

premiere celebration of this fiery food that is near and dear to the hearts of New Mexicans. Chile, both red and green, is one of the distinctive flavors that makes New Mexico such a wonderful place to live and visit. A good deal of that chile originates in Hatch and it has rightly earned the title "chile capital of the world."

I hope this year's chile festival will be a success. I am sure all involved will walk away satisfied and with full stomachs.●

CHAPTER 641 OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President. I would like to pay tribute to the members of Chapter 641 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA.

Chapter 641 gathers on the first Saturday of every month from April to November to wash the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC. The dedication of these veterans helps to ensure the memorial dedicated to all the brave service men and women who gave their lives in the Vietnam war remains worthy of their sacrifice.

In June of this year the Daughters of the American Revolution presented this group with a national service award. I would like to add my praise to Chapter 641 VVA. Thanks in part to their hard work and dedication, we as a nation will never forget those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.●

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGIA O'KEEFE MUSEUM

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I recognize the Georgia O'Keefe Museum in Santa Fe, NM, on its 10th anniversary. Georgia O'Keefe was, and remains, a New Mexico institution. The work she did while living in my State is held in the highest regard by artists and spectators alike.

Georgia O'Keefe settled in New Mexico in 1945 after being a frequent visitor of the State seeking artistic inspiration. She is famous for her vibrant portrayals of flowers and unique New Mexico landscapes. Ms. O'Keefe has inspired a number of aspiring artists, and she is sure to inspire many more for many years. Her work is timeless. New Mexico is proud to be home to most of her prized work.

The Georgia O'Keefe Museum is the first museum dedicated to the work of a woman artist of international stature. It showcases well over 1,000 pieces of Ms. O'Keefe's work. The museum has opened its doors to over one million visitors just in its first few years of operation; countless others will enjoy it in the future. It also boasts a vast education and outreach program that includes internships, teacher workshops, seminars and even afterschool arts programs. The museum is dedicated to the study and interpretation of her work, as well as American modernism.

The museum will commemorate the anniversary with a 10th anniversary

celebration. The celebration will include a dinner dance, entertainment, and obviously art. The event will not only commemorate Georgia O'Keefe but also honor the museum's founders, Anne and John Marion. They have worked tirelessly to see that the artwork of Ms. O'Keefe is available for all to enjoy. Through their vision, the work of Georgia O'Keefe will be available for study and viewing for many years to come.

I commend these two individuals for envisioning a place for Georgia O'Keefe's work to be displayed, and maintaining that vision for the last 10 years. I believe Ms. O'Keefe would be proud of the work they have done and honored to be held in such high regard with respect to her art.●

TRIBUTE TO LEAGUE TO SAVE LAKE TAHOE

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I recognize the 50 years of great work by the League to Save Lake Tahoe.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe has a long history of fighting to protect what I consider to be the crown jewel of the Sierra. The league was founded in 1957 as the Tahoe Improvement and Conservation Association to fight runaway development in one of our Nation's most beautiful regions. Since then, its membership has grown to 4,500 people, but its mission remains the same: to protect Lake Tahoe's famously clear waters and the surrounding area's natural beauty.

Protecting Lake Tahoe is an issue very dear to my heart. My love for Tahoe goes back to my childhood, when I attended camp and rode horses through its beautiful forests. Today however, the lake's health is threatened. Water clarity has declined from 102 feet in 1968 to 68 feet today, and the forests are more susceptible to catastrophic wildfires.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe was influential in developing the Environmental Improvement Program that identified actions that needed to be taken to help restore Lake Tahoe and instrumental in organizing the 1997 Presidential Forum. The league has continued to display an unwavering commitment to protecting the irreplaceable natural resources the Lake Tahoe Basin is blessed with.

I would like to congratulate the League to Save Lake Tahoe on a half century of outstanding environmental stewardship and wish them the best of luck in their continuing mission to Keep Tahoe Blue.●

BEST BUDDIES

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Best Buddies Chapter from Walter Johnson High School in Montgomery County, MD, for being named "Chapter of the Year" by Best Buddies International. Best Buddies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedi-

cated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. Founded by Anthony K. Shriver in 1989, Best Buddies focuses on the importance of social integration for a group that is often overlooked by society. They achieve their mission by creating "buddy pairs" in student-run chapters at middle schools, high schools, and colleges around the world.

Every year, Best Buddies holds its international leadership conference at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, where over 1,300 high school and college students are trained on how to run an effective Best Buddies chapter—skills that will serve them well throughout their academic and professional lives. During the conference the organization acknowledges certain chapters that have achieved a particular level of excellence throughout the past year. The Chapter of the Year is selected by the board of directors and is based on the quality of the one-to-one friendships, chapter leadership, and activities. For 2007, 75 chapters applied, and Walter Johnson High School was awarded this impressive distinction.

This chapter exemplified the true meaning of team work. As a team they worked together and planned incredibly successful events, fundraisers, and group outings. Their great sense of spirit and enthusiasm showed in every activity they undertook and in the deeply rewarding friendships they created. Through the tireless outreach of the chapter members, the general student population at Walter Johnson learned first hand that the similarities between children with and without intellectual disabilities far outweigh the differences.

I hope that you will join me in recognizing the importance of what these high school students are doing through their participation in the Best Buddies program and the excellence with which they do it.●

TRIBUTE TO DON HIGHT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to South Dakota rancher Don Hight for being recognized at the Third Annual National Day of the American Cowboy celebration in my home town of Murdo, SD.

Don was born in Mellette County, SD, in 1920. He served as an Army paratrooper in World War II. After his return from the war, Don married Adeline Fott and together they started ranching in Jones County, SD, where they raised their two children Dan and Cheryl.

In January of 1962, the farmer from small-town South Dakota made national news when he began a 70-mile cattle drive, trailing 1800 head of cattle from his Jones County ranch along the White River to Winner, SD. On the third day into the trip, a blizzard hit with temperatures below zero and

winds reaching 35 miles per hour. As a result of his accomplishing this difficult drive, his story was picked up by the national news and Don was invited to appear in an episode of "Rawhide" which starred a young Clint Eastwood.

Don Hight displayed his strong patriotism following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when he sold 100 head of calves to the Fort Pierre Livestock and presented the check to the South Dakota Stock Growers to buy beef certificates, which were given to the Salvation Army for distribution to the victim's families.

Mr. Hight is truly a reflection of the American cowboy and proof that the cowboy way of life is still alive and well in South Dakota. He is a man dedicated to his country, and the values that this country represents such as bravery, honor and respect for his fellow man. It is people like Don that make the state of South Dakota such a great place to live.

It gives me pleasure to rise and pay tribute to Don Hight, a true American cowboy.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:36 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3248. An act to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1495) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

At 4:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed

the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3159. An act to mandate minimum periods of rest and recuperation for units and members of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces between deployments for Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

At 6:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2272) to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2831. An act to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice that is unlawful under such Acts occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to the discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes.

S. 1927. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide additional procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1974. A bill to make technical corrections related to the Pension Protections Act of 2006.

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-2767. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Black Stem Rust; Addition of Rust-Resistant Varieties" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0072) received on July 31, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2768. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John M. Curran, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2769. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, the report of draft legislation intended to amend provisions that specify the weights and compositions of the dollar, half dollar, quarter dollar, dime, 5-cent, and

one-cent coins; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2770. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FPA Section 203 Supplemental Policy Statement" (FERC Docket No. PL07-1-000) received on July 29, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2771. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Iowa; Clean Air Interstate Rule" (FRL No. 8450-1) received on August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2772. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Kansas" (FRL No. 8450-5) received on August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2773. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri" (FRL No. 8450-7) received on August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2774. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Attainment, Approval of Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Indiana; Correction" (FRL No. 8450-3) received on August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2775. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dimethenamid; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8138-2) received on August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2776. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Maricopa County" (FRL No. 8448-6) received on August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2777. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the authorized shore projection project for Lido Key Beach in Sarasota, Florida; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2778. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare Management, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2008" ((RIN0938-AO63)(Docket No. CMS-1551-F)) received on August 1, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2779. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare Management, Department of Health and