

Honor, for his courageous and exceptional service to his country. The Briants only son, George H. Briant, a World War II pilot, gave his life for his country. Although the lives of George and Germaine Briant tell tales of patriotism, valor, and loss, the most salient characteristics of their marriage are commitment, loyalty, selflessness, and unconditional love.

I am proud to announce that at a time when people may need shining examples of self-sacrifice and a reminder of the responsibility involved in a commitment to family, George and Germaine Briant offer a portrait of a genuine marriage that has fidelity and trust at its roots. I know that my colleagues here in the United States Senate join me today in congratulating this exceptional couple who have shown the strength of a marriage bond that has only deepened with time.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ARKANSAS EASTMAN FACILITY

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring to the attention of the Senate very good news about the work of some of my constituents. The Arkansas Eastman facility of Brock Service Painting Company, located in Batesville, AR, has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration as a "Star" site under OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. The OSHA Voluntary Protection Program recognizes exemplary safety and health efforts demonstrated by company management and employees in a cooperative effort to promote safe and healthy practices in the work environment.

As you can imagine, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of these Arkansas workers and their managers. The significance of their achievement is underscored when you take into account that since 1982, out of 6.2 million potential sites, only 1,041 sites have been recognized for their efforts in the Voluntary Protection Program. Moreover, only 20 contractors have been selected to receive the prestigious "Star" award.

Not only have employees of the Arkansas Eastman facility maintained a safe work environment and adhered to safe work practices, but they also have consistently exceeded the regulatory requirements established by OSHA. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, sites participating in the Voluntary Protection Program have overall lost-workday, and injury and illness rates 60 percent below their industries' averages.

The dedication and hard work of these employees are credits to themselves, their company, their family and neighbors in Batesville, and the people of Arkansas. I am happy to recognize their achievements and to salute this notable accomplishment here in the U.S. Senate.●

#### HONORING LT. WILLIAM P. KERBY AND OTHER WWII VETERANS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am in anticipation of a special event in my home State of Idaho. On Sunday, June 20, the Ashley Inn in Cascade, ID will dedicate Kerby Gardens on their property. For those in Idaho, particularly those in Valley County, memorializing Lt. William Paul Kerby is an important occasion that represents a man, and a generation.

Lt. William Paul Kerby deserves America's appreciation. As Valley County's first serviceman to lose his life in World War II, he displayed the selfless sacrifice of a true American. It is his dedication that Kerby Gardens hopes to honor—a spirit of sacrifice that has defined our country and the State of Idaho since its beginning and continues to do so today.

Lt. Kerby was one of over 1,700 Idahoans who never returned from the battlefield in that great and terrible war. It is to these men that we owe our freedom today. There is still no other event in modern history that so transformed our world as did the Second World War. It brought out the best in our Nation and proved the courage of an entire generation, one that has been called "The Great Generation." It is the courage and sacrifice of those veterans, men including Lt. William Kerby, that this garden remembers and honors.

In commemorating the dedication of Kerby Gardens, I would like to recognize, honor and thank Lt. Kerby and all of Idaho's veterans for their sacrifices. In World War II, as in other conflicts, America's servicemen and women have demonstrated the values and ideals our country holds dear. For their successes and their sacrifices, we are eternally grateful.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO VICE ADMIRAL MICHAEL COWAN, U.S. NAVY

● Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I wish today to pay tribute to a great American, patriot, Naval Officer, and fellow Coloradan, Vice Admiral Michael Cowan. This summer, Admiral Cowan will retire from the United States Navy after 32 years of distinguished leadership, selfless service, and tireless commitment to our Navy and Nation.

Admiral Cowan became the 34th Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery on Aug. 10, 2001. Raised in Fort Morgan, CO, he attended the University of Colorado and received his M.D. degree from Washington University, St. Louis. Postgraduate training began at Temple University and after entering the Navy, was completed at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda. He is certified in Internal Medicine, and as a Physician Executive of the American College of Physician Executives.

Admiral Cowan began his Navy career as a General Medical Officer at

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in 1971, and was promoted to flag rank while serving as Commanding Officer at the same hospital 25 years later. In between, he has held a wide variety of clinical, research, operational, staff and leadership positions, including Deputy Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer, and Program Executive Officer, TRICARE Management Activity, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs; Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs; Surgeon to the Joint Staff; Commander, Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute; Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune; Task Force Surgeon, Operation Restore Hope, Somalia Senior Research Fellow, National Defense University; Vice Chairman, Department of Military Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Chief of Internal Medicine, U.S. Naval Hospital Rota, Spain.

Throughout his career he has contributed to important advances in the military health system to include: the Military Training Network for Resuscitative Medicine, MTN; the National Disaster Medical System, NDMS; DMRTI; and the integration Force Health Protection Doctrine into Joint Staff Joint Vision 2020. At TRICARE Management Activity, he played a major leadership role in the implementation of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2001, the TRICARE e-health initiative and The National Enrollment Database. Recognized by the Department of Defense, Members of Congress, and the Nation's health care experts as a physician and leader always on the cutting edge of innovation and vision.

Admiral Cowan leaves a legacy of distinction and accomplishments in which he should take great pride and satisfaction. During his tenure as the Navy Surgeon General, he has met every challenge posed including responding to the attacks of September 11, 2001, supporting the response to the anthrax attack on the Hart Senate Office Building in October 2001, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, the ongoing Global War on Terror, and most recently the ricin attack on the Dirksen Senate Building.

Mr. President, I ask to extend best wishes on behalf of the U.S. Senate, for continued happiness and success to Admiral Cowan and his lovely wife Linda as they begin the next chapter of their lives, with the thanks and gratitude of a grateful nation for Admiral Cowan's loyal and dedicated service.●

#### COLONEL EDGAR F. WOODWARD, JR.

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, it is with tremendous gratitude today that I wish to honor Colonel Edgar F. Woodward Jr. for his dedicated service to our country in the Armed Services. Too often we forget the extreme sacrifice involved in keeping our great Nation

free. Colonel Woodward's character reflects this sacrifice and the steadfast resolve so many of our veterans maintain in the preservation of freedom. Allow me a moment to tell you about him.

Colonel Woodward joined the United States Air Force in 1941. Shortly after enlisting, he was called to arms in the European campaign of World War II. Colonel Woodward quickly earned the rank of captain flying B-17 bombers. During his 13th mission flying under the 100th Bomb Group, he was shot down and injured. He received a Purple Heart for these actions.

Colonel Woodward's relentless service to our country does not end here. In addition to his contributions in World War II, Colonel Woodward continued to serve through times of peril. From 1952-1954 he flew in the Korean war. From 1966-1967, he served in intelligence and strategic planning during the Vietnam war. In 1971, after 30 years of service, Edgar F. Woodward Jr. retired as a United States Air Force colonel.

I commend Colonel Woodward for his diligent service. His decision to serve our country places him in my highest esteem, and today I honor him.●

#### 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 and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

#### REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION CREATED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF WEAPONS-USABLE FISSILE MATERIAL IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—PM 87

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a

notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2004. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on June 12, 2003 (68 Fed. Reg. 35149).

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 16, 2004.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7951. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7952. A communication from the Auditor of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Review of the Financial Operations of the Village Learning Center Public Charter School"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7953. A communication from the Chairman, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's report required by the Government in Sunshine Act for Calendar Year 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7954. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7955. A communication from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7956. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Colum-

bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-438, "American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation Real Property Tax Exemption Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7957. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-431, "Lot 878, Square 456 Tax Exemption Clarification Temporary Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7958. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-432, "Use of Fraudulent Temporary Identification Tags and Automobile Forfeiture Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7959. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-434, "Teacher Retirement Incentive Program Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7960. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-433, "Honoraria Temporary Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7961. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-428, "National Capital Medical Center Memorandum of Understanding Approval Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7962. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-429, "Lower Income, Long-Term Homeowner Credit Administration Temporary Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7963. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-425, "Sibley Memorial Hospital Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7964. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-426, "Deed Recordation Tax and Related Amendments Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7965. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-427, "Office of Administrative Hearings Independence Preservation Amendment Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7966. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-435, "Retail Incentive Act of 2004"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7967. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7968. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Competitive Sourcing Official, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing efforts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.