

make decisions of war and peace. In addition to his most famous book, "War and Presidential Power: A Chronicle of Congressional Surrender," he also co-authored a textbook for high school students called "Our Constitution and What It Means." Most of all, you could see the pleasure he took from simply being here.

Above all, Tom Eagleton loved his family, his home State of Missouri, and the St. Louis Cardinals. At one point he even considered applying to become the Commissioner of Major League Baseball, but he couldn't give up his Senate seat as long as Missouri had a Republican Governor to appoint his successor.

This January, Tom celebrated his 50-year anniversary with his wonderful wife Barbara. Together they raised two children, Terence and Christy, and three grandchildren. Tom Eagleton was the quintessential family man. He never stopped giving. He gave his life to serving his State and his country, and when he died he left instructions that his body was to be given to Washington University for medical research.

Senator Tom Eagleton lived a full and remarkable life, and all of his colleagues and all the country will miss him dearly. He died with no regrets. "My ambition," he said, "since my senior year in high school was to be a Senator."

Not everybody achieves their ambition. Tom Eagleton actually did a lot more than that. He achieved his own ambitions and earned the love and enduring respect of millions. Along the way, he inspired so many of us, not least of all the no-longer-freshman Senator from Massachusetts who, 23 years later, rises sadly and proudly to pay tribute to the man who once gave up his seniority but never gave up his principles.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

2007 NCAA RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am pleased to report the 2007 National Collegiate Men's and Women's Rifle Championships will be held in Fairbanks, AK on March 9 and 10. Forty-eight student-athletes will participate in this exciting competition.

Although rifle is relatively new as an NCAA sport, 44 colleges and universities now sponsor rifle teams. Nationwide, hundreds of student-athletes compete in this sport. These young men and women are tremendously skilled—to score a bull's-eye in the smallbore competition, for instance, shooters must strike a target the size of the period at the end of this sentence. Remarkably, they are able to consistently hit this mark from a distance of 50 feet.

Like more traditional sports, rifle has a positive impact on its participants. Marsha Beasley, the former head coach of West Virginia University's team, once observed: "Rifle provides a

wonderful opportunity to learn many life skills such as self-discipline, concentration, the ability to relax under pressure, goal-setting, sportsmanship and teamwork." Just as important, rifle teaches participants how to handle guns in a safe, responsible manner. It is also one of the few sports where men and women compete against each other as equals.

Rifle competition has a great history in our State, and Alaskans are honored the NCAA has chosen Fairbanks as this year's host. The timing of this event is particularly fitting—2007 marks the 70th anniversary of the University of Alaska Fairbanks' first rifle team.

Over the years, UAF has found great success in this sport. The university is the NCAA's reigning rifle champion and has claimed the national title in 7 of the past 8 years. Since 1988, 39 Nanooks have been selected as All-Americans in rifle. Seven of these competitors have won individual rifle championships.

Rifle's popularity is also apparent throughout our state. Today, Fairbanks is one of several Alaska cities with a robust rifle community, and many high schools in our state now sponsor rifle teams as well.

Mr. President, while I will be rooting for the home team, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, I wish each participant the best in this competition. The names of each team and individual selected for the 2007 National Collegiate Men's and Women's Rifle Championships are as follows:

Team Qualifiers: Jacksonville State University, Murray State University, Texas Christian University, United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Kentucky, University of Nebraska.

Individual Qualifiers (Smallbore Three-Position): Matthew Hamilton—United States Military Academy, Lee Lemenager—University of Nevada, Reno, Layne Lewis—University of Alaska Fairbanks, Jennifer Lorenzen—University of Mississippi, Meghan Morrill—University of Nevada, Reno.

Individual Qualifiers (Air Rifle): Erica Burnham—Tennessee Technological University, Wesley Hess—United States Military Academy, Ashley Jackson—University of Kentucky, Keegan Singleton—University of Memphis, Leah Wilcox—University of Texas at El Paso, Shannon Wilson—University of Mississippi.

HONORING HERMAN JOSEPH GESSER III

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to a staff member who is, unfortunately, leaving to go back to Louisiana. I want to spend a few minutes talking about his wonderful service.

Herman Joseph Gesser came to work in Washington for 1 year. He is an attorney and a very able architect and thought he would come and work here for the Louisiana delegation to contribute to our State and to learn the ways of Washington in public service. Ten years later, he is still here. We are

sad to see him return to Louisiana, but family responsibilities and duties call him home.

He has been projects director and general counsel of my office now for 9 years. He has served with diligence and dedication, honesty, integrity, and creativity. He is truly one of the most sought after and popular members of the Senate staff. He has worked on transportation projects. He has been an expert on Corps of Engineers projects, someone whom both Republican and Democratic staffers trust to give them just the facts, give it to them straight, and give it to them quickly.

I laugh and say everybody in Louisiana needs a Bubba on their staff. I sure have had a very special Bubba on my staff for all these many years, as he is called and referred to kindly and in a very friendly way.

Bubba has served the people of his home parish, New Iberia Parish, with distinction. He has done some extraordinary work, as I said, in the area of transportation. He is going to be missed.

He really is a true example of selfless service. He could be, Mr. President—as you know, many of our staff could make a great deal more money, particularly in his case with the double degrees he has as a lawyer and an architect. But yet for 10 years, he has chosen to serve and stay through the challenges of Katrina and Rita where his talents and abilities were called on literally daily and was one of the go-to people I counted on to give me facts, to give them to me quickly so I could advocate more effectively on behalf of the 4.5 million people in Louisiana and the millions of people who live in the gulf coast area.

I wanted to publicly recognize Herman Joseph Gesser, a citizen of Louisiana and a great servant to the people of our State in such a time of need.

I know his father is very proud of him. I know his mother, who just passed away last year, still continues to give him blessings from Heaven, and that his extended family and many friends are very grateful to him for the support he has given to us all these many years.

His homecoming in south Louisiana will be greeted with fanfare by his hometown, but it will be a great loss to the Landrieu staff in Washington, DC.

RECOGNIZING FIRST ROBOTICS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my privilege to recognize the outstanding achievements of today's youth in science and engineering. On March 27, I am pleased to join with the city of Las Vegas in welcoming the FIRST Robotics, FRC, Regional Competition to Nevada.

FIRST was founded in 1989 through the vision of inventor Dean Kamen to inspire interest and participation in science and technology. As a result of his leadership, FIRST has grown into one of the leading robotics competitions in the entire country. This

project has even grown to include a partnership with the UNLV Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering.

I am pleased to welcome 12 local teams as well as 50 teams from across the country and the world to Las Vegas and to UNLV. I hope they will be able to enjoy everything Las Vegas has to offer. It is also important to recognize the contributions of the parents, teachers, mentors, volunteers, and sponsors for this event. Without their support, I am certain this event would not be possible.

With the backing of the entire Las Vegas community, I am certain that the FIRST Robotics, FRC, Regional Competition will be an outstanding success. Mr. President, I wish all the participants success in the competition and in the future.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I regret that I was unable to vote the evening of March 5 on the confirmation of the nomination of Carl J. Artman, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

I wish to address this confirmation so that the people of the great State of Kansas, who elected me to serve them as U.S. Senator, may know my position.

Regarding vote No. 59, on the confirmation of the nomination of Carl J. Artman, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior, I would have supported the confirmation of Mr. Artman. My vote would not have altered the outcome of this confirmation.

IN HONOR OF VACLAV HAVEL

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today I wish to join my colleagues from the Helsinki Commission in commemorating the founding of the Charter 77 movement 30 years ago, and praising Vaclav Havel, one of Charter 77's first spokesmen and the first post-Communist President of Czechoslovakia.

Many aspects of Vaclav Havel's biography are well known. His advanced formal education was limited by the Communist regime because of his family's pre-World War II cultural and economic status. By the 1960s, he was working in theater and writing plays. But by 1969, the Communist regime had deemed him "subversive," and his passport was confiscated.

In 1977, he took the daring step of joining two others—Jan Patocka and Jiri Hajek—in becoming the first spokesmen for the newly established "Charter 77" movement. This group sought to compel the Czechoslovak Government to abide by the international human rights commitments it had freely undertaken, including the Helsinki Final Act.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Vaclav Havel was repeatedly imprisoned because of his human rights work. His longest period of imprisonment was 4½ years,

1979–1983, for subversion. After this, Havel was given the opportunity to emigrate but, courageously, he chose to stay in Czechoslovakia. By February 1989, Havel had come to symbolize a growing human rights and democratic movement in Czechoslovakia and, that year, the Helsinki Commission nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Remarkably, in November 1989, the repressive machinery of the Communist regime—a regime that for five decades had persecuted and even murdered its own citizens—collapsed in what has come to be known as the "Velvet Revolution."

To understand just how repressive the former regime was—and therefore how stunning its seemingly sudden demise was—it may be instructive to recall the first measures of the post-Communist leadership, introduced in the heady days of late 1989 and early 1990. First and foremost, all known political prisoners were released. Marxism-Leninism was removed as a required course from all school curricula. Borders were opened for thousands of people who had previously been prohibited from traveling freely. Control over the People's Militia was transferred from the party to the Government. The Federal Assembly passed a resolution condemning the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. Approximately 40 Ambassadors representing the Czechoslovak Communist regime were recalled. Newly appointed Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier announced that the "temporary" 1968 agreement allowing Soviet troops to remain in Czechoslovakia was invalid because it was agreed to under duress and that Soviet troops would withdraw from the country. The Politburo announced it would end the nomenklatura system of reserving certain jobs for party functionaries. The secret police was abolished. Alexander Dubcek, leader of the 1968 Prague Spring, was elected Chairman of the Federal Assembly on December 28 and, a day later, Vaclav Havel was voted to replace Gustav Husak. In February 1990, Vaclav Havel addressed a joint session of Congress.

Charter 77 paved the way for all of these things, and more: for Czechoslovakia's first free and fair elections since 1946, for the normalization of trade relations between our two countries, and for the Czech Republic's accession to NATO. Not surprisingly, the work of Charter 77 continues to inspire, as is evidenced by the adoption of the name "Charter 97" by human rights activists in Belarus, who are still working to bring to their own country a measure of democracy and respect for human rights that Czechs have now enjoyed for some years.

I am therefore pleased to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Charter 77 movement and to join others in honoring Vaclav Havel who remains, to this day, the conscience of the global community.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, in accordance with rule XXVI.2. of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the rules of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, as unanimously adopted by the committee on January 31, 2007.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

[Adopted in executive session, January 31, 2007]

RULE 1. REGULAR MEETING DATE FOR COMMITTEE

The regular meeting day for the Committee to transact its business shall be the last Tuesday in each month that the Senate is in Session; except that if the Committee has met at any time during the month prior to the last Tuesday of the month, the regular meeting of the Committee may be canceled at the discretion of the Chairman.

RULE 2. COMMITTEE

[a] Investigations. No investigation shall be initiated by the Committee unless the Senate, or the full Committee, or the Chairman and Ranking Member have specifically authorized such investigation.

[b] Hearings. No hearing of the Committee shall be scheduled outside the District of Columbia except by agreement between the Chairman of the Committee and the Ranking Member of the Committee or by a majority vote of the Committee.

[c] Confidential testimony. No confidential testimony taken or confidential material presented at an executive session of the Committee or any report of the proceedings of such executive session shall be made public either in whole or in part or by way of summary, unless specifically authorized by the Chairman of the Committee and the Ranking Member of the Committee or by a majority vote of the Committee.

[d] Interrogation of witnesses. Committee interrogation of a witness shall be conducted only by members of the Committee or such professional staff as is authorized by the Chairman or the Ranking Member of the Committee.

[e] Prior notice of markup sessions. No session of the Committee or a Subcommittee for marking up any measure shall be held unless [1] each member of the Committee or the Subcommittee, as the case may be, has been notified in writing of the date, time, and place of such session and has been furnished a copy of the measure to be considered at least 3 business days prior to the commencement of such session, or [2] the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee determines that exigent circumstances exist requiring that the session be held sooner.

[f] Prior notice of first degree amendments. It shall not be in order for the Committee or a Subcommittee to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee or Subcommittee unless fifty written copies of such amendment have been delivered to the office of the Committee at least 2 business days prior to the meeting. It shall be in order, without prior notice, for a Senator to offer a motion to strike a single section of any measure under consideration. Such a motion to strike a section of the