

church leader, Faust served his country in the military, served his community as an attorney, served his State as a legislator, and served his family as a devoted husband and father.

A native of a small town in Utah's west desert, Delta, President Faust studied at the University of Utah, eventually receiving both a bachelor's degree and a law degree. But he interrupted his studies when he was called to his country's defense in World War II, honorably serving in the U.S. Army Air Force and earning the rank of first lieutenant while opposing the tyranny of the Axis.

Beyond his service to America, President Faust also gave 2 years of his youth in service to his church as a missionary in Brazil. He was one of the first Mormon missionaries to that nation and by sharing his testimony of the Lord gently moved the first pebbles of what has become a mighty avalanche of faith—today Brazil is home to nearly 1 million Latter-day Saints. Later in life, anytime his church service took him to Brazil he was extremely happy to be reunited with his friends there. In 1998, Faust was named an honorary citizen of Sao Paulo in honor of his lifelong ties to the city and the nation. Only two other men have received this recognition—Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama—which puts President Faust in very good company.

During a short period of leave from the Air Force in the spring of 1943, President Faust married his high school sweetheart, Ruth Wright, in the Salt Lake Temple. The sunrise and the sunset to all his happiness, Ruth walked hand in hand with him for almost 65 years. Together they raised five children: James H. Faust, Janna R. Coombs, Marcus G. Faust, Lisa A. Smith, and Robert P. Faust. They were the proud grandparents of 25 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

While practicing law, President Faust made time to serve as a member of the Utah legislature, an adviser to the American Bar Journal, and as president of the Utah Bar Association. Fellow church leader Elder M. Russell Ballard said of Faust that he "loved America, the state of Utah and Salt Lake City." He was always examining issues and events "for what was right and what needed to be done to see that we were working for the benefit and blessing of the people."

We have lost a friend, we have lost a leader. But we look forward to a time when we can see his smiling, optimistic face again and hear his soothing, uplifting voice. To President James Esdras Faust the people of Utah would like to say, "Thank you for your time among us. It was not nearly long enough. God be with you, till we meet again."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO JIM BILLINGTON

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I congratulate Jim Billington on two dec-

ades of service as Librarian of Congress. For 20 years, he has presided over this prestigious institution that serves Congress so well but is truly America's national library. It houses documents and artifacts that date to the earliest days of our democracy and, at the same time, manages the U.S. Copyright Office that maintains an ongoing record of America's creative heritage.

Jim Billington had a brilliant career in the academic world before beginning his responsibilities at the Library of Congress. He was highly respected at Harvard, at Princeton and, immediately before becoming Librarian of Congress, as director of the Woodrow Wilson Center.

Throughout his career, Jim Billington has brought a dynamic integrity to the scholarly world. Under his leadership, the Library of Congress was not a dormant collection of books and artifacts. He undertook a new initiative to digitize its collections and make them more accessible and more permanent. He also established the Madison Council to bring outside support and wise counsel to the Library, and created a center for advanced scholars in the humanities.

His tenure as Librarian is noteworthy for his many achievements and innovations, his dedication to the historic role of the Library and its unique relationship to Congress, and, most importantly, his extraordinary vision of what the Library could become. Through his work, Jim has made unparalleled contributions to enhance the role that American culture plays in our national life.

On this special anniversary, I commend him for all that he has accomplished. I am especially grateful for the support and wise counsel he has given to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. As Librarian of Congress, he has served as a member of the board of trustees for the center for two decades, and has been a source of consistent leadership and guidance throughout that time.

All of us in Congress owe Jim Billington an immense debt of gratitude for his outstanding public service, and we look forward to many more years of his leadership. On this 20th anniversary of his becoming Librarian of Congress, I join my colleagues in extending my warmest congratulations and deepest appreciation for his achievements.●

##### TRIBUTE TO HOWRIGAN FARM

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to take this opportunity to commend longtime friends, Harold and Anne Howrigan and their sons of Fairfield, VT, whose farm was recently named 2007 Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year.

Harold, his wife Anne and their sons operate two farms comprised of more than 500 head of holstein cattle and some 1,800 acres of cropland and forest, including a significant maple sugaring operation. The Howrigan farm was se-

lected by University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Dairy Industry Association, who described it as an excellent, well managed dairy operation which consistently produces high-quality milk. With some of the farm acreage in the family since the mid 19th Century, the Howrigan family indeed exemplifies a long-term commitment to agriculture.

As much as he loves the home farm, over the years Harold has spent considerable time away from the farm serving Vermont agriculture. He has served as president of the Green Mountain Dairy Farmers Federation of Cooperatives and as a director with both the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association and the Vermont Dairy Promotion Council. Harold has served on the St. Albans Cooperative board of directors since 1981 and as president from 1988 until stepping down in 2005.

At one time or another, Harold was chairperson of the Vermont Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact Commission, chair of the Council of Northeast Farmer Cooperatives and chair of the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board. He also served on the U.S. Dairy Export Council and the National Milk Producers Federation.

With this level of engagement in the interest of dairy farmers and their industry, it is a tribute to Harold, Anne and their sons to earn this distinguished award. I join my fellow Vermonters in recognizing a Vermont dairy farm—and family—with its tradition of hard work, common sense and love of agriculture as the 2007 Vermont Dairy Farm of the Year.●

#### CONGRATULATING THE GLADSTONE ALL-STAR GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Gladstone All-Star 11-12 Girls Softball Team on placing third in the Little League Softball World Series. Their determined and focused efforts throughout the postseason, which began in early July with the district tournament in Escanaba, have brought a lot of joy and pride to the Gladstone community. I am happy to have this opportunity to recognize this impressive achievement.

Gladstone capped a marvelous season with a thrilling come-from-behind 5-2 victory over an excellent team from Waterford, CT. The game was tightly contested throughout and was not decided until the first extra inning when Gladstone rallied to score the deciding three runs in the top of the seventh inning to secure a hard fought win. Gladstone displayed resilience in recovering from a loss the previous day to the eventual runner-up from Elgin, TX, to record this victory. It takes poise, determination, and teamwork to achieve this level of success, and I congratulate each member of the team on the way

they competed throughout the summer. Gladstone now enjoys the distinction of being the third team from Delta County to reach the Little League Softball World Series.

Girls Little League Softball, which began in 1974, has provided countless young women an opportunity to compete at a high level. Through the instruction they receive on and off the field, these young women gain valuable skills that will help them achieve success throughout their lifetime. The 2007 Gladstone All-Star 11–12 year-old Girls Softball Team includes Jordan Schwartz, Ashley Hough, Jammie Botruff, Heather Sanderson, Jordan Kowalski, Nicole Sharon, Shannon Wolf, Neena Brockway, Alison Austin, Nikki Barteld, Averi Kanyuh. The coaching staff includes Manager Andrew Schwartz and Assistant Coach John Nevala.

This is a summer these young women will certainly never forget. I know I am joined by their family, friends and supporters, as well as my colleagues in the Senate, in congratulating the entire team on a highly successful and memorable season. I look forward to hearing about many more successes from these young ladies in the future.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CURTIS H. SYKES

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life of a great Arkansan, Curtis H. Sykes, who passed away last week.

As a member of the Special Task Force to Study the History and Contributions of Slave Laborers in the Construction of the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Sykes made valuable contributions to the important and challenging work that the task force conducted. As its name indicates, the purpose of the task force is to recognize and preserve the contributions that African Americans made to the construction of the Capitol complex. The task force has served as a working memorial to pay tribute to those who made an enormous sacrifice to help build the greatest symbol of our Nation's freedom. I was pleased that the task force was developed to include citizen representation, and Curtis Sykes was an integral part of helping us examine those contributions.

In addition to his work on the task force, Curtis Sykes was also an accomplished historian and respected community leader in Arkansas. Mr. Sykes served as chairman of the Arkansas Black History Committee since 1993 and was the first African-American member of the North Little Rock History Commission. He brought a wealth of experience to the study of our great State's history and was an advocate for equality, fairness, and justice.

Shortly after his graduation from the segregated Scipio A. Jones High School, located in his hometown of North Little Rock, in 1947, Curtis served our Nation in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952. He then pursued a lifelong career in education.

Prior to retiring in 1985, Curtis worked for 33 years in education as a teacher, football coach, assistant principal and principal. He was one of the first African-American principals in the Little Rock school district during the 1960s, and after his life in education, he led the fight to pass legislation in the Arkansas General Assembly which established a Black history curriculum in Arkansas schools.

He also continued to pursue his passion to help young children learn and succeed after retirement through his work in a number of civic and community organizations. His activities included offices in the Arkansas Chapter of the NAACP, the Young YMCA/COPE of Central Arkansas and Headstart of Pulaski County.

Mr. Sykes earned his bachelor's degree from Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, Arkansas; a master's from Texas College in Tyler, Texas; and his master's in education from Harding University in Searcy, AR. In fact, he became the first African American to receive a degree from Harding in 1962.

In addition, Mr. Sykes received a number of honors and awards during his lifetime. He was the recipient of the Salute to Greatness Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission for his outstanding record of community service. He was also recognized by the city of North Little Rock when Mayor Patrick Hays declared a Curtis Sykes Day in 1992 to honor his many contributions to the city.

Curtis H. Sykes will be greatly missed by communities all across Arkansas, as well as those he worked with here in Washington, DC. He had an impact on thousands of people from all walks of life, and his death will leave a void throughout Arkansas.

He will not be forgotten, however. The Arkansas History Commission contains the Curtis H. Sykes Collection which includes Scipio High yearbooks, past Arkansas Teacher Association journals, and other North Little Rock memorabilia and documents which will enable future generations to learn about his life and legacy.

In the weeks and months ahead, our thoughts and prayers will be with friends and family of the Sykes as they grieve the loss of a true Arkansas pioneer.●

#### HONORING MARY AND BILL KIRCHNER

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I honor two of my constituents on a very special and rare milestone. Later this month, Mary and Bill Kirchner of Atlanta will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Mary and Bill were married on September 28, 1957, in Grosse Pointe, MI, bringing together two of that city's longtime families—the Fitzsimons and the Kirchners. The next 50 years took Mary and Bill from Michigan to South Carolina and finally to Georgia, where they have lived since 1988.

Bill was a homebuilder in Michigan and on Hilton Head Island, SC, and later started his own property rental business on the island. Mary started her own successful business on Hilton Head called The Welcome Mat, then switched careers and put her salesmanship to good use selling real estate. When they moved to Atlanta, Mary and Bill decided to try an entirely new business venture by opening an antique consignment shop. Sixteen years later, Now & Again remains a beautiful and popular shop in Buckhead. In fact, my wife Dianne has been a customer. Although they have certainly earned the right to retire, Mary and Bill still run their shop 6 days a week with the help of a great staff.

While their professional lives have been an adventure, Mary and Bill made their biggest life-changing decision early on in their marriage. On a chilly February day in 1964, a nervous Mary and Bill arrived at an adoption agency in Michigan hoping to hear that they would be allowed to adopt a baby. Instead, the agency asked if Mary and Bill would like to go home with 6-month-old twin girls. The shocked couple said yes and forever changed the lives of those twins, Sarah and Joan, for the better.

Their daughter Sarah is now married to Stephen Midas and works as a stay-at-home mom to four children in Chesapeake, VA, and also does some bookkeeping for Mary and Bill's shop. Their daughter Joan and her daughter live in Washington, DC, and Joan has gone from covering politics as an AP reporter in Atlanta to now working for some of those same elected officials she used to cover. I happen to be one of those, and Joan now serves on my staff in Washington. I know Mary and Bill are very proud of both their daughters.

I join with Joan, Sarah, Stephen and their children—Alex, Ben, Anna, Josie and Isabel—in congratulating Mary and Bill Kirchner on reaching their golden anniversary. Their marriage and their commitment to each other is an inspiration to us all.●

#### REPORT RELATIVE TO THE STATUS OF EACH OF THE 18 IRAQI BENCHMARKS. AS RECEIVED DURING RECESS OF THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2007—PM 25

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 Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 1314 of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110–28) (the "Act"), attached is a report that assesses the status of each of the 18 Iraqi benchmarks contained in the Act and declares whether satisfactory progress toward meeting these