

houses throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. In recognition of his dedication, James earned the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award. As for many Eagle Scouts, this honor is merely the beginning of success, and I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

The honor of achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is truly a momentous occasion for James Reid and his family and has come as a result of his diligence and hard work. I thank James for representing St. Charles and the State of Missouri in such an exemplary manner.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY WILSON

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today I take a moment to honor the extraordinary accomplishments of a young citizen from Massachusetts, 10-year-old Johnny Wilson. Last October, Johnny set a world record as the youngest person ever to swim from Alcatraz Island to Aquatic Park in San Francisco, a distance of 1.4 miles. It was an impressive accomplishment in and of itself, but Johnny's swim had far greater meaning and purpose than setting a record. For every quarter mile he swam, Johnny collected pledges for disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and his swim produced over \$150,000.

Johnny first got the idea from a family friend, Rick Murray, an Iron Man triathlete, who suggested the idea after noticing Johnny's strength as a swimmer and offered to be his coach. Johnny spent over a year in training, swimming 10 miles a week in pools during the school year and in the ocean near Hyannis Port during the summer. In addition, he spent 3 months training in the cold water of the San Francisco Bay to further prepare for the conditions of his swim.

Johnny first got the idea to use his swimming ability to raise funds last September, when his school began to emphasize efforts to aid the victims of Katrina. He and seven of his classmates rallied the local community, calling all the families they knew and asking for pledges for every quarter mile of the swim that Johnny would complete. By the day of the swim, these efforts had already yielded over \$30,000 in donations.

The swim began before sunrise at 6 a.m. last October 10. The large waves, freezing water, and the fact that he was the only child attempting the swim did not deter Johnny from diving in the water that morning. Flanked 10 feet on either side by adult safety swimmers and kayaks in case of an emergency, Johnny swam into Aquatic Park Cove 1 hour 6 minutes later to the cheers of his family, teacher, and classmates. Halfway through the swim, he stopped to warm his numbed limbs, but when asked if wanted to stop swimming, he said no and continued on his way. His commitment to himself and to the Katrina victims he wanted to help enabled him to deal with the long, cold waters to reach his goal.

The media attention to Johnny's swim and its admirable purpose increased his fundraising ability. Word of his mission spread in over 600 broadcasts in 20 countries and led to appearances on the "Today Show", "Oprah" and "CNN." The additional publicity helped raise \$20,000 more for Johnny's cause, as people throughout the country and around the world were touched by the strength of his spirit and heart demonstrated by this remarkable young man. In the end, Johnny was able to make an amazing contribution of \$51,000 to the Hurricane Katrina victims' fund of the Red Cross.

Able and caring young people like Johnny inspire a new sense of hope for the Nation's future. He demonstrated the difference that one committed person can make in bringing people together to touch the lives of others. I commend Johnny Wilson for his impressive achievement, his caring heart, and his wonderful contribution to the lives of those devastated by Hurricane Katrina. He represents the best of our country, and I wish him well in the years ahead.●

PLANKINTON, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Plankinton, SD. The town of Plankinton will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

The county seat of Aurora County, Plankinton officially became a town in 1881. Plankinton is well known for being South Dakota's No. 1 hunting and fishing destination. Plankinton has much to be proud of, and I am sure the next 125 years will be even more productive and noteworthy.

I offer my congratulations to Plankinton on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

VIVIAN, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Vivian, SD, which is celebrating its centennial this year.

Located in Lyman County, Vivian was founded during an extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad rail lines in 1906 and was named after the wife of one of their officials. Vivian is a welcoming community that reflects the values and principles that we as Americans hold dear.

I offer my congratulations to Vivian on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MT. VERNON, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Mt. Vernon, SD. The town of Mt. Vernon will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Davison County, Mt. Vernon was originally named Arlandton and served as a shelter for pioneers on their way to Fort Thomp-

son trail. The name was changed to Mt. Vernon with the arrival of the railroad in 1881.

I offer my congratulations to Mt. Vernon on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MOBRIDGE, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the 100th anniversary of the town of Mobridge and its citizens' dedication to the Main Street Revitalization Project.

Beginning as a parcel of private land, Mobridge was founded when GEN S. E. Olson, bridged the gap between the two banks of the Missouri River to provide the opportunity for a railway crossing. Although Mobridge began as a railroad town, it thrives today as community that continues to make industrial and economic progress while offering several scenic opportunities to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the town of Mobridge in celebration of their centennial festivities and hope that this "Grand Crossing" into the next 100 years will be as fruitful as the first.●

MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 125th anniversary celebration of Miller, SD.

Located in Hand County, the town of Miller was originally founded in 1881 by pioneer Henry Miller. Since its founding 125 years ago, the community of Miller has continued to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I offer my congratulations to Miller on this milestone accomplishment and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

IONA, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Iona, SD. The town of Iona will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Lyman County, Iona celebrates its centennial on the year the town cemetery was founded, 1906. Although Iona has never officially been incorporated, it is an example of the values and traditions found in communities throughout South Dakota.

I offer my congratulations to Iona on their centennial, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

HOWARD, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Howard, SD. The town of

Howard will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Miner County, Howard was founded in 1881. Howard was South Dakota's first community to operate its own wind turbines, providing "green energy" to residential and commercial customers.

I offer my congratulations to Howard on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

CRESBARD, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Cresbard, SD. The town of Cresbard will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in north central South Dakota, Cresbard, like many rural towns in South Dakota, has its roots in agriculture. Now, 100 years later, the town still relies on agriculture but has also expanded into a hunting destination in the fall. Cresbard continues to be a great example of what makes South Dakota such a great place to live and do business.

I offer my congratulations to Cresbard on their centennial, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

CHELSEA, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Chelsea, SD. The town of Chelsea will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Faulk County, Chelsea was founded as an agricultural town in 1906. Although 100 years has passed since its founding, the city remains a great example of what makes rural South Dakota a welcoming place to live and raise a family.

I offer my congratulations to Chelsea on their anniversary, and I wish them the best in the years to come.●

BRENTFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Brentford, SD. The town of Brentford will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Spink County, Brentford was the last town established in the county and has outlasted many of its neighbors. The town of Brentford has the unique distinction of being the only so-named town in the United States. I am confident that the Brentford community will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 100 years.

I offer my congratulations to Brentford on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

BALTIC, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Baltic, SD. The town of Baltic will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Minnehaha County, Baltic was founded in 1881 on the banks of the Big Sioux River. Baltic has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

I offer my congratulations to Baltic on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STRATFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the city of Stratford which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Located in Brown County, Stratford was founded in 1906 as an agricultural community. Stratford is a welcoming community that reflects the values and principles that we as Americans hold dear.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the citizens of Stratford to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their fine city.●

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.)

NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER BLOCKING THE PROPERTY OF PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITUATION IN BELARUS—PM 50

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:

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631 (NEA), I hereby report that I have

issued an Executive Order (the "order") blocking the property of persons in connection with the situation in Belarus. In that order, I declared a national emergency with respect to the policies and actions of certain individuals in Belarus, to address the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and circumstances involving Belarus, as described below. This action follows the issuance of Proclamation 8015 of May 12, 2006, "Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Responsible for Policies or Actions That Threaten the Transition to Democracy in Belarus," in which I determined that it is in the interest of the United States to suspend the entry into the United States of members of the government of Alyaksandr Lukashenka and others who formulate, implement, participate in, or benefit from policies or actions, including electoral fraud, human rights abuses, and corruption, that undermine or injure democratic institutions or impede the transition to democracy in Belarus.

The United States, the European Union, and other allies and partners around the world have repeatedly expressed support for the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people and condemned the Belarusian government's human rights abuses, assaults on democracy, and corruption. The Belarusian authorities have resorted to intense repression in an attempt to preserve their power, including the disappearances of four regime critics in 1999 and 2000, which the authorities have failed to investigate seriously despite credible information linking top government officials to these acts.

The undemocratic 2006 presidential election was only the latest example of the Belarusian government's disregard for the rights of its own citizens. Hundreds of civic and opposition activists were arrested—and many beaten—both before and after the vote for exercising their rights. The authorities forcibly dispersed peaceful post-election demonstrations. There is simply no place in a Europe whole and free for a regime of this kind.

The order also takes an important step in the fight against public corruption, which threatens important United States interests globally, including ensuring security and stability, the rule of law and core democratic values, advancing prosperity, and creating a level playing field for lawful business activities. As noted in Proclamation 8015, the persistent acts of corruption by Belarusian government officials in the performance of public functions has played a significant role in frustrating the Belarusian people's aspirations for democracy. This order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to block the assets of senior-level officials of the Government of Belarus, their family members, or those closely linked to such officials engaged in such corruption.