mr. William B. Schatz, General Counsel of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, NEORS, in Cleveland, OH. Mr. Schatz currently serves as the District's representative to the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, AMSA, and on May 24, 2004, will become president of this organization. Mr. Schatz was elected AMSA president based on his exemplary commitment and dedication to the clean water community in Ohio and throughout our Nation.

AMSA's mission is to effectively maintain a strong leadership role in the development and implementation of scientifically sound, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly policies for the protection of public health and the environment. This month, AMSA celebrates 34 years of dedicated service to improving water quality nationwide.

Mr. Schatz has served with distinction at NEORS since 1979 and for over 20 years has been a leader in the water quality arena, working on many projects on behalf of NEORS and AMSA. He has served as the ad hoc legal advisor to the Association of Ohio Metropolitan Wastewater Agencies, a member of the Advisory Board of the National Enforcement Training Institute, and a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Quality Review Committee on Grant Audits. At AMSA, Mr. Schatz has served as chairman of both the Legal Affairs Committee and Joint AMSA-Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies Insurance Committee, a leader of the Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Task Force, and as a member of AMSA's Board of Directors.

Mr. Schatz was instrumental in establishing NEORS as a leading agency in the wastewater industry and in helping to guide its capital programs. Mr. Schatz was also an influential leader in convincing Congress to fund the conversion of NEORS's physical chemical Western Plant in Cleveland, Ohio, to a conventional biological process. Throughout his career, Mr. Schatz has played an important role in helping to shape critical national policy issues on infrastructure funding, enforcement, and construction grant audit appeals.

Mr. Schatz has been of great assistance to me in my efforts in the United States Senate to bring attention to our Nation's vital water infrastructure needs. He is a well-known leader and someone who, day in and day out, goes above and beyond the call of duty. William B. Schatz has made a significant contribution to improving water infrastructure programs across America.

On behalf of the people of Ohio, I am pleased to commend William B. Schatz for his extraordinary efforts to improve public health and the environment and I congratulate him on being elected president of the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies.●

PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL AND ITS AWARD-WINNING MUSIC PROGRAM

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the staff and students of Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the school's designation as a 2004 GRAMMY Signature School. Pioneer is one of 41 high schools nationwide being honored by the GRAMMY Foundation for making an outstanding commitment to music education during the 2003-2004 school year. I am also pleased to note that Pioneer's program was placed in the gold category, making it among the seven best in the Nation.

Established in 1989, the GRAMMY Foundation engages in programs and activities that cultivate the understanding and appreciation of recorded music and its impact on American culture. The GRAMMY Signature School program, with the most enthusiastic support of Dr. Pepper/7 Up, Inc., honors schools that recognize the positive effects that the arts and music have on young people and rewards these schools with a financial grant that assists them in continuing their exemplary music programs into the following school year.

Last fall, the foundation contacted more than 20,000 public high schools to learn more about each school's music program. Competing with large and small institutions situated in rural and urban communities across America, Pioneer High School submitted its application to a panel comprised of top music educators and professionals. Its vocal and instrumental repertoire distinguished Pioneer as a secondary school committed to providing its students with an exceptional music education. As one of the gold category schools, Pioneer will receive a grant of \$5,000 that will help the music department preserve and enhance its already remarkable music program.

Providing an excellent music education for students enriches the entire learning experience. It is my honor to thank the staff and administrators at Pioneer who are responsible for supporting a solid foundation of music appreciation. I also wish to thank the young musicians who willingly dedicate their time and energy toward enhancing their own music abilities and

urge them to share their love of music with the following generations. I am confident my colleagues will join me in offering our heartfelt congratulations for this outstanding achievement.●

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION'S TRUDEAU MEDAL WINNER

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Dr. Philip C. Hopewell, MD. The American Lung Association has awarded Hopewell the Edward Livingston Trudeau Medal for his life-long achievements in the prevention, research treatment and cure of lung-related diseases. The Trudeau Medal is awarded by the American Lung Association in honor of the distinguished scientist, Edward Livingston Trudeau, founder of the American Lung Association and its first president.

Dr. Hopewell is a world-renowned expert in tuberculosis control. He has literally traveled the globe offering technical advice and hands on practical guidance to tuberculosis control programs in developing nations. Dr. Hopewell has seen extended service in Peru and Nigeria and has worked with the PanAmerican Health Organization and the World Health Organization to advance TB control efforts around the world.

While Dr. Hopewell's work has been a boon to many countries, he has also worked hard to protect the health of Americans. As a leading researcher on the interaction between TB and HIV-AIDS infection, Dr. Hopewell and his colleagues at UCSF are credited with for the dramatic 60 percent reduction in TB cases in San Francisco in the past decade.

Dr. Hopewell is a teacher, a scientist and a healer. But he is also an advocate. Dr. Hopewell is equally at home sharing his expertise with members of Congress, as he is with health-workers in Peru. In part because of his advocacy, the U.S. has significantly increased its commitment to global TB control over the past 5 years.

I am pleased to say that I have played a role in supporting the work of Dr. Hopewell and his colleagues around the globe to identify, treat and prevent TB. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have worked to increase the U.S. contribution for global TB control by supporting increased funding for TB programs at the US Agency for International Development. Increased support at USAID has led to the development of a country specific plan to eliminate TB in high burden countries and is achieving results in many high burden TB countries.

While we still have a long way to go to effectively control and prevent TB in the U.S. and around the globe, it is important to recognize and celebrate those individuals who have helped achieve the advances we have made so far. Please join me in honoring Dr. Hopewell for his leadership, passion and tireless work to eliminate tuberculosis.●

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 sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:17 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. 2201. An act to authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans.

H.R. 3505. An act to amend the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act to specify the recipients and consideration for conveyance of the Bend Pine Nursery, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3768. An act to expand the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida.

H.R. 4193. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for the expansion of areas designated as renewal communities based on 2000 census data and to treat certain census tracts with low populations as low-income communities for purposes of the new markets tax credit.

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. 403. Concurrent resolution condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan.

H. Con. Res. 420. Concurrent resolution applauding the men and women who keep America moving and recognizing National Transportation Week.

H. Con. Res. 423. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for activities associated with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2201. An act to authorize the establishment of a national database for purposes of identifying, locating, and cataloging the many memorials and permanent tributes to America's veterans; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3768. An act to expand the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4193. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for the expansion of areas designated as renewal commu-

nities based on 2000 census data and to treat certain census tracts with low populations as low-income communities for purposes of the new markets tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 403. Concurrent resolution condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 420. Concurrent resolution applauding the men and women who keep America moving and recognizing National Transportation Week; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4275. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 10-percent individual income tax rate bracket.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3505. An act to amend the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act to specify the recipients and consideration for conveyance of the Bend Pine Nursery, and for other purposes.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

POM-444. A resolution adopted by the Cleburne Independent School District of the State of Texas relative to the social security system; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-445. A resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Cook of the State of Illinois relative to discrimination against women; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-446. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine relative to the United States Postal Service; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, the United States Postal Service, founded in 1775, provides a means for commerce and communications and provides postal services to all communities, rich and poor, urban and rural, with uniform postage rates and it has for nearly 230 years provided dependable, affordable mail service. The United States Postal Service remains an important part of our nation's economic infrastructure through which nearly \$1 trillion of economic activity is conducted each year and in which 9,000,000 people are employed; and

Whereas, Americans currently enjoy the most extensive postal service at the lowest postage rates of any major industrialized nation in the world, and excessive below-cost postage discounts to large business and advertising mailers unnecessarily drain billions of dollars of revenue from the United States Postal Service and ultimately cause small businesses and ordinary citizens to subsidize those discounts through higher postage rates. Millions of older, disabled and economically disadvantaged Americans do not have easy access to the Internet or to electronic banking and bill paying and therefore are heavily dependent on the United States Postal Service for communication and the conducting of business transactions; and

Whereas, the President created the President's commission on the United States Postal Service, which has recommended far-reaching changes to postal operations and services, including severing postal employees from federal employee health, retirement and workers' compensation programs, and the repeal of certain existing laws, which would pave the way towards reducing rank-and-file wages and benefits while eliminating the current salary cap on executive-level postal positions in order to raise postal executive pay on par with that of corporate CEOs and the commission has recommended a new President-appointed, corporate-style board of directors and the new Postal Regulatory Board that would give these new politically appointed governing bodies broad authority to set rates without prior approval, review and refine the scope of the United States Postal Service's universal service obligation and uniform rate structure and change and restrict the scope of services currently protected under postal monopoly regulations; and

Whereas, this broad authority would allow post offices to be closed without community input and prices to be set with a complicated postage rate structure or would even turn over postal operations to private for-profit enterprises despite a recent survey whose respondents had an overwhelmingly favorable view of the United States Postal Service, with 3 out of 4 saying no major changes are needed and 3 out of 10 saying the United States Postal Service works extremely well as is; and

Whereas, replacing the United States Postal Service's public service obligation with a profit-seeking mandate would undermine the United States Postal Service's historical "universal service" obligation, weaken its national infrastructure and divide our nation politically and economically, and here in the District of Maine, the United States Postal Service has unilaterally implemented a cost-saving reduction of hours and access that restricts customer service by curtailing hours; and

Whereas, this program has reduced hours of service at over 50% of post offices in Maine, severely affecting customer service, without regard to customers' input and complaints. Maine is a rural state and our elderly and disabled citizens depend on postal services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, request that the President of the United States, Congress and the United States Postal Service continue to maintain affordable, dependable mail service at current levels because of its social and economic importance to our nation; and be it further

Resolved, That we oppose any effort to undermine the United States Postal Service's universal service obligation and its uniform rate structure, that the service hours be returned to where they were before the report of the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service and prior to the implementation of the Small Post Office Reviews and Standardization Program and that any recommendation from the presidential commission that curtails public services related to our current postal service be rejected; and be it further

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, go on record against any changes that would harm the workers of the United States Postal Service, including legislation to close small offices, take away or modify the collective bargaining system of postal workers or change the current bargaining system for employees benefits; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United