

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO HARDY L. BROWN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the lifetime of achievement of Hardy L. Brown. His story is a true American success story and he stands today as a leader in his community.

Hardy L. Brown was born in Trenton, NC, in 1942, the son of a sharecropper. After graduating from high school, Hardy Brown relocated to California where he found work as a laborer for Kaiser Steel in Fontana. He did not remain a laborer for long, and, in time, he took a management position with Kaiser Steel. During this same time, he also became actively involved with many community projects, always with a focus on community service.

Hardy Brown was elected to the San Bernardino City Unified School District's Board in 1983 and served for 12 years. He served as president of the board and was the first African-American male to hold this position. During his tenure as board president, he was responsible for the re-opening of and the changing of names of two schools on the west side of San Bernardino.

The banner of The Black Voice News, a weekly news publication focusing on issues surrounding the African American community, claims, "The Black Voice News, serving the Inland Empire for 30 years." Cheryl and Hardy have, in fact, owned and operated the newspaper and served the Inland Empire for 28 of those successful years. He has also served on the board of the West Coast Black Publishers Association and has been active in the National Newspaper Publishers Association, which named him Publisher of the Year in 2000. He also has served as president of the California Black Media Association, an advocacy alliance for Black-owned newspapers, magazines, and radio stations.

Hardy L. Brown has had a lasting impact on southern California both through his public service and through his weekly publications. His advice and counsel are often sought by leaders in education, and by civic leaders and by Members of Congress. In fact, Hardy served on the staff of the late Congressman George E. Brown, Jr. in the Inland Empire. He and his wife, Cheryl, provide an important and reliable progressive voice and insight to the community. I applaud Hardy L. Brown for his lifetime of public service and community leadership and I am pleased to honor him as he celebrates his 63rd birthday. Please join me in honoring a great American and a true community hero, Hardy L. Brown.●

## TRIBUTE TO ALBERT CASEY

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, one of my longtime friends, Patricia Patterson, and I were recently discussing the life and service of a great American, and I wanted to take a moment and bring to the attention of my colleagues this American success story.

Al Casey passed away on July 10, 2004, after a lifetime of contributing strong leadership and a gregarious disposition to numerous companies, communities, and organizations from across the country.

After putting himself through Harvard, Al enlisted in the Army during World War II. Following his military service, he returned to Harvard business school, earning a graduate degree in finance. Al loved Harvard, and his friendships there opened doors and enriched his life throughout his long career.

Al's first job was in New York for Railway Express. He and Ellie, his wife of more than 40 years, then moved to San Francisco with the Southern Pacific Railroad. Al later worked as President of the Times Mirror Company and the Los Angeles Times for 8 years, before moving to possibly his most visible corporate assignment—CEO of American Airlines. His philosophy, "you don't have to be mean to be tough," carried him to success in most of his professional endeavors, especially with American, where Al provided aggressive leadership. When he came to American Airlines, he had already established a reputation of high ethical behavior. This, combined with his ability to laugh at himself, secured for him the cooperation and loyalty of his employees.

Following his retirement from American Airlines, Al began a relationship with SMU's Cox Business School as a faculty member. His teaching career was interrupted to rescue First International Bankshares as it emerged from bankruptcy. Later, he served as Postmaster General of the United States under President Reagan. Al enjoyed this tour immensely, even signing letters to close friends as "Big Stamp." He returned to teaching, only to be tapped in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush and Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, to pilot the Resolution Trust Corporation—which was charged with disposing of financial and real estate assets left behind in the wake of failed savings and loan companies in the 1980s. It was a massive undertaking that no one thought could be done. Al worked for 18 months and was able to lead the RTC in disposing of almost all of the assets by the time the Clinton administration took office.

Al had a positive outlook on life and genuinely desired to know about the triumphs and tribulations in the lives of friends and coworkers. He supported countless community and civic organizations and was committed to improving the cities and neighborhoods where he lived and worked.

The effects of his steady guidance and endless enthusiasm for life have been felt in major corporations, in professional associations, in government organizations, and in the personal lives of many Americans. Albert Casey coined "Casey's Law," which holds that "if anything could go right, it

should." I was honored to know Al, and I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to commemorate such a fine man. He is certainly missed and fondly remembered.●

## TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL O. HILL

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute today to Michael O. Hill, superintendent of Assateague Island National Seashore. Mike is retiring after a long and distinguished career in the National Park Service, and I want to thank him for his service to our Nation and especially for the outstanding job he did in managing and enhancing Assateague Island National Seashore since coming to Maryland in 2000.

Throughout his 33-year career with the National Park Service, Mike Hill has distinguished himself through his commitment and dedication to managing and protecting some of our Nation's most precious treasures. Beginning as a seasonal employee at Sequoia National Park in 1973, Mike's career quickly took him through a variety of increasingly challenging posts, from his first permanent position as a horse patrol ranger at Petrified Forest National Park to management positions in parks all over our country including Channel Islands National Park, Shenandoah National Park, VA, and Biscayne National Park, FL. In 1990, he was selected for the 2-year Bevinetto congressional fellowship program, where he worked with the National Park Service and Congress to better manage our national parks. In 1993, he became superintendent of Petersburg National Battlefield, and in 2000 he was selected for his present position at Assateague Island National Seashore.

Over the past 5 years, I have had the opportunity and privilege to work closely with Mike on several initiatives to protect the natural resources at Assateague and to enhance visitors' experiences at the seashore. I know firsthand the great leadership and expertise he brought not only to these initiatives, but equally important, to supporting and encouraging one of the finest staffs of park professionals in the country—at a time when all our parks are operating with only two-thirds of the needed funding and personnel. Under Mike's direction, the integrity of the northern 7 miles of the National Seashore has been restored after decades of unnatural erosion, plans have been advanced to develop a new barrier island visitors center to accommodate the increasing number of visitors to the park, and partnerships with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the Maryland Coastal Bay Program, and the State and local governments have been strengthened.

Mike's dedication to the stewardship of the National Park System has earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues, park visitors, and community residents, alike. His passion for Assateague was evident even in

his voicemail: "I can't take your call right now. With any luck, I'm out on the Island." It is due to that commitment that visitors to Assateague and other units of the National Park System will benefit from his labors for years to come. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of hard work and dedication to the principal conservation mission of the National Park Service and join with his friends and coworkers in wishing him and his family well in the years to come.

It is my firm conviction that public service is one of the most honorable callings, one that demands the very best, most dedicated efforts of those who have the opportunity to serve their fellow citizens and country. Throughout his career, Mike Hill has exemplified a steadfast commitment to meeting his demand.●

#### COMMENDING SMOKEY HOLLER TREE FARM

● Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Earl, Betsy, Meg, and Buddy Deal of Smokey Holler Tree Farm in Laurel Springs, NC, for winning the National Christmas Tree Association's 2005 National Christmas Tree Contest. As Grand Champions, the Deal family has the distinguished honor of providing this year's official White House Christmas tree. This is a storied tradition that began in 1966, and I applaud the Deal family for producing North Carolina's ninth official White House Christmas tree. After winning at the State level, the Deal family's prized 18½-foot Fraser fir was selected out of 22 other entries at the national competition. The tree was then approved by White House Chief Usher Gary Walters and Grounds Foreman Mike Lawn to be the Blue Room Christmas tree. The Deal family will have the honor of presenting the prized Blue Room tree to First Lady Laura Bush in a special ceremony at the White House on November 28, 2005. As an added bonus, the Deal family will provide a tree for the Oval Office and another tree for the private residence at the White House.

This year's official White House Christmas tree is a fine example of the exceptional quality of Christmas trees that we have in North Carolina. North Carolina is one of the top producers of Christmas trees, providing roughly one out of every five Christmas trees in the United States, thereby contributing over \$100 million annually to North Carolina's economy. But this success does not come easily; it takes several years of meticulous care and attention to raise a Christmas tree. An average 7-foot tree is about 10 years old, and throughout that time the grower diligently shapes, grooms, and fertilizes the tree several times per year. Not many people realize the years of hard work and sacrifice that go into raising a Christmas tree, and our growers are to be commended for their continuous success.

North Carolina has a rich history in Christmas trees, and year after year, many American families enjoy the warmth and beauty of these North Carolina trees that are a symbol of the holiday season. I am proud of the hard work exhibited by our Christmas tree growers in North Carolina, and I am proud that there will be another North Carolina Christmas tree in the White House this year.●

#### GUIDEONE INSURANCE HONORED WITH "PRINCIPAL 10 BEST COMPANIES" AWARD

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, each year the Principal Financial Group shines a spotlight on companies across the United States that excel in providing for their employees' financial future, including a well-funded retirement. Selected by a blue-ribbon panel, these exemplary companies are honored with the Principal 10 Best Companies Award.

This year, 1 of the 10 recipients of this prestigious award is GuideOne Insurance of West Des Moines, IA. GuideOne, which was founded in 1947, is one of the Nation's largest insurers of churches. It also insures faith-based private schools and colleges as well as not-for-profit senior living communities.

At a time when so many companies across the United States are cutting back—or completely eliminating—their employer-provided retirement benefits, GuideOne is charting a different course. The firm's executives believe that providing for their employees' financial future is critical to success in recruiting, retaining, and motivating an excellent staff.

The 807 employees at GuideOne enjoy a generous benefit package, including a defined benefit pension plan; 100 percent employer-paid premiums for disability insurance; a 401(k) plan with 100 percent employer match up to 3 percent of pay; and health insurance that is 76 percent employer-paid for employees, and 68 percent employer-paid for dependents. Nearly 85 percent of employees participate in the company's 401(k) plan, which is remarkably high by national standards.

To its great credit, the company is also concerned about the health of its employees. GuideOne has a robust wellness program that, among other things, reimburses employees \$200 for fitness-related expenses.

Mr. President, it is clear to me that GuideOne understands what too many companies in the United States have forgotten. GuideOne understands that its employees truly are its greatest asset and competitive strength, and that a generous benefit package is the way to attract and retain outstanding talent, while keeping morale and productivity high.

So I congratulate GuideOne for the richly deserved honor of receiving the Principal 10 Best Companies Award, and I salute all the folks at GuideOne

for setting an example of enlightened corporate stewardship. They are proving that it is possible to do well and do good at the same time. And I couldn't be more proud that this excellent company calls Iowa home.●

#### 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.)

#### DRAFT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION ENTITLED "UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT"—PM 32

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 Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (the "Agreement"). This Agreement enhances our bilateral relationship with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East region and will promote economic growth and prosperity in both nations.

In negotiating this Agreement, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. The Agreement reflects my Administration's commitment to opening markets and expanding opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses. The Agreement will open Bahrain's market for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services. As soon as it enters into force, the Agreement will eliminate tariffs on all manufactured goods that the United States sells to Bahrain and immediately remove Bahrain's import duties on over 80 percent of U.S. agricultural products. The Agreement is also one of the most comprehensive ever negotiated to reduce barriers to trade in services and will create new opportunities for U.S. services firms.

The Agreement contains procedures that will facilitate cooperation between the United States and Bahrain on environmental and labor matters. The labor chapter of the Agreement reinforces Bahrain's recent legislative actions to expand democracy and improve the protection of worker rights,