

some truly famous zingers—such as when former Senator Breaux in 1981, while still a House Member, told her why he was voting for a particular plan President Reagan was putting forth. He said his vote could not be bought, but it was up for rent.

Joan's work as a reporter stayed true to the best tenets of journalism. She served the people of Louisiana for a quarter of a century by informing them about the personalities and policies of their elected representatives in Washington.

Through her work, Joan became an expert on the intricacies of the Senate and the Supreme Court. She has taken this knowledge with her into her current role as a member of the Senate Daily Press Gallery staff. Her Senate acumen on the institution and its procedure is of great value to the reporters roaming the gallery, cubs and veterans alike, who rely on her for deep insight about the Chamber they cover.

Joan, who has won reporting awards from the South Carolina and Louisiana press associations, is a longtime member of the 112-year-old, elite Gridiron Club of newspaper writers. She was one of the first women to become a member. Her storied career as a journalist, which earned her the respect of fellow members of the press and politicians alike, should be an example to all aspiring women journalists. And for those lucky enough to gain a spot in the valued turf of the Senate Daily Press Gallery, I know Joan will offer them a helping hand. The smart one will take it, and draw on the knowledge, experience and good heart, which has distinguished Joan among all who know her and the many more who have benefited from her years of believing in and serving the best ideals of our democracy.●

TRIBUTE TO JOEL COGEN

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, those of us who hold elected office are accustomed to getting the recognition and praise that comes with a career in public service. However, I think all of us would also recognize that there are many equally dedicated public servants who work behind the scenes and are just as deserving of the public's gratitude and recognition. I rise today to honor one such public servant.

In June, Joel Cogen, the executive director and general counsel of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, will retire after 41 years at CCM. Mr. Cogen's retirement marks the end of a highly distinguished career in public service, one in which he became a fixture in Connecticut politics.

Mr. Cogen has been with CCM since its inception in 1966 and has been its executive director since 1968. With Mr. Cogen at the helm, CCM, an organization dedicated to both advocating for the interests of Connecticut municipal governments and promoting efficiency and responsiveness within municipal government, has grown in both size and

influence to the point where it is now the dominant voice for Connecticut's cities and towns. In addition to its advocacy work, CCM has also provided its member municipalities with numerous services, including management assistance, individualized inquiry service, assistance in municipal labor relations, technical assistance and training, policy development, research and analysis, publications, information programs, and service programs such as workers' compensation. These services, provided under Mr. Cogen's leadership, have helped to greatly increase the level of service the people of Connecticut receive from their local officials.

In addition, Mr. Cogen also serves as corporate executive officer of CCM's Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency. This agency allows CCM's member towns to pool their resources to purchase services, such as workers' compensation insurance, that many towns might otherwise find too expensive.

Before his tenure at CCM, Mr. Cogen held numerous other public service positions. He worked for 9 years at the New Haven Redevelopment Agency, while at the same time working as an assistant for then-mayor Richard C. Lee. Before that, he worked for the Ansonia Redevelopment Agency, the New York State Mediation Board, and the U.S. Wage Stabilization Board. He also brought his skills to the U.S. Army, where, as an officer for 2 years, he handled various management assignments.

Given all of these accomplishments, I cannot help but think of Mr. Cogen's retirement in bittersweet terms. While I am certainly happy for him and wish him all the best, I cannot help but think about what a loss it will be for Connecticut when he steps down. I am sure, however, that his dedication to the State will live on in all who know him and worked with him and that we will be left in good hands.

Thank you, Joel Cogen. Connecticut is a better place because of you and all you have done.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BURTON BLAIR

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I honor a man who has given so much of himself to public service, the State of Arkansas and the legal community.

In 1957, James Burton (Jim) Blair was admitted to practice law in Arkansas. A successful attorney, he was the only general counsel that Tyson Foods had in the 20th century as the company grew from a regional poultry company to the second largest food producer in the Fortune 500.

Jim Blair has shared his success with contributions to his lifelong hometown of Fayetteville, The University of Arkansas, and the State that we both call home. He has contributed to the education of others by establishing funds and chairs at the University of Arkansas. He gave the largest private gift

ever given to a public library in Arkansas; the new Fayetteville Public Library is named The Blair Library in memory of Jim's late wife Diane Divers Blair, his grandmother Bessie Motley Blair and his aunt Dr. Mary Grace Blair. A patron of the arts, Jim established a sculpture room at the Walton Arts Center, donated the Anita Huffington sculpture "Spring" to the University of Arkansas and also donated the Huffington sculpture "Earth" to the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock.

Jim Blair also has a passion for politics and public service. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions of 1968, 1972, and 1980. He served as campaign manager of Senator William J. Fulbright's 1974 reelection campaign, was vice president of the Clinton for President Committee 1992 and is listed in "Who's Who in American Politics."

Jim served for 10 years on the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, including 2 years as chairman. He also served for 9 years on the Arkansas Board of Higher Education, with 1 year as chairman. These days Jim continues his public service by serving on the Fayetteville Educational Foundation Board, the Fayetteville Public Library Board, the Tyson Family Foundation Board, the Arkansas Tennis Association Board and the Northwest Arkansas Community Foundation.

Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating James Burton (Jim) Blair on his 50th anniversary in the legal profession and many philanthropic contributions to Arkansas.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANK BUCKLES

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I honor the life of Frank Woodruff Buckles, a devoted American, who served this country in World War I. Mr. Buckles, born in 1901 in Harrison County, MO, is still going strong today in West Virginia. At the age of 106, he resides in Charles Town, where he manages his 330-acre farm.

Mr. Buckles was only 16 years old when his country entered World War I. After unsuccessful attempts to join the Marines and the Navy, Mr. Buckles contacted the Army. He claimed that birth certificates had not been issued in Missouri at the time of his birth and started his training at Fort Riley, KS, where many soldiers were ill with influenza. With an irrepressible desire to serve his country, Mr. Buckles joined the Army Ambulance Service and went overseas, first to England and France. Later, Mr. Buckles became an escort for German prisoners of war.

Upon his return from Europe, Mr. Buckles held various jobs. He accepted a position with White Star Line Steamship Company, which took him to Toronto, Canada. In 1921, he put his business education to use at Bankers Trust Company in New York City.

Mr. Buckles eventually realized that he cared most for the steamship industry. While he was employed by Grace Line, he traveled along the western coast of South America. In 1940, the American President Lines had a task for him in Manila—Mr. Buckles found himself trapped in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded in December of the following year. He spent 3½ years in Japanese prison camps, until on February 23, 1945, a subsection of the 11th Airborne Division freed Mr. Buckles and 2,147 other prisoners in a daring raid on the Los Banos prison camp.

After his liberation from Los Banos, Mr. Buckles returned to the United States. He married Audrey Mayo, a young lady, whom he had known before the war and in 1954, they settled down on the Gap View Farm in West Virginia.

On this same farm, Mr. Buckles has remained mentally sharp and physically active. Up to the age of 105, he drove cars and tractors on his farm. Nowadays, he reads from his vast book collection and enjoys the company of his daughter, Susannah Flanagan, who came to live with him after his wife passed away in 1999.

Today, Mr. Buckles is one of three living World War I veterans in the United States, and his dedication and courage have not been overlooked in our Nation's Capital. In 1999, Mr. Buckles was presented with the French Legion of Honor at the French Embassy in Washington, DC. On May 28, 2007, Mr. Buckles will represent his fellow World War I veterans as a Grand Marshal at the National Memorial Day Parade.

We must cherish our last links to World War I. In the same vein, we owe Mr. Buckles and all the men and women, who have served our country, a great debt of gratitude.

I ask the Senate to join me today in commending Frank Buckles, an American whose service to our country deserves recognition.●

RECOGNIZING CASTLEWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Castlewood, SD. The town of Castlewood will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Hamlin County, Castlewood was founded in 1882 when the Chicago and Northwestern railroad placed a turntable near the location of the present day town. According to the town's folklore, the first train that passed through had an engineer named Castle and a conductor named Wood, hence the town was named "Castlewood." Since its beginning, Castlewood has been a successful and thriving community and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Castlewood on

this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING ESTELLINE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Estelline, SD. The town of Estelline will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Hamlin County, Estelline was founded in 1882. The community's folklore explains that the town was named after the daughter of one of its early resident's; however, they just do not know which one. It was either the daughter of a prominent landowner, D.J. Spalding, or of Judge Granville Bennett. This story is just another example of the rich history that can be found in South Dakota's rural communities. Over the past 125 years, Estelline has been a successful and thriving community and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the citizens of Estelline in celebrating their 125th anniversary and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING ONAKA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Onaka, SD. The town of Onaka will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Faulk County, Onaka was founded in 1907. Onaka has been a successful and thriving community for the past 100 years and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for many years to come.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Onaka on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING PHILIP, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Philip, SD. The town of Philip will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Haakon County, Philip was founded in 1907 with the arrival of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. It was named after James "Scot" Philip, a local rancher who was known for his efforts to preserve the buffalo population from extinction. Philip has been a successful and thriving community for the past 100 years and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 100 years.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Philip on this milestone anniversary and wish them

continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 67. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 612. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release.

H.R. 1100. An act to revise the boundary of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1252. An act to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1427. An act to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1470. An act to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

H.R. 1660. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region.

H.R. 2199. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain improvements in the treatment of individuals with traumatic brain injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2239. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 2429. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an exception to the 60-day limit on Medicare reciprocal billing arrangements between two physicians during the period in which one of the physicians is ordered to active duty as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces.

The message also announced that pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 51312(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following