

through the dedication of its employees, UPS has reached the pinnacle of its industry and has set the standard by which its competitors must follow.

I am proud to say that since opening their first facility in Newark, NJ, in 1928, UPS has maintained a significant presence in my home State of New Jersey. It employs more than 18,000 people statewide, making it one of the 10 largest employers in our State. I recently had the privilege and opportunity to visit a UPS hub in Edison to help commemorate UPS's 100th anniversary. At the Edison facility, 3,000 dedicated employees process and sort packages originating from and destined for points all over our State. Individuals and businesses across New Jersey rely on their efforts every day, and the intricate and sophisticated processes used by these employees ensure that important packages and documents are delivered on time.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating UPS on 100 years in business. I personally extend my best wishes to the company and its employees in New Jersey and across the world for many more years of success and prosperity.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WALTER M. "WALLY" SCHIRRA

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I want to commend a great American, Astronaut Walter M. "Wally" Schirra, who passed away today. Captain Schirra leaves behind a praiseworthy legacy as a Navy veteran, a pioneer for NASA and of outer-space exploration, a television commentator, and a devoted husband and father.

Captain Schirra began his distinguished career in the U.S. Navy when he arrived in Annapolis in the early days of World War II; he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1945 and soon became a pilot through Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, FL. Through an exchange program with the Air Force during the Korean war, he proudly served our Nation as a pilot of F-86 Sabres.

He carried this dedicated service to America into the stratosphere and beyond, making history as one of the "Original Seven" astronauts named by NASA to the Mercury program. On October 3, 1962, Captain Schirra became the first person ever to orbit the Earth 6 times. He is unique in that he is the only astronaut to have flown in NASA's first 3 space programs: Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo. After retiring from NASA, he later served with distinction as a widely known television commentator for CBS.

The passion that Wally Schirra had for space exploration and his accomplishments as a pioneer astronaut underscore the importance of our continuing to strengthen the NASA space program. The Apollo 7 mission—under the command of Schirra—proved to those at NASA that they had the ability to send a spacecraft into orbit

around the moon. Since then, NASA has taken many giant leaps. We must continue the exploration, research, and discovery that have all constituted NASA's trademark for decades.

Exploration into outer space helps us to better understand the world in which we live. NASA understood this well when they sent Captain Wally Schirra into outer space nearly 45 years ago; I am hopeful that this vision and reach will only continue to grow with time.

On behalf of Florida and the people of the United States, I thank Captain Schirra for his service to country and the science he helped to advance. He will be missed.●

#### HONORING MAINELY TRUSSES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize, for the week of April 29, an exceptional entrepreneur from my home State who has been awarded the Maine 2007 Small Business Person of the Year, Michael Boulet. Mike is truly one of our Nation's shining small business success stories. His company—Mainely Trusses—exemplifies the heart and soul of the American dream becoming reality.

Last March, I had the privilege to witness first hand the products and services that Mike's company provides when he was awarded an intermediary relending program loan from Kennebec Valley Council of Governments.

Mike's investment in his company through the Small Business Administrations' Maine Small Business Development Center and Costal Enterprises, Inc., has paid tremendous dividends for the future of Mainely Trusses—with a state-of-the-art facility, new technologies, a dedication to customer service, and full benefits for his employees. In fact, Mainely Trusses is so advanced that they use all laser beams to construct the trusses which is completely driven by computer software and highly skilled employees.

Since Mike has been president, Mainely Trusses has shown no signs of slowing down, growing from 3 to 50 employees over the last 15 years—a tremendous achievement for any business. Think about it—that is a 1,600-percent increase. Just imagine if we had that kind of explosive progress in the U.S. Congress, then we would really be onto something.

And what is all the more remarkable is Mike's courage to take on the family business after his father, John Boulet, passed away in a work-related accident. But Mike doesn't just reserve his considerable talents and energy for his business—he also exhibits those traits through his tireless leadership within the community whether serving as a member of the Maine Merchants Association Workers Compensation Trust Fund Board of Trustees, chairing the board for the Central Maine Youth Hockey Association, supporting Habitat for Humanity, or his involvement with Vietnamese orphanages and children's center.

The fact is small businesses are the critical element in our efforts to strengthen and bolster the Nation's economy. It used to be said, "What's good for General Motors is good for the Nation." Now, it is what is good for small business is best for the Nation and job growth.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am reminded daily of the immense—and often overlooked—contributions that risk-takers and dreamers like Mike and countless Americans make. They are the unsung heroes of our Nation's economy, creating two-thirds of all new jobs throughout our country.

That is why I appreciate SBA's commitment to providing our Nation's small businesses, as they have helped Mike, with the financial and business development tools to help them grow and excel. With more than 5.3 million jobs created or retained since 1999, this is proof-positive that our investment in the SBA is paying tremendous dividends to the Nation's economy.

We understand that Maine is a veritable "hotbed" for small business and a small business laboratory for the country. This year, at the vanguard of Maine entrepreneurs stands Mike Boulet. Once again, I would like congratulate Mike for being an exceptional model for Maine and the Nation. We here in the Senate wish Mike all the best for many more successful years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VINCENZO ANTONIO MANNO

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I honor the musical genius of fellow Ohioan Vincenzo Antonio Manno, a renowned opera singer and devoted professor of music.

Mr. Manno was born and raised in my great hometown of Cleveland, OH. In fact, he grew up right down the street from my family in the Collinwood neighborhood—the same neighborhood I live in still today. But his musical gift eventually took him far beyond Collinwood to some of the finest music institutions in Europe.

Cleveland's rich cultural environment and outstanding music tradition prepared Mr. Manno for his world-renowned career. Before completing his studies at Oberlin College under the tutelage of Professor Richard Mill, Mr. Manno was trained at the Cleveland Music School Settlement under Burton Garlinghouse and John Shurtleff; at summer sessions in Chautauqua, NY, under Josephine Antoine; and at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Eleanor Steber.

After receiving his degree from Oberlin, Mr. Manno continued his studies on a Fulbright Fellowship in Italy at Santa Cecilia in Rome with Ettore Campogalliani. His private studies in Milan continued with Dr. Otto Mueller, who was affiliated for years with the Metropolitan Opera House of New York.

After Dr. Mueller's death, Mr. Manno was accepted into the prestigious private singing school directed by Professor Dennis Hall in Bern, Switzerland. As a result of his studies with Professor Hall, Mr. Manno was encouraged to open a voice studio in Milan, which has become a mecca for singers from around the world.

Mr. Manno's singing career embraces a wide repertoire—from the baroque to the modern—and he has sung with opera companies around the world. His radio performances within Europe have been admired by the public and critics alike. And, he is currently a permanent member of the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy.

Not all accomplished musicians make good teachers, but Mr. Manno's teaching career has taken great strides in the past 10 years. He has been recognized for teaching and helping emerging singers on many continents. He also holds seminars and master classes on singing style.

Mr. Manno is regularly invited to teach singing technique at the world-renowned Accademia dei Giovani Cantanti—Academy of Young Singers—under the artistic direction of Leyla Gencer, affiliated with the Teatro alla Scala and the Accademia Internazionale della Musica—International Music Academy—in Milan. The students of Vincenzo Manno can be heard regularly around the world in opera houses, recording studios, concerts halls, and radio and television stations.

Mr. Manno also lends his expertise in pop music, Broadway and operetta. He has guided many Italian pop singers through recording sessions and is regularly contacted by Italian television to help arrange songs for singers and give advice on new compositions.

For all he has accomplished, Mr. Manno has received several awards. He received the "Grand Prix du Disque" for baroque music recorded with the great Swiss conductor Edwin Loehrer, and the "Best Recording of the Year" from Gramophone Magazine for his second CD solo recording of tenor music of the 17th century, "Strana Armonia d'Amore" with Roberto Gini.

Mr. President, on the 40th anniversary of his career, it is my pleasure to honor Vincenzo Antonio Manno for his great success and significant contributions to the world of music.●

#### 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, a withdrawal and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 1301. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 1305. A bill making emergency war appropriations for American troops overseas, without unnecessary pork barrel spending and without mandating surrender or retreat in Iraq, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments:

S. 992. A bill to achieve emission reductions and cost savings through accelerated use of cost-effective lighting technologies in public buildings, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-60).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Debra Ann Livingston, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Richard Sullivan, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Joseph S. Van Bokkelen, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

(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. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 1276. A bill to establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska:

S. 1277. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the treatment of payment under the Medicare program for clinical laboratory tests furnished by critical access hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1278. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the scope of programs of education for which accelerated payments of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill may be used, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 1279. A bill to secure America's future economy through reform of the Federal budget process; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1280. A bill to provide greater accountability in reviewing the national security considerations of free trade agreements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMAS:

S. 1281. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain rivers and streams of the headwaters of the Snake River System as additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1282. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the exclusion from gross income of certain wages of a certified master teacher, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 1283. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. MUKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1284. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation of income of controlled foreign corporations attributable to imported property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SPENCER, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 1285. A bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SMITH:

S. 1286. A bill to authorize the Coquille Indian Tribe of the State of Oregon to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 1287. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an offset against income tax refunds to pay for State judicial debts that are past-due; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1288. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to increase the retirement security of women and small business owners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1289. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the salary and terms of judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, to modify authorities for the recall of retired judges of such court, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1290. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional discretion to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in contracting with State approving agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.