

travel on a so-called redeye flight last night from the west coast to arrive this morning back in Washington to vote on 3 motions to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would like the record to indicate that I would have voted for the motions by Senators HARKIN, CARPER, and BAUCUS. I note that on none of these votes would my vote have affected the outcome; all passed by substantial margins. I want to inform my colleagues that I plan to return by another redeye flight leaving tonight for votes Thursday.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE LIFE OF PETER H. SORUM

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to honor the life and accomplishments of Peter H. Sorum, Acting National Ombudsman at the U.S. Small Business Administration. Mr. Sorum passed away at the age of 58, leaving behind an impressive legacy through his work in small business, government, entrepreneurship, publishing, and political fundraising.

In his 4-year tenure at the Small Business Administration, Mr. Sorum served as the Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, working closely with State and local officials to foster open communication and strong working relationships among Federal, State, and local government officials. Following this, Mr. Sorum became a senior adviser in the agency's Office of the National Ombudsman. In that post, he served a number of roles, including the regulatory fairness board coordinator, trade association coordinator, and Federal agency liaison. Most recently, Mr. Sorum was the Small Business Administration's Acting National Ombudsman where he worked to ensure that small business owners, nonprofit organizations, and small government entities were not faced with unfair Federal regulatory enforcement actions.

Prior to his service in the Small Business Administration, Mr. Sorum, a small business owner himself, was the founder and manager of the software and telecommunications company, Maple Eagle International. Additionally, he published The Word, a Marine Corps Reserve Officers' magazine from 1985-1987 as well as Japan Now from its inception in 1992 until 1994.

Mr. Sorum's commitment to public service and small business lasted until his death. His career spanned several decades, including five Presidential administrations. Mr. Sorum's family, friends, and coworkers should take pride in his service to our Nation.

I offer my condolences to his wife Mary Claire, and to his mother, siblings, and children during this difficult time.●

TRIBUTE TO BILL CARSON

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished

Hoosier and friend, Mr. Bill Carson, as he steps down at the end of the year after 42 years of dedicated leadership as chief executive of the Indiana Builders Association.

During those 42 years, Bill has overseen the remarkable transformation of the organization to which he dedicated so much time and energy. In that time, the IBA has grown from 12 locals spread across the State to 33 today. Much of the success Bill has enjoyed can be attributed to his ability to work closely with all parties affected by the building industry. I continue to be grateful for the generous counsel and support he has offered to me throughout my career.

Many Hoosiers also know Bill as an accomplished author, having written a best selling pamphlet entitled "Diary of a Mad Home Builder", and a book about the building industry entitled "High Pitches and Other Tall Tales."

Bill has been recognized by his many friends across Indiana and the Nation for the remarkable contributions he has made to the building industry. He has been awarded Indiana's highest housing award, the John C. Hart Presidential Award, and is a recipient of the Seldon Hale Award for Excellence in Association Management from the National Association of Home Builders. Bill has been recognized by three different Governors as a Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana's highest honor.

From my days as mayor of Indianapolis through today, Bill has been a trusted friend. I look forward to his continued work across Indiana, even as he attempts retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL LEON J. LAPORTE

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the professional dedication, vision and military service of GEN Leon J. LaPorte who is retiring from the U.S. Army after 37 years of dedicated service. It is a privilege for me to recognize the many outstanding achievements General LaPorte has provided the Army, and our great Nation.

General LaPorte was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1968 upon graduation from the University of Rhode Island. He was commissioned an armor officer and served in numerous positions of increasing responsibility to include the position from which he will retire. General LaPorte's contributions throughout his career have made an historic impact and greatly improved our Nation's security.

General LaPorte assumed command of the United Nations Command, Republic of Korea/United States Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea on May 1, 2002. On October 1, 2005, General LaPorte became the longest serving U.S. commander in Korea. Earning this distinction is a tribute to his performance and the excellent relationships he fostered with our Korean allies. General LaPorte's tenure has been highlighted

by several very crucial periods in the alliance. During his time in command, we have witnessed multiple North Korean maritime violations and numerous DMZ and airspace incursions. These threats to the security and sovereignty of Korea led General LaPorte to develop deterrent options and force enhancements that provided increased deterrence against aggression. Despite the tremendous implications involved, General LaPorte remained unflappable and skillfully designed military force packages that could be deployed against anticipated threat scenarios to address the uncertain political-military situations.

General LaPorte has been a principal participant in the fast-paced bilateral military and political discussions. General LaPorte earned the reputation as a well-respected ambassador for the United States. He developed and maintained close ties with the military and civilian leadership of the Republic of Korea in partnership with the U.S. Ambassador to Korea. He is credited with fusing a lasting bond between the two nations.

General LaPorte is a soldier's soldier. Throughout his career foremost in his thoughts and his actions have been initiatives in the best interest of the soldiers, civilians, and family members. These priorities are reflected in every decision he makes. He expects those serving below him to do the same. This was never more evident than when he deployed with the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX as the Chief of Staff in October 1990 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and more recently during the deployment of one of his battalions to Iraq in support of OIF. General LaPorte was tireless in ensuring that each soldier was properly prepared, trained and equipped for the mission and that every family was cared for by a Family Readiness Group. The reenlistment rates in his units demonstrate the love, loyalty and dedication of those who served under General LaPorte.

During his illustrious career in the Army General LaPorte has been nothing less than brilliant. General LaPorte is a great credit to the Army and the Nation. As he now departs to share his experience and expertise with the private sector, I call upon my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to recognize his service and wish him and his wife Judy well in their new endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANK M. "MARK" NEWTON

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Frank M. "Mark" Newton, assessor of Grant Parish. Mr. Newton retired on October 31, 2005, after 45 years of service to Grant Parish. Today, I want to take a moment to offer warm thanks for his years of service to the State of Louisiana and Grant Parish and thank him for all of his endeavors.

A life long resident of Grant Parish, LA, he was the youngest child of Will and Laura Newton and graduated from Dry Prong High School in 1953. After proudly serving in the U.S. Marine Corps for 3 years, he immediately enrolled at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA. Upon graduation in 1960, he became an involved and dedicated teacher in the Grant Parish school system. Soon becoming the business manager for the Grant Parish school system, Mr. Newton served proudly in this position until 1977 when he became the chief deputy tax assessor of Grant Parish. He proudly retained this position until his retirement at the end of October.

Known as someone who would always lend a helping hand, Mr. Newton developed and maintained numerous relationships that have lasted a lifetime. During his tenure as a public servant, not only did Mr. Newton create a wonderful working relationship with all of his employees, but he also became known as a dependable and well respected leader of Grant Parish.

Mr. Newton was recently quoted saying “during my work years, I have tried to follow this motto—follow the law, use common sense, and have compassion for people. Suffice it to say, it’s been a good trip.” All of the citizens of Grant Parish have come to know that he has honorably and courageously stuck by these words. I now come to the Senate floor today to join the residents of Grant Parish in personally commending, honoring, and thanking him for his 45 years service to central Louisiana.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID L. BRANT

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize a dedicated law enforcement official at the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, NCIS, David L. Brant, who is retiring after 28 years of service to the United States. Culminating a law enforcement career spanning over 30 years, Director David Brant has announced his retirement from Federal service effective December 9, 2005.

Following graduation in 1975 with a master’s degree in criminology from Indiana State University, Mr. Brant began his law enforcement career as a police officer with the Dade County Metropolitan Public Safety Department in Miami, FL. Two years later, he accepted an offer from the Naval Investigative Service and began his service as a special agent assigned to NISRA Norfolk, VA. During his 4 years in the Norfolk area, Mr. Brant served in four different NIS offices and also completed an assignment as special agent afloat aboard the USS *Independence*.

For 13 years, Mr. Brant served NCIS in a number of assignments in the United States and the Philippines, and he earned an appointment to the Senior Executive Service as Assistant Director for Counterintelligence in 1994. Mr. Brant served in that capacity until

he succeeded Roy D. Nedrow as Director of the NCIS in May 1997.

Mr. Brant has been widely recognized within the Department of the Navy and the Department of Defense, as well as within the Federal law enforcement community, for his innovative and transformational approaches to enhancing law enforcement and counterintelligence capabilities. He has led NCIS in developing and implementing operational strategies, across all of the agency’s mission areas, which serve as models for others to follow. Additionally, Mr. Brant established the Counterterrorism Directorate and built the Multiple Threat Alert Center, MTAC, specifically to enhance the ability of the NCIS to counter threats facing the Navy and Marine Corps.

Other noteworthy accomplishments during Mr. Brant’s tenure include the creation of both the NCIS Contingency Response Field Office, CRFO, to improve the capacity of NCIS to deploy agents to meet naval requirements in high-threat environments like Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Deployment Support Office, DSO, to better support those personnel once they are deployed. Mr. Brant has also led the creation of the Law Enforcement Information Exchange, LInX, Program, which has brought local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies together to great effect in support of naval force protection and crimefighting in the Hampton Roads area and other parts of the country. He has partnered NCIS with the FBI on Joint Terrorism Task Forces, and assigned agents to Defense Department Force Protection Detachments, FPDs, around the world. Moreover, he has been an outstanding spokesman for NCIS and the Department of the Navy in senior level law enforcement, counterintelligence, and counterterrorism venues around the world.

Most of all, Mr. Brant appreciates that what makes NCIS a truly great agency is the quality of its people. He routinely fought to ensure that agents, analysts, and support personnel alike had the equipment, training, and support required to do their jobs. Under his leadership, NCIS gained civilian arrest authority and built a reputation as a first-class law enforcement agency. He established the Director’s Advisory Board, DAB, to provide him with direct feedback for the field on emergent issues. Mr. Brant improved upon the NCIS support infrastructure by hiring specialists in the fields of communications, congressional affairs, human resources, and information technology. He increased the number of SES and other high-grade billets while also working diligently for the additional funding that will ensure the success of his agency for years to come.

During his career, Mr. Brant has been recognized as an outstanding leader by multiple organizations. For his distinguished service, he has received the Department of Defense Presidential Rank Award and the Department of the Navy

Distinguished Service Award. Recently, he was honored by the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, HAPCOA, with the Aguila Award for Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and by the Women in Federal Law Enforcement, WIFLE, as the 2004 Outstanding Advocate for Women in Federal Law Enforcement.

As he begins his well deserved retirement, Mr. Brant will remain in the Washington, DC, area with his wife Merri Jo, and his children, Emily and Andrew. I salute David Brant for his dedicated service to our country, and I wish him and his family well in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 125. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 280. An act to facilitate the provision of assistance by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the cleanup and economic redevelopment of brownfields.

H.R. 452. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers’ Memorial Museum located in St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System.

H.R. 798. An act to provide for a research program for remediation of closed methamphetamine production laboratories, and for other purposes.

H.R. 853. An act to remove certain restrictions on the Mammoth Community Water District’s ability to use certain property acquired by that District from the United States.

H.R. 975. An act to provide consistent enforcement authority to the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service to respond to violations of regulations regarding the management, use, and protection of public lands under the jurisdiction of these agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3422. An act to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exempt small