

valuable involvement in the issues before us. I appreciated greatly his commitment to conservative principles and the responsibilities of governing.

In particular, as chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, Senator Thomas was a strong voice for opening new markets and opportunities for U.S. exports. He went above and beyond and engaged himself fully in efforts to achieve ambitious outcomes from trade negotiations. He demonstrated his commitment time and again with his own personal time and his personal resolve.

Senator Thomas was a true representative for his Wyoming constituents. He worked hard and sincerely for their good and for the good of our Nation every day. He will be missed so very much. Barbara and I extend our sincere and deep sympathies to his family and his staff.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition to honor the life of my colleague, Senator Craig Thomas.

Craig, a real outdoorsman, would say he enjoyed nothing more than a horseback ride through Wyoming's spectacular wilderness area. Despite that, he found himself here in Washington, DC, working for the betterment of his Home State and the Nation. He was outspoken on government's need to provide adequate funding for national parks, a subject he knew well as chairman and ranking member of the National Parks Subcommittee on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Senator Thomas was also a strong defender of his State's cattle industry and was a firm believer in the virtues of rural America. This passion stems back to his time at the University of Wyoming, where he received a degree in animal husbandry. Senator Thomas also served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1955 to 1959, achieving the rank of captain, an experience that taught discipline and reinforced his commitment to the United States.

Before Craig came to Congress, he served as vice president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau, and once headed the rural electric trade association of Wyoming. After 5 years in the Wyoming House, Thomas won a special election to replace DICK CHENEY, who was appointed to be Secretary of Defense. As Wyoming's lone Member in the U.S. House of Representatives, he had the responsibility of representing over 450,000 constituents. Craig was reelected to that seat in 1990 and 1992, a testament to his ability to serve the people of Wyoming effectively. In 1994, he ran for the U.S. Senate and won, defeating popular Democratic Governor Mike Sullivan by 20 percentage points. He was elected to a second term in 2000 with a 74 percent majority, one of the largest margins in Wyoming election history. He was reelected to a third term in 2006 with 70 percent of the vote.

Senator Thomas had no doubts about who he was or what he represented. He

was not one to pick a fight, but if asked how he felt about a given issue, he would be sure to give his typically candid and honest response. When it came to issues he was passionate about, such as public lands and private property, he left little doubt as to his priorities. As a member of the Senate Energy Committee, and particularly in his leadership of the National Parks Subcommittee, Craig asked tough questions and made strong statements about the responsibility of the Federal Government to care for the land it already owned; the fundamental nature of private property rights; and Congress's need to consider the interplay between these principles when contemplating new national parks or historic sites. He was always a fair broker, and I found on many occasions that he would give my priorities fair consideration and due process.

I very much regret that Senator Thomas lost his battle to cancer. In 1970, President Nixon declared war on cancer. Had that war been prosecuted with the same diligence as other wars, my former chief of staff, Carey Lackman, a beautiful young lady of 48, would not have died of breast cancer. One of my very best friends, a very distinguished Federal judge, Chief Judge Edward R. Becker, would not have died of prostate cancer. All of us know people who have been stricken by cancer, who have been incapacitated with Parkinson's or Alzheimer's, who have been victims of heart disease, or many other maladies. I sustained an episode with Hodgkin's lymphoma cancer 2 years ago. That trauma, that illness, I think, could have been prevented had that war on cancer declared by the President of the United States in 1970 been prosecuted with sufficient intensity.

On a personal level, Senator Thomas had an extraordinary relationship with his wife Susan. As many of my colleagues can attest, Craig and Susan were quite inseparable and quick with humor. Even as Craig battled with acute myeloid leukemia he continued to serve in the Senate with extreme vigor and a smile. He leaves behind many friends and admirers, who have tried to emulate his courage, his tenacity, and his integrity.

I extend my deepest condolences to Susan, their four children, the whole Thomas family, and his very able staff.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I join so many Americans in mourning the passing of my dear friend and esteemed colleague, Senator Craig Thomas. Craig served the people of Wyoming with great integrity, honesty, and common sense. He was a true American patriot and dedicated public servant who never failed to put the best interests of his beloved state and country above personal ambitions.

Craig came from humble beginnings, working summers on his family's dude ranch near Yellowstone National Park. He earned a degree from the University of Wyoming, where he was a respected

student and accomplished athlete, and from there he went on to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps. It was these life experiences that taught Craig the values of hard work, perseverance, and personal responsibility. These principles guided him throughout his remarkable career, during which he worked for the Wyoming Farm Bureau, the American Farm Bureau, and the Wyoming Rural Electric Association before winning a special election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1994, Craig was elected to the U.S. Senate, and went on to make his mark in a number of areas. He served with distinction on the Energy, Finance, and Agriculture Committees—posts he used to promote issues important to his constituents in the rural west and their quality of life. As the chairman of the National Parks Subcommittee, Craig worked tirelessly to protect America's natural treasures, and as the co-chairman of the Senate Rural Health Caucus, he made significant strides in improving rural health care infrastructure. No question, Craig's numerous accomplishments truly speak volumes about his commitment to the people of Wyoming and our entire Nation.

Craig's greatest commitment, however, was to his family. He was unwavering in his devotion to his dear wife Susan and his children Peter, Patrick, Greg, and Lexie. My husband Bob and I are blessed to have known and worked with Craig, and we keep Susan and the entire Thomas family in our thoughts and prayers.

Craig's memory and legacy indeed live on, across Wyoming, throughout the halls of Congress, in the countless lives he touched, and in the public servants who follow in his footsteps. Our Nation is grateful for his many years of service and positive contributions. May God bless the entire Thomas family in this time of sorrow, and may God continue to bless his beloved Wyoming and this great land of the free—America.

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to commemorate the 231st birthday of our Nation, on this coming Fourth of July.

On the 4th of July, 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence and our Nation was born. However, our forefathers would have to fight 7 more years and draft and ratify the Constitution before the principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence could truly begin to be realized.

That was just the beginning of our Nation's story. It has taken the hard work and dedication of countless Americans to build the great and free Nation we know today. On this day we should pay tribute to the pioneers who struck out across the frontier to build new lives, the individuals who built the

roads and bridges that connect the country, the teachers who have ensured our youth reached their full potential and all Americans who in their own way have contributed to this Nation.

We cannot forget the brave Americans of our armed services who throughout our history have fought and died to preserve the freedom we all enjoy, nor those currently serving. On the Fourth of July we must also honor the sacrifice of these men and women.

As New Mexicans gather with family and friends to barbecue and watch fireworks, I hope they will take a moment to remember the greatness of this Nation and pay tribute to all those who have made it so.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROSWELL UFO FESTIVAL

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I would like to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Roswell UFO incident.

On July 8, 1947, the Roswell Army Air Field, RAAF, issued a statement announcing they had recovered a “flying disk” from a nearby ranch. This news release, concerning the landing of a mysterious object, was quickly changed. The next day, the RAAF issued a retraction and stated the mysterious object was in fact a downed weather balloon. Although Roswell Army Air Field officials had retracted their original statement within 24 hours, the controversy, which has endured for 60 years, had already begun.

The interest ignited by the original “flying disk” statement continues to spark debate for many, not just in the great State of New Mexico but around the world. Supposed witnesses of the event and UFO theorists to this day claim that the mysterious object was an actual alien aircraft. Others hold steadfast in the Air Force’s latest classification of the object being a U.S. Government spy balloon. Regardless of what was recovered 60 years ago, this notable event has become part of Roswell and the history of our State.

For the past 12 years, the city of Roswell has celebrated this well-known event by holding the Roswell UFO Festival on the town’s main street. Skeptics and alien-enthusiasts alike gather from around the globe to commemorate the incident by partaking in numerous activities and programs during a 4-day festival. The people who converge in Roswell this year for the festival, July 5–8, are in for an exciting weekend, as it promises to be the best in the festival’s history. Lectures, parades, concerts, hot air balloon rides and air shows are only a few of the items on this year’s program.

I have no doubt the controversy and debate surrounding the events of 60 years ago will continue. However, as long as we are able to enjoy and com-

memorate such events in our country’s history, I look forward to many more festivals such as these that bring people together from across the globe.●

RECOGNIZING SINAI, SOUTH DAKOTA

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

Since its beginning in 1907, Sinai has been a strong reflection of South Dakota’s values and traditions. As they celebrate this milestone anniversary, I am confident that Sinai will continue to thrive and succeed for the next 100 years.

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

RECOGNIZING NUNDA, SOUTH DAKOTA

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

Nunda was founded in 1907 with the arrival of the South Dakota Central Railroad. Since its beginning, Nunda has been a strong reflection of South Dakota’s values and traditions. As they celebrate this milestone anniversary, I am confident that Nunda will continue to thrive and succeed for the next 100 years.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Nunda on their 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 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 and withdrawals 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 9:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R.1830. An act to extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 277. An act to modify the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park to include certain land within the GT Park Subdivision, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 229. An act to redesignate a Federal building in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as the “Raymond G. Murphy Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

S. 801. An act to designate a United States courthouse located in Fresno, California, as the “Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse”.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 12:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1704. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2643. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, 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. 172. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of each of the 9 fallen City of Charleston firefighters who lost their lives in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 18, 2007.

At 6:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 179. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess of adjournment of the Senate.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2643. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 172. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of each of the 9 fallen City of Charleston firefighters who lost their lives in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 18, 2007.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 28, 2007, she had