

in the United States could prevent nearly 120,000 additional illegal gun sales every year."

Prevention of unintentional shooting and suicide by children requires that proactive steps be taken to reduce access to dangerous firearms. A study published last year in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the risk of unintentional shooting or suicide by minors using a gun can be reduced by 61 percent when ammunition in the home is locked up. Simply storing ammunition separately from the gun reduces such occurrences by more than 50 percent.

Prosecution of gun violence perpetrators alone is not an effective means of preventing injury or death caused by guns, although opponents of common-sense gun safety legislation argue that it is. Unfortunately, our gun safety laws do not include many proactive measures that would reduce the likelihood that a gun is used to kill or injure. I hope my colleagues will join me in working to address this problem.

#### HONORING COACH EDWARD THOMAS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am proud to say that I have recently discovered, almost literally in my own backyard, an Iowan who has received an honor of national significance. Mr. Edward Thomas, the head football coach at Aplington-Parkersburg High School, is the recipient of the 2005 NFL High School Coach of the Year award. He was honored with tickets to Super Bowl XL as well as monetary awards for himself and his football program.

Coach Thomas has been coaching for 34 years, 31 of those at Aplington-Parkersburg. His overall record at Aplington-Parkersburg is 249 wins and 58 losses. He has guided his teams to the State playoffs 15 times, winning 2 State titles and has won 15 conference or district championships during that time. In his 34 years of coaching, he has won such awards as the National Federation High School Football Coach of the Year in 2004, Northeast Iowa Coach of the Year 5 times and was inducted into the Iowa High School Football Coaches' Association Hall of Fame in 1990. With an enrollment of almost 300 at Aplington-Parkersburg, Coach Thomas has produced 4 active NFL players—Detroit Lions defensive end Jared DeVries, Jacksonville Jaguars guard Brad Meester, Kansas City Chiefs center Casey Wiegmann and Green Bay Packers defensive end Aaron Kampman.

Coach Thomas also teaches life lessons and Christian principles while emphasizing the adversity and teamwork of football as a reflection of life in the real world. As Aaron Kampman put it, "He strives to make men better through the game of football." Kampman also stated, "You get goosebumps playing for the guy, the essence of playing under the lights on Friday night he brought that to the forefront."

While the Aplington-Parkersburg Falcons are rivals to my hometown team, the Dike-New Hartford Wolverines, I am very proud that an Iowan has been honored in this way. I offer my sincere congratulations to Coach Thomas on this most prestigious honor and wish him continued success.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### KIMMIE MEISSNER

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Kimmie Meissner, a great Olympian and the pride of Bel Air, MD. We in Maryland are so proud of Kimmie. Sixth at the Olympics at the age of 16 is a monumental achievement.

Like many of my colleagues, I was glued to the television set to watch our U.S. athletes in Torino. I was so impressed with Kimmie's performance, I only wish I could have been there to lead the applause for our hometown girl. She may have come in sixth in Torino, but she came in first in the hearts of the people of my great State.

But Kimmie's accomplishments didn't begin in Torino. She began her figure skating career 10 years ago at the age of 6. At the age of 6. She has been a true student athlete for almost her entire life, balancing her school work with her training. Kimmie goes to Fallston High School in Harford County every day, and when school is over she drives to Delaware to train for her second shift as a competitive figure skater.

Kimmie shows maturity far beyond her years, both on and off the ice. She supports the Leukemia Society and the Johns Hopkins Hospital Children's Center, taking time out of her life to visit with sick young people.

On the ice, Kimmie couldn't have a better attitude. She says her motto is, "enjoy what you do; do what you enjoy." I can think of few young people who have such a thoughtful approach to life. At 16 years old, she has the brightest future of anyone of our Olympic skaters, and I can't wait for the Vancouver Olympics in 2010.

March is Women's History Month and the time when we celebrate the achievements and struggles of women in America. Frequently, we point to those who have come before us and who have paved the way for current advances. But it is only right and proper that in this 2006 Women's History Month, we salute young women like Kimmie and the honor she brought the United States with her talent, skill, and sportsmanship.

Thank you, Kimmie, for making us so proud. Thank you for representing all that is good and true about America's young people. And though I cannot tell a salchow from an axel, let alone a loop from a lutz, even I could recognize your grit, grace, and promise of an even more glittering future.●

##### TRIBUTE TO REGINA RUSH-KITTLE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant and a groundbreaker in her field, Lieutenant Regina Rush-Kittle. On March 3, Lieutenant Rush-Kittle will receive the Officer of the Year award from the Connecticut Association of Women Police.

Regina Rush-Kittle's long and distinguished law enforcement career began in 1983. After graduating from the University of Connecticut with a degree in political science, Lieutenant Rush-Kittle served as a correctional officer at a high security correctional institution for 2 years. She then joined the Middletown Police Department, becoming the first African-American female police officer on the force. She served as a patrol officer for 2 years prior to being accepted into the Connecticut State Police Academy.

Regina Rush-Kittle has been a trailblazer for African-American women in Connecticut law enforcement. After serving as the first African-American woman on the Middletown police force, she went on to become the first African-American woman to attain the rank of sergeant in the Connecticut State Police Department. Most recently, after scoring number one on both the lieutenants exam and master sergeants exam, Regina Rush-Kittle was promoted to lieutenant, the first African-American female to attain that rank in the department's 100-year history. Her current assignment as commander of the Bethany barracks makes her the first African-American woman in State history to command a barracks.

Lieutenant Rush-Kittle's tireless commitment to her community, her State, and her country extends beyond her achievements in Connecticut law enforcement. She is a long-serving Marine and Army Reservist. In 2003, she was deployed to Kuwait for a year, serving with the 804th Medical Brigade out of Fort Devens, MA. Upon her return in February 2004, she attained the rank of sergeant major, taking on responsibilities far beyond the normal obligations to serve 1 weekend per month and 2 weeks in the summer. Despite being eligible for retirement from the Reserves, Lieutenant Rush-Kittle continues to serve.

Regina Rush-Kittle is an outstanding citizen who goes above and beyond to protect her fellow citizens, her State, and her country. I commend her for her continued dedication, and congratulate her, her husband William, and her two children Jorrell and Gianna on this wonderful occasion.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:33 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 449. An act to facilitate shareholder consideration of proposals to make Settlement

Common Stock under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act available to missed enrollees, eligible elders, and eligible persons born after December 18, 1971, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1096. An act to establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site.

H.R. 1259. An act to award a congressional gold medal on behalf of the Tuskegee Airmen, collectively, in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

H.R. 1728. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating portions of Ste. Genevieve County in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2872. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Speaker on February 16, 2006, appointed the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman, and Mr. McCaul of Texas, Vice Chairman.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1096. An act to establish the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in the State of New Jersey as the successor to the Edison National Historic Site; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1259. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1728. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating portions of Ste. Genevieve County in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2872. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### 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-5813. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae) management report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5814. A communication from the Chief Operating Officer/President, Resolution Funding Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Resolution Funding Corporation's Statement on the System of Internal Controls and the 2005 Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5815. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency and related measures blocking property of persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5816. A communication from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation H and Y—Risk-Based Capital Guidelines; Market Risk Measure; Securities Borrowing Transactions" ((RIN1557-AC-90) (Docket No. R-1087)) received on February 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5817. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Risk-Based Capital Guidelines; Market Risk Measure; Securities Borrowing Transactions" (RIN1557-AC90) received on February 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5818. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delegation of Insuring Authority To Direct Endorsement Mortgages; Announcement of Information Collection Effective Date" ((RIN2502-AG87) (FR-4169-F-04)) received on February 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5819. A communication from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 Capital Investment and Leasing Program; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5820. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's report relative to compliance during calendar year 2005 with the Government in Sunshine Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5821. A communication from the Director, Office of Budget and Management, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Budget and Management's 2006 Federal Financial Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5822. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's calendar year 2005 report relative to the Government in the Sunshine Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5823. A communication from the Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Institution's competitive sourcing activities for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5824. A communication from the Director, Insurance Policy, Office of Personnel

Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees Health Benefits Acquisition Regulation: Technical Amendments" (RIN3206-AJ20) received on February 27, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5825. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Excepted Service—Temporary Organizations" (RIN3206-AJ70) received on February 27, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5826. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Environmental Differential Pay for Asbestos Exposure" (RIN3206-AK64) received on February 27, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5827. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Regulations Governing Small Power Production and Cogeneration Facilities" (Docket No. RM05-36-000) received on February 27, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5828. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules Concerning Certification of the Electric Reliability Organization; and Procedures for the Establishment, Approval, and Enforcement of Electric Reliability Standards" (Docket No. RM05-30-000) received on February 27, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5829. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's report relative to its competitive sourcing efforts for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5830. A communication from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Fiscal Year 2002 Report on the Community Food and Nutrition Program (CFNP); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5831. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the impact of the improvements to compensation and benefits made by title VI of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5832. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Title 10, U.S. Code 2464 requiring notification of Congress the first time a weapon system or other item of military equipment is determined to be a commercial item; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5833. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Competitive Sourcing Report for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5834. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Danger Pay to government civilian employees working in Dushanbe, Tajikistan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.