

I want to congratulate Rose Larson for her many years of public service. Often she worked behind the scenes with little or no credit, but her dedicated service and knowledge of her duties was instrumental in the successful operation of the congressional offices she worked in.

I want to wish Rose all the best in her retirement. I want to thank her for her great work ethic, her professionalism but most of all, her friendship.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE STRANDELL

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I wish today to recognize and commend George Strandell of South Dakota for his nearly 40 years of service to Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. George is retiring after serving the past 8 years as general manager and chief executive officer of Golden West.

George worked for 19 years as a primary engineering consultant for the Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative before being hired as the company's outside plant engineer. He served in that capacity for 4 years before serving 8 years as district manager and then 8 years as general manager of Golden West.

Throughout his career, George had dedicated himself to building effective relationships and partnerships on behalf of Golden West and the independent telecommunications industry. He is well-respected throughout South Dakota, the region and Nation as an effective communicator, an administrator willing to tackle and resolve personnel and industry challenges and issues. He is able to effectively communicate to elected leaders and officials on issues affecting Golden West customers, employees, and the independent industry.

Throughout his career, he has always worked hard to put the customer first. He has helped expand and enhance Golden West's role in the industry, among allies and associates, but also improved the company's ability to serve rural communities and customers and the overall general public.

George provided steadfast oversight to the South Dakota Network, which was formed by a number of South Dakota independent telecommunications firms to offer customers more choice in long distance service. George spent considerable time and effort working with other managers to ensure the network's success to move voice, data, and video over 20,000 miles of fiber optics throughout the region. Access lines have increased under George from 31,000 in 2000 to 43,000 in 2008, as well as Internet access increasing from 5,000 to 23,000 in the same period.

On a national level, George has been a stalwart advocate in promoting and assisting the independent industry. He has served on numerous boards and committees that have advanced the promotion and understanding of the issues affecting the independent tele-

communications firms and their customers.

Over the years, I have relied on George's guidance and understanding of the many issues affecting the telecommunications industry. I have appreciated his insight and input and I want to wish him all the best in this well-deserved retirement. I know that whatever his pursuits in retirement, he will approach them with the same level-headed, calm, and committed approach that earned him deep respect over his accomplished career with Golden West.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, 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

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 11:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

S. 496. An act to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965.

S. 2482. An act to repeal the provision to title 46, United States Code, requiring a license for employment in the business of salvaging on the coast of Florida.

S. 3560. An act to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide additional funds for the qualifying individual (QI) program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2638. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3068. An act to prohibit the award of contracts to provide guard services under the contract security guard program of the Federal Protective Service to a business concern that is owned, controlled, or operated by an individual who has been convicted of a felony.

H.R. 5001. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services to provide for the redevelopment of the Old Post Office Building located in the District of Columbia.

H.J. Res. 62. Joint resolution to honor the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States, and for other purposes.

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

At 11:11 a.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 440. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate:

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

S. 906. An act to prohibit the sale, distribution, transfer, and export of elemental mercury, and for other purposes.

S. 1738. An act to require the Department of Justice to develop and implement a National Strategy Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute child predators.

S. 2816. An act to provide for the appointment of the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department of Homeland Security by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

S. 2840. An act to establish a liaison with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to expedite naturalization applications filed by members of the Armed Forces and to establish a deadline for processing such applications.

S. 3325. An act to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, and for other purposes.

S. 3569. An act to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

S. 3597. An act to provide that funds allocated for community food projects for fiscal year 2008 shall remain available until September 30, 2009.

S. 3605. An act to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks.

S. 3606. An act to extend the special immigrant nonminister religious worker program and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1777) to amend the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 to make permanent the favorable treatment of need-based educational aid under the antitrust laws.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5057) to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5571) to extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6460) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, and for other purposes.

At 11:24 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 5932. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2801 Manhattan Boulevard in Harvey, Louisiana, as the "Harry Lee Post Office Building".

H.R. 6197. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7095 Highway 57 in Counce, Tennessee, as the "Pickwick Post Office Building".

H.R. 6489. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 4th Street in Lake Oswego, Oregon, as the "Judie Hammerstad Post Office Building".

H.R. 6558. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 Lundy Avenue in San Jose, California, as the "Gordon N. Chan Post Office Building".

H.R. 6585. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 311 Southwest 2nd Street in Corvallis, Oregon, as the "Helen Berg Post Office Building".

H.R. 6834. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 South Main Street in Wallingford, Connecticut, as the "CWO Richard R. Lee Post Office Building".

H.R. 6837. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7925 West Russell Road in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the "Private First Class Irving Joseph Schwartz Post Office Building".

H.R. 6859. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1501 South Slappey Boulevard in Albany, Georgia, as the "Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 6902. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 513 6th Avenue in Dayton, Kentucky, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas Ray Carnes Post Office".

H.R. 6982. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 South Ellsworth Avenue in San Mateo, California, as the "Leo J. Ryan Post Office Building".

H.R. 7081. An act to approve the United States-India Agreement for Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7082. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose certain prisoner return information to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7083. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance charitable giving and improve disclosure and tax administration.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 3015. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 18 S. G Street, Lakeview, Oregon, as the "Dr. Bernard Daly Post Office Building".

S. 3082. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1700 Cleveland Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri, as the "Reverend Earl Abel Post Office Building".

S. 3477. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize grants for Presidential Centers of Historical Excellence.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following

concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 360. Concurrent resolution recognizing the important social and economic contributions and accomplishments of the New Deal to our Nation on the 75th anniversary of legislation establishing the initial New Deal social and public works programs.

H. Con. Res. 376. Concurrent resolution congratulating the 2007-2008 National Basketball Association World Champions, the Boston Celtics, on an outstanding and historic season.

H. Con. Res. 378. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of September 6, 2008, as Louisa Swain Day.

H. Con. Res. 429. Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of the United States wine industry to the American economy.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 84. Concurrent resolution honoring the memory of Robert Mondavi.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 928) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2786) to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5265) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Becker, congenital, distal, Duchenne, Emery-Dreifuss facioscapulohumeral, limb-girdle, myotonic, and oculopharyngeal, muscular dystrophies.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6063) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

At 12:11 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. 3174. An act to amend titles 28 and 10, United States Code, to allow for certiorari review of certain cases denied relief or review by the United States court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

H.R. 6146. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit recognition and enforcement of foreign defamation judgments.

H.R. 6838. An act to establish and operate a National Center for Campus Public Safety.

H.R. 7084. An act to amend section 114 of title 17, United States Code, to provide for agreements for the reproduction and performance of sound recordings by webcasters.

H.R. 7177. An act to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill,

with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 431. An act to require convicted sex offenders to register online identifiers, and for other purposes.

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

H. Con. Res. 426. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Minority AIDS Initiative.

At 12:24 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 100. Joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the first session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress and establishing the date for the counting of the electoral votes for President and Vice President cast by the electors in December 2008.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3229. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the legacy of the United States Army Infantry and the establishment of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

H.R. 5265. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Becker, congenital, distal, Duchenne, Emery-Dreifuss facioscapulohumeral, limb-girdle, myotonic, and oculopharyngeal, muscular dystrophies.

H.R. 5872. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 29, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 496. An act to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965.

S. 1046. An act to modify pay provisions relating to certain senior-level positions in the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 1382. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1810. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions.

S. 2482. An act to repeal the provision of title 46, United States Code, requiring a license for employment in the business of salvaging on the coast of Florida.

S. 2606. An act to reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and for other purposes.