

work cooperatively for the betterment of the community, and how an entire community can get information and services in a nonstigmatizing environment.

Through a series of generous grants and donations, the Family Resource Center has been able to supply a tremendous number of services, including acting as an outreach office and an information clearinghouse for many government and nonprofit agencies; providing space for an alternative school and an infant care center; offering a "connections" program that matches up people in need of household furniture and appliances with those who have those items to give away; spearheading a school supply drive; providing mental health counseling and drug and alcohol evaluation; offering Red Cross babysitting courses and Oregon Child Care Basics workshops; offering victims' services, including women's support and sexual assault support groups, offering legal aid and paralegal services, and the list goes on and on.

Mr. President, the late Oregon Governor Tom McCall once said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are individuals who say, 'This is my community and it is my responsibility to make it better.'" I am confident that all those who—through their time, talents, and treasure—have helped to write the remarkable 10 year history of the Family Resource Center are true heroes because they have truly made Reedsport a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE PARASKEVAIDES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and pay tribute to George Paraskevaides, a world-renowned titan of industry, a much-beloved humanitarian, and a most esteemed philanthropist.

Throughout his exceptional life, George Paraskevaides, in word and deed, exemplified the ageless precepts of ancient Greece: excellence, education, civic engagement, and a love for mankind. And, at every turn, George not only lived up to those ideals—he lived them out in a way that was an example and inspiration to all.

Although an Athenian by birth, George moved his family to Cyprus where he pursued his studies and obtained a formal education in architecture, and where he would form with Stelios Joannou what would become the legendary contracting and civil engineering firm of Joannou & Paraskevaides—or J&P. And today, J&P is one of the largest development companies in the world, employing more than 16,000 people and engaged in projects for airports, hotels, highways, homes, and sports arenas to name just a few. Underpinning J&P's success is its hallmark attention to quality and its reputation for completing projects on time and on budget.

Through the years, however, in true Greek fashion, George was never content with building on his own success alone, and, time and again, demonstrated a generosity of spirit that was undeniably an ennobling force worldwide. His philanthropy was legendary. To cite just a few examples, he contributed to the Children's Heart Fund Hospital in Minneapolis, the Surgical and Transplant Foundation, and the Cyprus Heart Association. He funded countless scholarships for less fortunate Cypriots and founded the Cyprus Kidney Foundation. Perhaps his most historic gesture occurred during World War II when, at the request of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, George Paraskevaides assisted in building an airport runway for U.S. Allies to use—an act which to this day is remembered for its decisive courage and lasting impact.

It should, therefore, come as no surprise that George Paraskevaides has been recognized globally for his immeasurable concern for his fellow man. The prestigious honors include the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II, the Saint Marcus Medal from the Vatican, the St. Paul's Medal by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of North and South America, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, Philanthropic Award, and many, many others too numerous to mention. For 91 years, Greece, Cyprus, and the world were all blessed by the presence and good works of George Paraskevaides, and how profoundly fitting it was that Cyprus held a State funeral in his honor earlier this month.

Cyprus President Tassos Papadopoulos characterized George best when he described him as "a model of humanism, dignity, and kindness. His name became synonymous with the ideals of philanthropy and selfless love towards our fellow man."●

TRIBUTE TO CARROLL COLLEGE

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I congratulate and honor the football players at Carroll College, in Helena, MT, who this past Saturday became the National Champions of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The Fighting Saints defeated the University of Sioux Falls 17-to-9 on a cold, rainy day in Savannah, TN.

Folks in my home State are getting used to celebrating championships this time of year. Carroll's historic victory this past Sunday marks the fifth time in 6 years that they have been crowned National Champions.

I want to extend my congratulations to coach Mike Van Diest and his entire staff, cheerleading coach Pam Jones and her squad, athletic director Bruce Parker, Carroll College president Tom Trebon, and the entire Carroll community for bringing home the national title.

But I mostly want to applaud the young men who make up this remark-

able team. Years from now they may forget the early morning and late night practices. They may forget the summer training in the Montana heat and other sacrifices they have made. But they will never forget the muddy day in December of 2007 when they raised up that trophy.

As a former teacher and referee I know firsthand how important interscholastic competition can be. It takes the dedication and determination of the young men and women who make a team. It takes the support of the community and the alumni. And it takes patient and talented coaches to lead.

Mr. President, I also know how outstanding an institution Carroll is. I have always been impressed by the accomplishments of both the students and the faculty and as the father of an alumna, I will always have a special place in my heart for Carroll.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JEFFERSON JOSEPH DEBLANC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge COL Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc, Sr., for his dedicated service to Louisiana and the United States of America. I would like to take some time to make a few remarks on his accomplishments.

In 1940, Colonel DeBlanc left school in order to pursue a career in the military. After joining the Marine flight program, he enlisted in the Naval Reserve where he received elimination flight training. He continued his illustrious military career in the Marines, achieving the rank of captain on June 1, 1943, and transferred to the Marine Aircraft Group 11 overseas.

In November 1944, he returned overseas for his second tour of duty. He joined the Marine Fighting Squadron 422 in the Marshall Islands and remained stationed there until May 1945, joining Squadron 212 in order to fight in the Okinawa campaign. In his two tours of duty in the Pacific at Guadalcanal and Okinawa, he shot down nine enemy aircraft. On December 6, 1946, President Truman awarded him the Nation's highest decoration for valor and bravery, the Congressional Medal of Honor "for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." Colonel DeBlanc received this medal for shooting down five enemy Zeros in the Solomons. He went on to be decorated with more than 10 medals, including the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and multiple Gold Stars.

Colonel DeBlanc later received a master's degree in education. He worked with the St. Martin's Parish School Board and taught physics at Mt. Carmel in New Iberia. After his retirement from the Marine Corps Reserve in 1972, he served as a member in multiple organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Medal of Honor Society.

Colonel Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc, Sr., passed away on Thursday, November 22, 2007. Colonel DeBlanc was the last living World War II Medal of Honor recipient from Louisiana. Although he did not perceive his achievement as a fighter pilot as out of the ordinary, many Louisianans will long remember the gallantry, bravery, and valor he exhibited throughout his life.

Thus, today, I am proud to rise to honor a fellow Louisianan, Colonel Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc, Sr., and thank him for his dedicated and tireless service to our country. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 and a withdrawal 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 2:21 p.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 bills, without amendment:

S. 1396. An act to authorize a major medical facility project to modernize inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

S. 1896. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3793. An act to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the continued payment to a member of the uniformed services who dies or is retired or separated under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, bonuses and similar benefits that the member was entitled to before the death, retirement, or separation of the member and would be paid if the member had not died, retired, or separated, to prohibit requiring the member to repay any portion of the bonuses or similar benefits previously paid, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that in accordance with the request of the Senate, the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, and all accompanying papers are hereby returned to the Senate.

At 3:13 p.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, without amendment:

S. 863. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1216. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

H. J. Res. 72. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 660.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 660) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1585. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2761. An act to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3648. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principle residences from gross income, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 5:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3996) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the resolution from the Senate (S. Con.

Res. 61) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives, do pass with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2499. An act to amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4040. An act to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker reappoints the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2009: Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew of the District of Columbia, and Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of Great Falls, Virginia.

At 6:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to Amendment #2 of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2640) to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1916. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the program for the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees by terminating the authority for the removal of chimpanzees from the system for research purposes.

S. 2436. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4839. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.