

And one more thing: community health centers have a well-deserved reputation for caring and kindness. They offer a direct and personal style of health care. They follow up. They care about prevention and wellness.

So I am deeply grateful to Executive Director Ron Kemp, to President Beverly Simone of Southeastern Community College, to the center's dedicated board members, to Ted Boesen, executive director of the Iowa/Nebraska Primary Care Association, and to all the other people who made this new facility possible. They work their hearts out to provide the very best health care to some of our most needy citizens. I deeply appreciate their passion, their compassion, and their dedication to public service.

HONORING LAS PLANTADAS

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Las Plantadas, a group of women incarcerated for resisting the dictatorial regime of Cuba for nearly half a century. The National Association of Cuban American Women will gather on Saturday, March 24, 2007, to honor a group of Las Plantadas—Ana Lazara Rodriguez, Miriam Ortega, Genoveva Felixgraw, Clara Berta Canton Gomez, Olga Morgan and Gladys B. Campaneria Herrera—with the Elena Mederos Award during a Women's History Month Celebration at Schuetzen Park, in North Bergen, NJ.

The Elena Mederos Award was instituted by the National Association of Cuban American Women in memory of Dr. Elena Mederos, 1900–1981, a human rights activist, who is considered the most prominent Cuban woman of the 20th Century.

Ana Lazara Rodriguez, a doctor, was imprisoned when she was a 19-year-old medical student for participating in protests against the Cuban dictatorship. She was released in 1979 and traveled to the United States via Costa Rica. In May 1995, she published "Diary of a Survivor," a book detailing her experiences while incarcerated.

Miriam Ortega was born in Ciego de Avila, Cuba. She was imprisoned for 18 years for working against the Castro regime. She was released and moved to the United States, where she continues in her determination to fight for a free Cuba.

Clara Berta Canton Gomez was born in Havana, Cuba. In 1962, State security agents searched the home of her parents seeking her brother who was involved in efforts against the Castro regime. Because they did not speak against their family member, Clara and her parents were incarcerated and sentenced to serve 30 years in prison. Released after 7 years, Clara has dedicated her time to fight for the release of political prisoners. She dreams of returning to see a free Cuba.

Olga Morgan was born in Santa Clara, Las Villas. When she was working against the Batista dictatorship, she met her husband, William Alex-

ander Morgan, with whom she has two children, Olguita and Loretta. Olga and her husband were imprisoned in 1960 and 1961. Her husband was executed with the regime proclaiming both he and Olga a "high risk for the revolution." Olga was released in 1971, and after being denied a travel document in 1978, she reached the shores of the United States in the 1980 Mariel boatlift.

Gladys B. Campaneria Herrera was born in Matanzas and raised in Havana. Between 1959 to 1963 she fought against the Castro regime, for which she was arrested in 1964 and sentenced to 3 years in prison. While she was in prison, she suffered greatly. She was released and moved to the United States, where she has lived in New York and worked in New Jersey as a reporter for various Spanish media outlets. An avid writer, Gladys has authored more than 150 poems and songs. She continues to fight for a free Cuba.

The inspiring stories of these women, and of the nearly 3000 other Cuban women who have been imprisoned, tortured, and endured many punishments for refusing to accept a dictatorial regime are a symbol of the dignity and courage of women and a reminder of the need to continue to fight for human rights around the world.

There is no doubt that Las Plantadas are exemplary leaders and profoundly committed individuals who are role models for the Nation. Therefore, I am pleased to pay tribute to Las Plantadas, and I know my colleagues will join in wishing them continued success in their quest for human rights and a free Cuba.●

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE ELSIJANE TRIMBLE ROY

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, every year during the month of March, we honor the women who have made a lasting impact on our country's history with Women's History Month. This month, I want to pay tribute to a true Arkansas pioneer who passed away earlier this year, Judge Elsijane Trimble Roy.

Judge Roy has been referred to as "Arkansas' Lady of Many Firsts." Only the third woman to graduate from the University of Arkansas law school in 1939, Judge Roy was the first female in the state of Arkansas to be appointed as circuit judge in 1966. In 1975, then-Governor David Pryor appointed Judge Roy to the Arkansas Supreme Court, making her the first woman to serve as an Arkansas Supreme Court Justice. Just 2 years later, newly elected President Jimmy Carter selected Judge Roy to serve on the Federal bench, and she was given the distinct honor of becoming Arkansas' first female Federal judge, as well as the first female judge appointed to the eighth Circuit.

The daughter of Federal judge Thomas C. Trimble, Judge Roy and her father also held the distinction of being the first father and daughter to serve

as Federal judges. In fact, Judge Roy served in the same courtroom that her father presided over for nearly 20 years. She often mentioned that she could feel his presence, and in a 1996 interview with the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, she noted that "It's meant so much to me to be able to try cases in the same court. I look up there, and he helps me with the hard cases."

A gifted athlete who loved sports, Judge Roy was a star player for the Lonoke High School basketball team in Lonoke, AR, and was a two-time women's singles champion at the University of Arkansas.

Judge Roy was devoted to both her family and her faith. She was a proud mother, grandmother, and later in life, a great-grandmother. Judge Roy was also an aunt to many nieces and nephews. She was a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Lonoke and taught Sunday school class when she lived in Blytheville, AR. According to her obituary, Judge Roy gave credit to the Lord for her many judicial appointments, saying, "I have always felt I have been brought to these positions by the Lord." The center of her faith was her favorite Bible verse, Micah 6:8, which reads, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

A truly remarkable woman, Judge Roy received many honors in her life, including the Outstanding Appellate Judge of 1976–1977 by the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association. One honor, however, stands out above others. In 1976, Judge Roy was chosen as Arkansas Democrat's Woman of the Year, a distinction her mother also earned. She received a plaque for that honor, and in a 1979 Arkansas Democrat article, Judge Roy said, "If anything is ever written about me, I want it to contain the words on that plaque. Throughout my career, the things written there are the things I have lived for."

The plaque reads:

As a law clerk, lawyer, and trial judge, Elsijane Trimble Roy established a reputation for integrity, intelligence, and independence. As the first woman on the Arkansas Supreme Court, she has become a symbol of pride and inspiration to all women.

Judge Roy, you have been a source of pride and inspiration to all women, not only in Arkansas, but throughout our great land. You will most certainly be missed.●

DIERKS, ARKANSAS, CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is with the greatest pleasure that today I honor Dierks, AR, which will soon be celebrating its 100th anniversary. Dierks is located in Howard County which lies in the southwestern part of my State. It was named after a German family that immigrated to the United States in the mid-1800s. The family established a major sawmill known as Hardscrabble, and when the community was incorporated in 1907, it changed its name to Dierks.

The Weyerhaeuser Company purchased most of the Dierks' family holdings in 1969. Weyerhaeuser employs some 600 people in Howard County and is one of the county's largest employers.

Dierks is also one of many of Arkansas's fine recreation destinations. Visitors take advantage of Dierks Lake which offers boating, fishing, water-skiing, camping, and sightseeing. Among fishermen, the lake is best known for its large-mouth bass and crappie. Catfish and bream can also be caught in abundance. The beautiful surroundings make it among one of the most scenic spots in the State.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Dierks on its 100th anniversary and in wishing its 1,300 citizens a wonderful day of celebration.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 545. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that territories and Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 93. A bill to authorize NTIA to borrow against anticipated receipts of the Digital Television and Public Safety Fund to initiate migration to a national IP-enabled emergency network capable of receiving and responding to all citizen activated emergency communications (Rept. No. 110-38).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

S. 261. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 627. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to improve the health and well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers through the creation of a National Court Teams Resource

Center, to assist local Court Teams, and for other purposes.

S. 888. A bill to amend section 1091 of title 18, United States Code, to allow the prosecution of genocide in appropriate circumstances.

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 Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 983. A bill for the relief of Michael Anthony Hurley; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 984. A bill for the relief of Jiao Ying Li; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 985. A bill to establish a pilot program to provide low interest loans to nonprofit, community-based lending intermediaries, to provide midsize loans to small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 986. A bill to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 987. A bill to enhance the energy security of the United States by promoting biofuels and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GREGG, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 988. A bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 989. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to clarify that the value of certain funeral and burial arrangements are not to be considered available resources under the supplemental security income program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 990. A bill to fight criminal gangs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. Res. 123. A resolution reforming the congressional earmark process; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. Res. 124. A resolution congratulating the European Union on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome creating the European Economic Community among 6

European countries and laying the foundations for peace, stability, and prosperity in Europe; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 57

At the request of Mr. INOUYE, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 57, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 254

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 254, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi.

S. 406

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to ensure local governments have the flexibility needed to enhance decision-making regarding certain mass transit projects.

S. 413

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 413, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Revised Statutes of the United States to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes.

S. 474

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 474, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 502, a bill to repeal the sunset on the reduction of capital gains rates for individuals and on the taxation of dividends of individuals at capital gains rates.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to improve efficiency in the Federal Government through the use of high-performance green buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as