

And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING DR. SCOTT D. MILLER

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I wish to commend a true leader, someone who has left an indelible impression on thousands of Delaware's college students. Dr. Scott D. Miller, after 10 years at the helm of Wesley College in Dover, is moving on to the next phase in his professional life.

Dr. Miller's tenure at Wesley has been marked by previously unknown success. He took over a quiet school in our State capital and turned it into a nationally recognized institution with a burgeoning and diverse student population.

Evidence of his quick influence is the fact that Wesley was named as one of just four "amazing turnarounds" featured in the book, "The Small College Guide to Financial Health," after only 5 years of Dr. Miller at the helm.

Dr. Miller's accomplishments are too numerous to name in one statement, but I would like to mention a few of the most notable:

Wesley's faculty is stronger in number and diversity, which has improved the retention rate and academic profile of Wesley's student body.

Enrollment has nearly tripled in the 10 years Dr. Miller has been president.

He has presided over the most prolific fundraising era in Wesley's history.

And he has developed community service partnerships for his students with five campus-based affiliates.

In short, Wesley College has been changed permanently—and for the better—by Dr. Miller's leadership and vision. My State's oldest private college will retain its prominence for years to come, thanks to Dr. Miller's guidance in leading that institution into the 21st century.

Dr. Scott Miller is moving on, being rewarded for his excellent work over the last decade, and he will surely be missed. But his efforts will not soon be forgotten in Dover, surely not among all of the lives that he touched.●

RECOGNIZING KITTY ROBERTS

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Kitty L. Roberts, the superintendent of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, who will retire on December 3, 2007, after 28 years with the National Park Service. Currently the superintendent of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Rainbow Bridge National Monument, for many years Kitty headed the National Park Service's Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs, where she worked very closely with the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

A native of Milton, WV, Kitty graduated from the University of Maryland

and attended graduate school at Indiana University. She then worked for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, where she remained for 9 years.

Kitty began her career with the National Park Service in 1979 as a management assistant in the National Capital Region. She went on to become the assistant superintendent at the George Washington Memorial Parkway between 1980 and 1984. From 1984 to 1990, Kitty was the Deputy Associate Regional Director, White House Liaison, in the National Capital Region. During this time, Kitty was the NPS Inaugural coordinator and oversaw the development of East Executive Park that now serves as a visitor entrance to the White House. In 1990, Kitty returned to the George Washington Memorial Parkway, where she served as superintendent. In 1993, former National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy asked Kitty to become the assistant director for Legislative and Congressional Affairs. Kitty served in that position for 8 years, and during that time was extremely helpful to the committee in its consideration of national park-related legislation.

During Kitty's tenure as assistant director, over 230 laws were passed affecting our national parks. Among the notable laws passed during that period were the California Desert Protection Act and the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, with its creation of 5 new park units, 10 new national heritage areas, 12 park boundary adjustments, and numerous other changes that benefited several units of the National Park System. Kitty also worked on the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, which doubled the amount of funding for national park roads, and the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998, which reformed the National Park Service's concessions program, created a park research mandate, and supported employee career development and training.

In February 2001, Kitty left Washington to become the superintendent of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Rainbow Bridge National Monument. During her time at the park, Kitty has worked on a policy for personal watercraft and off-highway vehicle use. She has found ways to maintain access to Lake Powell even as ongoing drought conditions have led to a 145-foot drop in the lake's water level. Perhaps one of her most important contributions has been a program of public education to prevent needless deaths due to individuals swimming behind boats where exhaust fumes were vented. In early June of this year, Kitty presided with the President of the Navajo Nation at the grand opening of the new floating marina village at Antelope Point, with its architectural elements from the surrounding red rock landscape and its unique cooling system using lake water from 75 feet below the surface.

Kitty has had a distinguished career with the National Park Service and will be greatly missed by those she has worked with over the years, both in the Park Service and in Congress. I want to congratulate Kitty on her retirement and thank her for the many contributions she has made toward making our national parks the pride of our Nation, and I wish her the best in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY PARKS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Jerry Parks of Georgetown, KY, for being recognized on USA Today's 2007 All-USA Teacher Team.

For 10 years USA Today has selected K-12 teachers nationwide for the All-USA Teacher Team. This year the nominees were judged on how well they recognize and respond to the needs of their students as well as the effectiveness of their teaching methods. Each team member demonstrates dedication and enthusiasm for educating the youth and future of this great country.

Mr. Parks, a seventh-grade social studies teacher at Georgetown Middle School, was recognized in the top 8 of 20 teachers on this national team. His creative hands-on teaching techniques produce students who value education and are eager to learn more. Mr. Parks also holds a doctorate in theology and has had several teacher guides published. Because of his commitment to education, Mr. Parks established student scholarships with the profits from these publications. His passion for teaching serves as an inspiration to his peers and to teachers everywhere.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Parks for his remarkable achievement and his devotion to educating young minds. Our Nation can look forward to a brighter future because of individuals like Jerry Parks.●

COMMENDING JOE FREEMAN

• Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Joe Freeman of Mistletoe Meadows Christmas Tree Farm in Laurel Springs, NC, for winning the National Christmas Tree Association's 2007 National Christmas Tree Contest. As the Grand Champion, Mr. Freeman has the distinguished honor of providing this year's Official White House Christmas Tree. This storied tradition began in 1966, and I applaud Mr. Freeman for producing North Carolina's tenth Official White House Christmas Tree. After winning at the State level, the Mr. Freeman's prized 18½ foot Fraser fir was selected at the national competition. The prized tree was chosen to be the Blue Room Christmas Tree by White House Chief Usher Stephen Rochon, Superintendent of Grounds Irv Williams, Grounds Foreman Mike Lawn and White House Florist Nancy Clarke. Mr. Freeman and Ms. Linda Jones will have the honor of presenting the prized Blue Room Tree

to First Lady Laura Bush in a special ceremony at the White House on November 26, 2007.

This year's Official White House Christmas Tree is a fine example of the exceptional quality of Christmas trees that we have in North Carolina. According to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, in 2006 North Carolina led the nation in Christmas tree production, providing roughly one out of every four Christmas trees in the United States, and contributing over \$134 million to North Carolina's economy. But this success did not come easily; it takes several years of meticulous care and attention to raise a Christmas tree. An average 7 foot tree is about 10 years old, and throughout that time the grower diligently shapes, grooms, and fertilizes the tree several times per year. Not many people realize the years of hard work and sacrifice that go into raising a Christmas tree, and our growers are to be commended for their continuous success.

North Carolina celebrates a rich history of Christmas Trees, and year after year, many American families enjoy the warmth and beauty of these North Carolina trees that are a symbol of the holiday season. I am proud of the hard work exhibited by our Christmas tree growers in North Carolina, and I am proud that there will be another North Carolina Christmas tree in the White House this year.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL J. DARNELL

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a great leader and an exceptional officer of the U.S. Air Force, MG Daniel J. Darnell, now serving as the Director of Legislative Liaison for Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, as he prepares to leave this position for one of even greater importance.

A command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours, primarily in the F-15A/B/C/D and F-16C/D, Major General Darnell has commanded at the squadron, group, wing, and warfare center levels and has flown combat missions in Iraq, enforcing no-fly zones during operations Northern and Southern Watch. Major General Darnell continues to provide outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to the Air Force, Congress, and this Nation.

Major General Darnell was born at March Air Force Base in California, where his father flew with Curtis LeMay as a B-29 radio operator, later retired as a B-52 tail gunner. He graduated as valedictorian from the Virginia Military Institute in 1975 and, immediately following graduation, he entered the Air Force and was recognized as a distinguished graduate from the Air Force ROTC Program. Major General Darnell was selected to attend pilot training at Reese Air Force Base

in Texas and was again at the top of his class, graduating pilot training as a Distinguished Graduate. Upon completion of pilot training, Major General Darnell was selected to fly the F-15, the Air Force's premier air-to-air fighter. He was initially assigned to the 7th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Holloman Air Force Base but then moved overseas to Kadena Air Base in Japan. At Kadena, Major General Darnell again excelled in the air and on the ground leading to his selection as instructor pilot, flight examiner, and the sole F-15 aerial demonstration pilot in the Pacific.

In 1982, Major General Darnell was selected to attend the F-15 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, an honor only bestowed on the top fighter pilots in the U.S. Air Force. After graduating, he returned to Kadena as the squadron weapons officer and then was assigned to McChord Air Force Base in Washington, first as the Chief of Standardization and Evaluation, and then as Chief of Weapons and Tactics. His weapons expertise, coupled with his superior leadership, led him back to Nellis Air Force Base and the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School in 1986 where he was a Fighter Weapons Instructor Course instructor, flight commander and operations officer, providing the most advanced air-to-air training in weapons and tactics employment in the world.

Following a staff assignment to Headquarters Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, as the Chief of Weapons and Tactics, Major General Darnell was selected as the 20th commander and leader of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, "America's Ambassadors in Blue." Major General Darnell flew the F-16 as Thunderbird lead for 2 years, performing hundreds of aerial demonstrations for millions of people all over the globe. In 1994, he was hand-picked to attend National War College in Washington, DC, where he received a master's degree in national security policy.

In 1997, Major General Darnell became the commander of the 12th Operations Group at Randolph Air Force Base where he was responsible for conducting joint and allied pilot instructor training as well as Air Force and Navy undergraduate combat systems officer training. He returned to the F-16 in 1998 and commanded the 20th Fighter Wing at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina and then 31st Wing at Aviano Air Base in Italy.

Major General Darnell returned to Nellis Air Force Base in 2001 as commander, 57th Wing, the largest composite wing in the Air Force. During that time, he deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia where he was the Senior Director of the Combined Air Operations Center during the opening weeks and months of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2003, Major General Darnell was assigned to Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado

as the commander of the Space Warfare Center where he was responsible for advancing America's space capabilities and employment concepts.

For the past 2 years, Major General Darnell has been the Director of Legislative Liaison. During that time, he laid the legislative groundwork for procurement of four new major weapon systems, including Joint Strike Fighter, Joint Cargo Aircraft, Next Generation Combat Search and Rescue platform, and the \$20 billion KC-X, the Air Force's No. 1 acquisition priority. His leadership, vision, and political acumen allowed the Air Force to break through years of congressional restrictions on aircraft retirements, resulting in the landmark \$4 billion 2007 National Defense Authorization Act language, a milestone year for Air Force recapitalization and fleet management. He flawlessly orchestrated the movement of more than 1,500 congressional delegation trips for Members and staff throughout the world.

Major General Darnell's mastery of complex issues and decisive leadership guided Air Force relations with Congress through a myriad of difficult issues to include Base Realignment and Closure, Total Force Integration, and a 40,000 personnel drawdown. Additionally, he was responsible for effectively communicating a consistent Air Force message that was the driving force behind approval of an unprecedented multiyear funding authorization for the F-22A Raptor, garnering approximately \$411 million in Air Force savings.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Major General Darnell, his wife Vickie, and their entire family for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to this great Nation. I congratulate Major General Darnell on his selection to the rank of lieutenant general and wish him success as he transitions into his new job as Deputy Chief of Staff for Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. ANDREW MAYS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I want to commend a distinguished resident of the State of Alabama, Dr. Andrew Mays. Dr. Mays lives in Birmingham, AL. He is a well-respected member of the medical community in our State, serving as a faculty member in the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology, as well as operating a private clinical practice. He serves our State public education and health systems at the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital, where he concentrates his research and practice in combating the devastating effects of the eye disease glaucoma. Dr. Mays also sits on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Academy of Ophthalmology.

However, I speak to you today not to praise Dr. Mays for his accomplishments in medicine, but to congratulate