

wanted to go. Most of them are very civilized, particularly hospice care. A hospice makes it very easy for you when you decide to go.

What's interesting is that everybody has his or her own opinion as to how you should go out. All my loved ones became very upset because they thought I should brave it out—which meant more dialysis.

But here is the most important thing: This has been my decision. And it's a healthy one.

The person who was the most supportive at the end was my doctor, Mike Newman. Members of my family, while they didn't want me to go, were supportive, too.

But I'm putting it down on paper, so there should be no question the decision was mine.

I chose to spend my final days in a hospice because it sounded like the most painless way to go, and you don't have to take a lot of stuff with you.

For some reason my mind keeps turning to food. I know I have not eaten all the *éclair*s I always wanted. In recent months, I have found it hard to go past the Cheesecake Factory without at least having a profiterole and a banana split.

I know it's a rather silly thing at this stage of the game to spend so much time on food. But then again, as life went on and there were fewer and fewer things I could eat, I am now punishing myself for having passed up so many good things earlier in the trip.

I think of a song lyric, "What's it all about, Alfie?" I don't know how well I've done while I was here, but I'd like to think some of my printed works will persevere—at least for three years.

I know it's very egocentric to believe that someone is put on earth for a reason. In my case, I like to think I was. And after this column appears in the paper following my passing, I would like to think it will either wind up on a cereal box top or be repeated every Thanksgiving Day.

So, "What's it all about, Alfie?" is my way of saying goodbye.

DEATHS IN IRAQ

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, yesterday morning, January 17, a convoy carrying a staff member of the National Democratic Institute and members of her security team was ambushed in Baghdad.

Andrea Parhamovich, an American citizen, was killed. Three other NDI employees, citizens from Croatia, Hungary, and Iraq, also lost their lives in the attack.

Since June 2003, the National Democratic Institute has been working with Iraqi citizens, outside the Green Zone and at great risk, to help build the foundations on which a true democracy depends. I did not know Ms. Parhamovich, whose life was taken so tragically yesterday. But all of us recognize the ideals which inspired her to undertake such a dangerous mission for her country and the people of Iraq.

I offer my deepest respect and appreciation to her last true measure of devotion to democratic ideals. To her family, and the families of those who were also killed, I offer my deepest condolences.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LAMESA MARKS-JOHNS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I pay tribute to LaMesa Marks-

Johns of Louisville, KY, for being recognized as one of America's top educators in the 2006 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards.

The annual Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award was established in 1985, and recipients consist of a network of teachers, principals, and specialists who serve as experts for policymakers seeking to improve the quality of teachers and public education. Award recipients assist in developing comprehensive strategies and policies to ensure that every child receives the highest quality educational experience possible.

Ms. Marks-Johns, a teacher at Shacklette Elementary School, has been recognized by the Milken Family Foundation for her continuing efforts to provide educational experiences in the classroom. She inspires her students to achieve academically and contribute to the community. Ms. Marks-Johns sets an example of leadership for both colleagues and students alike.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in thanking Ms. Marks-Johns for her dedication and commitment to education. In order for our society to continue to advance in the right direction, we must have teachers like LaMesa Marks-Johns in our schools, in our communities, and in our lives. She is Kentucky at its finest.●

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLARD LASSETER

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, it is with great pride that today I honor my dear friend and fellow Georgian, Willard Lasseter, who recently completed his 50th year with John Deere's Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. Willard and I not only share a strong desire for a successful agriculture sector throughout Georgia and the United States, but we also share the same hometown of Moultrie, GA.

Willard began his many years of service to the farmers of Colquitt County in 1945 when he began to work part time for the local John Deere dealership. In 1956, with a little over \$14,000 in borrowed money, Willard purchased a 25 percent share of the John Deere dealership and on December 1, 1956, Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. had its first day of business. By 1959, Willard, along with help from his father, had secured the remaining shares of the John Deere dealership. The success of the business was almost instantaneous as Lasseter Tractor Company became the No. 1 dealer in terms of sales volume for the Atlanta branch of John Deere dealerships by 1960.

Since its first day of business Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. has been a model dealership for Deere and Company. Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc.'s many accomplishments include being named to the John Deere's Manager Club for 12 consecutive years, being a John Deere Signature Dealer for top performance in the market place for 5 consecutive years, and being a Gold Star dealer for top performance in commercial products in 2005, 2006,

and 2007. Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. has also garnered the top market share in the Atlanta branch of dealerships for 3 consecutive years.

Through the years, Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. has continued to expand and prosper. In the late 1990's Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc. began construction of a state-of-the-art dealership and service facility that encompasses over 45,000 square feet. The service center itself can accommodate over 20 cotton pickers. This is not only an important feature but it is also a necessary feature because Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc., is among the top dealerships for sales and servicing of cotton pickers.

Today's Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc., spans south Georgia with dealerships in three counties. Not only has the business increased in size but also in the number of generations that are now involved in the business. Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc., now includes Willard's son Tony and grandson Judd, who oversee the day-to-day operations of the business. One philosophy that Lasseter Tractor Company, Inc., has maintained throughout its existence is: "You must give your customers the best product at the fairest price possible." This is a philosophy that has allowed the company to continue to meet and exceed the needs of its customers.

It is hard to imagine what the state of agriculture might be in southwest Georgia if that young high school student, Willard Lasseter, did not step into the John Deere dealership in Moultrie, GA, in 1945 to begin working part time.

I am extremely proud of the milestone that Willard has just met and it is my sincere hope that he continues his success in the agribusiness community for many years to come. I want to thank my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to recognize my dear friend Willard Lasseter.●

HONORING THOMAS WATSON BROWN

• Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, today I mourn the passing and pay tribute to a wonderful Georgian and a personal friend. Thomas Watson Brown passed away on January 13, 2007, leaving a tremendous void in the hearts of all who knew and loved this extraordinary gentleman.

Although he was a longtime resident of Marietta, GA, Tom was actually born here in our Nation's Capital where he attended Saint Alban's School. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton with a degree in history and served a stint in the U.S. Army. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1959 and moved to Atlanta where he practiced law until his death.

Although Tom was not originally from Georgia, his family had deep Georgia roots. His great-grandfather was U.S. Senator Tom Watson, who

was nominated in 1896 for Vice President on the Populist Party ticket with William Jennings Bryan. Brown's grandfather, J.J. Brown, served as Georgia's commissioner of agriculture.

Tom was a character unlike any other. He often described himself as an "18th-century gentleman" and held court in his antebellum mansion on Cherokee Street near the Marietta Square arguing politics with a host of different personalities. History was his greatest passion, especially the Civil War era. He had an unmatched intellect and was a respected historian. He preferred his 10,000-volume library to a personal computer.

Tom was also always ready to support education. He was the former chair of the Watson-Brown Foundation, established by his father Walter Brown in 1970 to provide college opportunities for underprivileged boys and girls. Today his son Tad is president of the foundation, which awards more than \$1 million annually in merit- and need-based college scholarships to students from the Central Savannah River Area of Georgia and South Carolina. The foundation also gives grants in support of southern colleges and universities. Recipients of these grants include the University of Georgia for a broadcast museum, Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville for its library, and Mercer Press in Macon for publications of numerous books of Southern history and biography.

Tom led numerous business, civic, philanthropic, and scholarly organizations. He served on the boards of the Atlanta Historical Society, the Georgia Historical Society, the Georgia Civil War Commission, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, and the Georgia Legal History Foundation. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Atlanta Press Club and helped fund its debates each election cycle.

Tom was awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center's community service award for peace and justice. Coretta Scott King herself presented him with the award for his substantial contributions to and support of the Legal Aid Society of Atlanta.

This strong-willed and generous man will always be remembered for his keen intellect and his devotion to history and education. He touched the lives of many Georgians, including this Senator, through his efforts on behalf of our community and State.

It was an honor to know Thomas Watson Brown and it is a privilege to pay tribute to his life.●

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.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN TERRORISTS WHO THREATEN TO DISRUPT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS—PM #1

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2007. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on January 20, 2006 (71 FR 3407).

The crisis with respect to the grave acts of violence committed by foreign terrorists that disrupt the Middle East peace process and that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 23, 1995, as expanded on August 20, 1998, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities that have the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process and that are hostile to United States interests in the region. Such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process and to maintain in force the economic sanctions against them to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 18, 2007.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:30 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. 57. An act to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands.

H.R. 434. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 31, 2007, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 31. A concurrent resolution honoring the Mare Island Original 21ers for their efforts—to remedy racial discrimination in employment at Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

At 6:23 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. 6. An act to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Rules and Administration, and referred as indicated:

S. Res. 32. A resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 57. An act to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 434. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 31, 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution honoring the Mare Island Original 21ers for their efforts to remedy racial discrimination in employment at Mare Island Naval Shipyard; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 391. An act to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to continue to insure, and to enter into commitments to insure, home equity conversion mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act.