

Colonel Carney effectively managed both manufacturing and depot operations stemming from Operating Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. During his tenure Colonel Carney oversaw an increase in revenue not seen since the Vietnam Era, totaling \$228.2M. Also during his tenure the plant shipped 32,680 short tons of munitions, the largest tonnage shipped to date in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Expansion of the public/private partnership program occurred under his leadership as well. The commercial industry partnership business base at MCAAP increased four-fold under Colonel Carney's leadership. Additionally, MCAAP was selected as the integrator for the Excalibur guided projectile in partnership with Raytheon. The Raytheon/MCAAP team fielded the Excalibur, the newest and most accurate projectile, three months ahead of schedule, significantly enhancing our military's warfighting capability.

Under his leadership, MCAAP led the way in Lean Six Sigma, LSS, with actual/cost avoidance savings of \$5.319M. LSS training intensified so that 28 employees received green belt training while 18 received black belt training; 29 completed LSS executive training and 22 more completed project sponsor/project selection training. All MCAAP employees received Lean Six Sigma awareness training.

In 2006 MCAAP's ammunition inventory accountability received an overall green rating in 10 out of 10 major functional areas during the Supply Depot Operations review. This rating and rapid turn-around is a marked improvement over previous years. This significant achievement was directly orchestrated by Colonel Carney through his initiative, leadership, tenacity and ability to motivate the work force.

Colonel Carney's business acumen, dedication to duty, vision and ability to inspire and lead people reflect great credit upon himself, the Joint Munitions Command and the U.S. Army. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and a grateful Nation, I would like to wish him congratulations on a job well done.●

DR. ED RICHARDSON

● Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I pay tribute to Dr. Ed Richardson, who has dedicated over 40 years of his life to improving Alabama's public education system. On July 15, 2007, Ed will step down as Auburn University's 17th President, and he will leave behind a legacy of achievement unparalleled in Alabama.

In the 1960s, Dr. Richardson worked in dual roles as a high school science teacher and assistant principal, with the objective of becoming a scientist for NASA. However, following a tragic accident that claimed the life of the Cloverdale School's principal, Dr. Richardson abandoned that aspiration to assume the role of principal. Taking

over this position would propel Dr. Richardson into a long career in education, rising to the ranks of local superintendent, superintendent and university president.

In 1982, Dr. Richardson was named superintendent of Auburn's school system, a career move that at the time was considered unwise. But he had a vision of excellence that proved the naysayers wrong. Thirteen years after becoming superintendent, Auburn's school system was regarded as one of the best in Alabama.

Dr. Richardson's success at turning around Auburn's school system made him the ideal candidate for state superintendent. Faced with a formidable opponent who had the backing of the Governor and the Alabama Education Association, Dr. Richardson fought a hard campaign and was appointed Alabama's state superintendent 1995.

While serving in this position, Dr. Richardson oversaw many legislative and policy changes to Alabama's educational system. Although he may be best known for implementing Alabama's Educational Accountability Act, which holds schools responsible for the performance of their students, he is also responsible for creating performance report cards for schools and universities.

During Dr. Richardson's tenure as Alabama's superintendent, the high school drop out rate fell to historic lows, thanks in large part to his efforts to strengthen the State's high school graduation requirements, making them some of the most rigorous in the Nation. During this time, student academic performance reached an all-time high.

Recognizing the importance of our educators, Dr. Richardson restored teacher testing to hold higher education instructors responsible for their students' performance. He also launched the Alabama Reading Initiative and piloted the Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative to give teachers the training and tools they need to better teach these important subjects.

In 2004, Governor Bob Riley approached Dr. Richardson to take over as interim president at Auburn University. Following his acceptance of the position, Dr. Richardson wasted no time in taking charge and making much needed changes in key administrative positions. The culmination of his hard work came in December 2004, when Auburn regained its accreditation status.

Finally, after serving two and a half years as interim president at Auburn University, the board of trustees unanimously named Dr. Richardson Auburn University's 17th President. As president of Auburn, Dr. Richardson pursued an aggressive agenda. He focused on the development of Auburn's research park, improving its airport, effecting changes in the structure of the university's agriculture programs and forging a close relationship with Auburn University-Montgomery.

As Dr. Richardson, along with his wife Nell, embarks on another phase in his life he will remain an inspiration to many and will be remembered for his dedication and many contributions to Alabama's public education system. I wish him much luck in his future endeavors and I ask this entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life and career of my good friend Ed Richardson.●

HONORING KIDS CROOKED HOUSE

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, today I congratulate Kids Crooked House, a tremendously innovative small business from my home State of Maine, which recently won Yahoo's Ultimate Connection Contest on June 25. As a result, Yahoo will provide the company with a marketing prize package worth \$100,000.

The Kids Crooked House of Windham crafts custom playhouses for children throughout the country. What makes the Kids Crooked House so special is the attention paid to detail in creating the playhouses. These playhouses are by no means run-of-the-mill: each one is crafted based on the buyer's specification and design, and all are unique. They range from brightly colored houses with twisted roofs and walls to playhouses based on cartoons or movies.

Glen Halliday, the owner of Kids Crooked House, opened his business in 2004 after facing a typical parental dilemma; namely, how to get kids away from the television and computer, and engaged in more outdoor activity. After searching for an affordable, yet original, playhouse for his children, he was unsatisfied. Mr. Halliday decided to take it upon himself to create a playhouse with an innovative twist. He designed a playhouse that was brightly painted, with oddly shaped sides and crooked windows. In light of his children's delight with the playhouse, Mr. Halliday determined that his product could appeal to numerous other children nationwide. Just last year, Mr. Halliday brought his idea to the Yarmouth Clam Festival in Maine, where the company received the Directors Choice trophy and garnered first place for the best small business float in the annual parade.

Winning Yahoo's Ultimate Connection Contest opens the door for the Kids Crooked House's expansion. Mr. Halliday and operations manager Jeff Leighton are meeting with Ivanka Trump, daughter of Donald Trump, and several marketing executives for lunch in New York City, where they will be able to discuss the business and gain valuable advice on how to grow in the future. Over the next year, Kids Crooked House will continue to receive input and consultation from marketing officials.

What is most exciting about this opportunity is Mr. Halliday's future plans for the company. Mr. Halliday is looking to increase employment by adding

more carpenters and to expand sales worldwide after receiving calls from throughout Europe and as far away as Pakistan. He hopes to begin production of "crooked" dog houses, but his ultimate goal is to build complete playgrounds for hotels and resorts.

Clearly, Kids Crooked House has demonstrated a commitment to quality craftsmanship, which has not gone unnoticed. The company works by a mantra of "If a kid can dream it, we can build it." What a wonderful perspective. It is always a pleasure to see small businesses with such a dedication to children, and having a company that fills such a specific niche in Maine is a boost to our State. The upcoming year will be an exciting and beneficial one for Kids Crooked House, and I wish everyone associated with the business continued success and many more smiling children's faces.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:36 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. 359. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of Cesar Estrada Chavez and the farm labor movement.

H.R. 660. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1725. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Rancho California Water District Southern Riverside County Recycled/Non-Potable Distribution Facilities and Demineralization/Desalination Recycled Water Treatment and Reclamation Facility Project.

H.R. 1904. An act to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1979. An act to require any Federal or State court to recognize any notarization made by a notary public licensed by a State other than the State where the court is located when such notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce.

H.R. 2121. An act to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior.

H.R.2381. An act to promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2501, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 359. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of Cesar Estrada Chavez and the farm labor movement; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1725. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Rancho California Water District Southern Riverside County Recycled Non-Potable Distribution Facilities and Demineralization/Desalination Recycled Water Treatment and Reclamation Facility Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1979. To require any Federal or State court to recognize any notarization made by a notary public licensed by a State other than the State where the court is located when such notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2121. An act to modify a land grant patent issued by the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2381. An act to promote Department of the Interior efforts to provide a scientific basis for the management of sediment and nutrient loss in the Upper Mississippi River Basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. 1904. An act to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2506. A communication from the Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Television Stations Digital Transition Grant Program" (RIN0572-AC02) received on July 10, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2507. A communication from the Acting Deputy Administrator, U.S. Agency for

International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Capital Investment Fund; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2508. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the authorization of the Secretary of the Air Force to enter into multiyear contracts for the procurement of up to 60 F-22 aircraft beginning with the 2007 program year; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2509. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, (3) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on July 10, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2510. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the operations of the National Defense Stockpile during fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2511. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Plutonium Storage at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2512. A communication from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, proposed legislation intended to ensure that the Federal Housing Administration continues to play a key role in serving low- and moderate-income homebuyers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2513. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to its system of internal controls for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2514. A communication from the Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's management report for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2515. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Bank's system of internal controls for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2516. A communication from the Senior Vice President for Resource Management, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Buy American Act for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2517. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2007 through 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2518. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Award Fee Administrative Changes" (RIN2700-AD33) received on July 10, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2519. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's position on