

Transportation to enact these and other safety features. It would put a timeframe on final rulings so these safety requirements do not spend any more time in limbo.

This bill takes the lessons learned from the tragic events of the Bluffton University baseball team's motorcoach accident, and aims to correct them for future riders.

It is my hope that in the future, parents will not have to endure the anguish and grief that John Betts and the other family members experienced.

I hope for swift consideration of this bill.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I honor the 50th anniversary of the Student Conservation Association. Over these last five decades, the SCA has led the way in promoting the importance of conservation service and stewardship. Its staff and supporters have made an extraordinary commitment to instilling this ethic in our country's young people. While it is headquartered in my home State of New Hampshire, the SCA's reach and influence go far beyond the borders of New Hampshire. Since its founding in 1957 by Elizabeth C. Titus Putnam, nearly 50,000 SCA volunteers have worked to protect the critical natural habitats and threatened wildlife in our country's parks, forests, and urban green spaces. Its members can be found in all 50 States, as well as Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Germany and Latvia. In 2006 alone, 4,000 volunteers logged 1.6 million service hours at 511 separate sites. In past years, they worked to restore the Everglades following the devastation Hurricane Hugo left behind and to repair the damage to Yellowstone National Park following the fires which damaged that park in 1988. This year, they were chosen to lead the Northwest Recovery at Mount Ranier and other parks in that region of the United States following the floods of 2006. It is, in fact, the largest conservation service program in the country.

Those numbers and facts are impressive, but they do not fully convey the central role this organization plays in strengthening the quality of life in the United States. The thousands of volunteers and interns clearly have relished meeting the obligation we all have to protecting the vital natural areas in our country. Their unique dedication and enthusiasm have made them great role models and leaders. These qualities explain why such Federal agencies as the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Armed Forces all have partnered with the SCA and are the reason the White House, National Wildlife Federation, and the National Park Service have recognized the SCA's achievements.

The prime architect behind the SCA is Elizabeth Titus Putnam, and I am especially pleased to honor her. It is a great reflection on her character that the vision she developed 50 years ago became a reality. Her energy and passion for environmental protection have touched countless people and demonstrate why the SCA continues to be an effective and vibrant organization.

For these reasons, I am proud to be a member of the 50th Anniversary Honorary Committee. I hope all the alumni and current volunteers will long remember the deep impact they have made on communities from Maine to Hawaii and from Alaska to Florida. Happy Birthday to the Student Conservation Association and my best wishes for continued success.●

RETIREMENT OF BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM T. BESTER

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of a great public servant, outstanding Army officer, and dedicated academic leader.

In his latest stint of public service, BG William T. Bester, U.S. Army retired, distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service to the Graduate School of Nursing, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, as acting dean from 10 July 2006 to 30 December 2007.

During this period, the outstanding leadership and ceaseless efforts of General Bester resulted in major contributions to the Graduate School of Nursing, GSN, and to the Uniformed Services University, USU. He assumed his duties during a period of significant change and growth in the history of the GSN and the USU. He lead efforts in dealing with substantial change in the GSN: planning for a new psychiatric/mental health nurse practitioner master's option, facilitating the merger of the GSN and Navy nurse anesthesia master's option, fostering renewed collaboration with the Federal nursing service chiefs, FNSCs, assisting the USU with the search for a new brigade commander and GSN dean, and dealing with base closure and realignment strategy and requirements. He focused on every issue with unwavering directness, a spirit of community participation, collegial respect, enthusiasm, and a wonderful sense of humor and fair play. His leadership brought about a change in GSN character and personality that is visible at every level of USU. His tenure has been marked by strong, supportive relationships with senior USU leaders, an increase in FNSC collaboration and trust resulting in additional senior scholars assigned to the Nursing Science Doctoral Program and new educational program opportunities and increased student involvement in and enthusiasm for the school and the university.

Working closely with my office, he was instrumental in solidifying DOD core budgeting for the GSN. He negotiated an expansion of faculty research

support with the School of Medicine and the USU vice president for research. He established a sense of calm and collaborative team building by fostering a common vision, always listening to the faculty and staff issues, and addressing their concerns. As a genuine and dedicated ambassador of the university, General Bester often represented the USU president at external senior level meetings. His career interdisciplinary leadership experiences and the respect he maintains within the Department of Defense always provided credibility as spokesperson when he represented the university and its president. These same qualities allowed him to be an essential advisor to President Rice during a time of significant change within USU, on the Bethesda campus, and in emerging military and Federal health cooperative concerns. Brigadier General Bester's total dedication to service in all aspects of his leadership of the Graduate School of Nursing and his exceptional leadership contributions to USU reflect an unsurpassed commitment to maintaining the highest standards for military and Federal health nurse education at the Uniformed Services University. The distinctive accomplishments of Brigadier General Bester reflect great credit upon himself, the Department of Defense, and the Uniformed Services University.

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences continues to fulfill our vision as a key part of the Nation's academic health education enterprise because of the dedication of its faculty and administrative leadership. General Bester exemplifies the best of the best. We owe a debt of gratitude for his years of public service, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank him along with his family: his wife Cheryl, his son Jason, daughter Jodi, and grandsons Will and Jake.

We wish General Bester Godspeed as he returns to his family and Texas where his children and grandchildren now live.●

RECOGNIZING JORDAN-FERNALD FUNERAL HOMES

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Jordan-Fernald Funeral Homes, an outstanding small business in my home State of Maine that exemplifies the best of Maine's community spirit. Founded in 1860 by the Fernald family, Jordan-Fernald is now in its fourth and fifth generations of ownership. Over the years, the Fernalds purchased several Jordan Funeral Home locations to become Jordan-Fernald in 2004. Currently, four Fernalds siblings—Bill, Tom, and Lauri, along with their father, Robert—co-own the business.

Presently maintaining funeral homes in four towns in Hancock County, the Fernalds have always prided themselves on their stalwart commitment to the ever-changing needs of the local communities. For example, Bill participates in a local project to prepare

the Hancock County area against a potential pandemic flu. Meanwhile, Tom serves on the boards of the Maine Funeral Directors Association and the Maine Coast Memorial Hospital and Lauri serves on the boards of the Hospice of Hancock County, the Abbe Museum, and the Hospice Regatta of Maine. Finally, Robert is well known in the area for his work on behalf of the Lions Club.

In recognition of the Fernalds' contributions to the communities, Jordan-Fernald received the Gannett Family Business of the Year Award in 2005. This award recognizes family-run businesses that demonstrate creativity in ensuring their company's vitality while maintaining ties with their communities and stakeholders. Jordan-Fernald was selected, along with one other business, out of a pool of 22 nominees. Family-owned businesses represent approximately 90 percent of all Maine businesses, yet less than 30 percent survive to the second generation and only 13 percent survive to the third generation, making it all the more impressive that Jordan-Fernald has survived to the fifth generation!

Most recently, Jordan-Fernald received the Top Drawer Award from the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce. The award is presented to a business that has made a substantial contribution to the growth, development, and improvement of Ellsworth, Hancock County, and the State of Maine. The Ellsworth Area Chamber president, Chrissi Maguire-Harding, cited Jordan-Fernald's commitment to the region through participation on community boards, support of other businesses, and economic growth as the main reasons for the award. In modern times, where one-third of Maine funeral homes are owned by a single corporation based in Texas, Jordan-Fernald has managed to maintain independence and a bountiful community spirit.

Jordan-Fernald is an exemplary small business. The firm's dynamic approach toward business and community involvement benefits everyone throughout eastern Maine and, indeed, the entire State of Maine. I commend Jordan-Fernald Funeral Homes for its dedication and leadership, and I wish the enterprise much success going forward.●

RECOGNIZING THE RAPID CITY MEALS PROGRAM

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor the Rapid City, SD, MEALS program as they celebrate 26 years of dedicated service to the Black Hills community.

For more than a quarter century, the Rapid City MEALS program has provided our seniors with quality nutrition, education, community, and support services so they can live in their own homes and maintain their independence.

The MEALS program would not be able to perform its invaluable mission

without the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers who put in countless hours serving the needs of others. These compassionate individuals are truly the backbone of the Rapid City community and I hope that their service will inspire others to lend a helping hand.

It gives me great pleasure, with the State of South Dakota, to congratulate the MEALS Program of Rapid City on this important anniversary and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING RECESS

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 14, 2007, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing 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. 1429) to reauthorize the Head Start Act, to improve program quality, to expand access, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 258. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to correct the enrollment of H.R. 1429.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1534. An act to prohibit certain sales, distributions, and transfers of elemental mercury, to prohibit the export of elemental mercury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1593. An act to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2614. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in certain water projects in California.

H.R. 2627. 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. 2705. An act to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3013. An act to provide appropriate protection to attorney-client privileged communications and attorney work product.

H.R. 3315. An act to provide that the great hall of the Capitol Visitor Center shall be known as Emancipation Hall.

H.R. 3403. An act to promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP-enabled 911 and E-911 services, encourage the Nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network, and improve 911 and E-911 access to those with disabilities.

H.R. 3461. An act to establish a public awareness campaign regarding Internet safety.

H.R. 3470. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 744 West Oglethorpe Highway in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Sidney 'Sid' Flowers Post Office Building".

H.R. 3569. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, as the "Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building".

H.R. 3703. An act to amend section 5112(p)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, to allow an exception from the \$1 coin dispensing capability requirement for certain vending machines.

H.R. 3919. An act to provide for a comprehensive nationwide inventory of existing broadband service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3974. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building".

H.R. 4134. An act to direct the Attorney General to provide grants for Internet crime prevention education programs.

H.R. 4153. An act to make certain technical corrections and transition amendments to the College Cost Reduction and Access Act.

H.R. 4154. An act to increase the insurance limitations on Federal insurance for bonds issued by the designated bonding authority for Historically Black Colleges and Universities capital financing.

H.J. Res. 62. Joint resolution to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans in the United States, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution supporting the goal and mission of America Recycles Day.

H. Con. Res. 211. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Diabetes Day.

H. Con. Res. 229. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States should seek a review of compliance by all nations with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas' conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna and other species, and should pursue strengthened conservation and management measures to facilitate the recovery of the Atlantic bluefin tuna, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

S. Con. Res. 45. Concurrent resolution commending the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation for its work in aiding children and families affected by child abuse, and designating November 2007 as National Courage Month.

At 5:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, 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. 3074) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.