

Today I rise to honor a great man who did those things and changed life on the Minnesota prairie for thousands of people who maybe never even heard his name. Today I want to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Earl B. Olson, an innovator for Minnesota agriculture, a leader in the Nation's turkey industry, and a man of great faith.

There is a passage in the Book of Isaiah that truly captures his life. In the midst of difficult times for Israel, it talks about a future day of blessing when God will:

... bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

If ever there was an "oak of righteousness," it was Earl Olson, who brought beauty, gladness, and praise to the hearts of many.

Earl Olson founded the Jennie-O Turkey Store in 1949. At that time, the Minnesota turkey industry was a tiny fraction of what it is today. Currently, Jennie-O is the largest turkey company in the United States, with Minnesota leading the Nation in turkey production.

Born on May 8, 1915, Earl was the son of Swedish immigrants. He grew up on a farm outside of Murdock, MN, and attended the West Central School of Agriculture in Morris, MN, graduating in 1932.

Earl's first job, at the age of 17, was at the Murdock Cooperative Creamery. Within 1 year, he became the manager of Swift Falls Creamery.

As the story has been told, one day a woman came into the Swift Falls Creamery to purchase some ice. As Earl was chopping away at a small block of ice, another employee spilled 100 gallons of scalding hot water on him, burning much of his body and sending him to the hospital. Fortunately, the company had health insurance and Earl was compensated with \$1,000. With this money, Earl began his empire by purchasing 300 turkeys. After earning a dollar for each turkey, Earl soon began purchasing more. Fifteen years later, Earl found himself selling a half million turkeys annually. By 1970, Jennie-O turkeys were being sold across the entire Nation. Earl B. Olson saw the impossible as an opportunity: he turned a tragedy into a success.

Faith was always a central part in the life of Earl Olson. When Earl was young, he and his family were founding members of the Bethesda Lutheran Church. Earl was later a member of Vinje Lutheran Church and helped lead the church's efforts in building a new facility. Throughout his life, his generosity helped countless troubled youth and prison inmates find their path to a better life. He always found time and resources to help people in their time of need.

Earl undertook many leading roles in the turkey industry. He served as the

president of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association, director of the National Turkey Federation, and director of the National Poultry and Egg Association.

This past spring, I was privileged to have lunch with Earl. Even at the age of 90, I found him sharp and forward-looking. We had an engaging conversation about the future of the Minnesota turkey industry and the health of the Minnesota agricultural economy. It was an inspiration to still see the passion in his heart.

Today, Jennie-O Turkey employs nearly 7,000 people and creates more than 1,500 products. Minnesota has been truly blessed to have a visionary leader like Earl B. Olson live in Minnesota and work to make our State a better place.

America has many assets: abundant natural resources, good systems of health and education, and a great democratic tradition of the rule of law. We can never forget though, that part of our greatness comes from the "oaks of righteousness" among us. I am thankful to have known one: Earl B. Olson, who helped make Minnesota great.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN MEMORY OF DEANNE STONE

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I speak to the memory of Deanne Stone of Framingham, MA, a dear friend of mine who passed away on Sunday, February 4, at the age of 67. I am deeply saddened by Deanne's death and will keep her friends and family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Those of us who were lucky enough to know Deanne could not help but be touched by her kind and generous spirit. Throughout the town of Framingham, where she lived for 46 years after marrying her husband Harvey, she was known for being willing to help anyone who asked. Mr. Stone recently told the Boston Globe that one young man recently approached him to tell him that whenever he needed help with a school project, he knew that Mrs. Stone would be the best person to whom to go.

In addition to always being willing to help her friends and neighbors, Deanne was also involved with many philanthropic efforts. Deeply inspired by her Jewish faith, Deanne believed in the power of individuals to make a difference through community service. To this end, she worked for numerous charitable organizations, developing a reputation as a dedicated and prodigious fundraiser. Throughout her career, Deanne worked for both the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and B'nai B'rith International, for which she served as regional director for New England.

Deanne was also deeply involved with various educational organizations. She

worked with both the Maimonides Jewish Day School in Brookline, MA, and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. She also worked with the Foundation for Children's Books, a Boston-based organization dedicated to promoting literacy among young children in the hope of instilling in them a love of reading and learning. Deanne was inspired to get involved with this organization while visiting schools in Roxbury, MA. Deanne would interact with the students, be amazed at how intelligent they all were, and wondered why many of them were not succeeding in the classroom. She believed that if these young people could be taught to love reading at the earliest age possible, they might gain a sense of discovery that would inspire them to achieve academically.

Such a dedication toward education is not surprising, coming from someone who was as dedicated a student as Deanne. While attending Weaver High School in Hartford, CT, where she was born and raised, Deanne was involved in numerous extracurricular activities, including a stint as editor of the high school's newspaper. Even with so much on her plate, she was still valedictorian of her high school class in 1957. Five years later, she graduated from the prestigious Brandeis University.

Mr. President, when looking back at the life of a person as warm and altruistic as Deanne Stone, who affected so many people in such a positive way, it is excruciatingly difficult to find the words to sum it up, while also doing Deanne justice. Be that as it may, I believe Deanne's sister, Barbara Gordon, another dear friend of mine, put it best when she wrote in a letter that was read aloud at Deanne's funeral that "The world will be emptier without my sister Deanne, but the world is a better place for her having been in it for 67 years!" I couldn't have put it better myself.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 556. An act to ensure national security while promoting foreign investment and the creation and maintenance of jobs, to reform the process by which such investments are examined for any effect they may have on national security, to establish the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, 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. 52. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Heart Month.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 49. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 North Frontage Road in West Vail, Colorado, as the "Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 335. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 152 North 5th Street in Laramie, Wyoming, as the "Gale W. McGee Post Office".

H.R. 433. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1700 Main Street in Little Rock, Arkansas, as the "Scipio A. Jones Post Office Building".

H.R. 514. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16150 Aviation Loop Drive in Brooksville, Florida, as the "Sergeant Lea Robert Mills Brooksville Aviation Branch Post Office".

H.R. 521. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, Illinois, as the "Lane Evans Post Office Building".

H.R. 577. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 South Congress Avenue in Austin, Texas, as the "Sergeant Henry Ybarra III Post Office Building".

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

At 6:14 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. 800. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 556. An act to ensure national security while promoting foreign investment and the creation and maintenance of jobs, to reform the process by which such investments are examined for any effect they may have on national security, to establish the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 52. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Heart Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 800. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes.

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-871. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the (34) reports relative to vacancy announcements that have occurred within the Department since October 23, 2001 as well as (10) reports of revisions to selected reports submitted on the same date, received on February 28, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-872. A communication from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "12 CFR Part 701—General Lending Maturity Limit and Other Financial Services" (RIN3133-AD30) received on February 28, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-873. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the development of a comprehensive plan for the facilities at the Idaho National Laboratory; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-874. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the use of funds under section 1113 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-875. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Depreciation of MACRS Property Acquired in a Like-Kind Exchange for an Involuntary Conversion" ((RIN1545-BF37)(TD 9314)) received on February 28, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-876. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of OMB Guidance on Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension" (2 CFR Part 376) received on February 28, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-877. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Letter Report: Comparative Analysis of Actual Cash Collection to the Revised Revenue Estimate Through the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2006"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUYE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 84. A bill to establish a United States Boxing Commission to administer the Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-28).

By Mr. INOUYE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 184, A bill to provide improved rail and surface transportation security (Rept. No. 110-29).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment, and with a preamble:

H. Con. Res. 44. A concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 98th anniversary.

S. Res. 78. A resolution designating April 2007 as "National Autism Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to increase funding for research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.

S. Res. 84. A resolution observing February 23, 2007, as the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire, honoring the distinguished life and legacy of William Wilberforce, and encouraging the people of the United States to follow the example of William Wilberforce by selflessly pursuing respect for human rights around the world.

S. Con. Res. 10. A concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 98th anniversary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

John Preston Bailey, of West Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia.

Otis D. Wright II, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

George H. Wu, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 720. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to authorize the Governor of a State, territory, or possession of the United States to order that the National flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, or possession in the event of the death of a member of the Armed Forces from that State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. DORGAN,

Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 721. A bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 722. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument in the State of Arizona; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 723. A bill to provide certain enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill Program for certain individuals who serve as members of the Armed Forces after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):