

then had to be booked on flights to resettlement countries, even as air commerce shrank in Southeast Asia after 1975. The creativity, courage, and perseverance of Mr. Corcos and his team in making this process run smoothly was amazing and won him well deserved international praise.

Mr. Corcos came out of retirement again in 1979 to deal with a second surge of Indochinese refugees. This time, the numbers were even more enormous, but he was skillfully able to replicate the process of earlier years on a much larger regional basis.

Mr. Corcos is a true humanitarian and made a vast difference in the lives of countless refugees fleeing from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos in the 1970s. He is a legend among those who created and benefitted from the Indochinese Refugee Program, and his legacy will forever be remembered.●

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LISA LEONARD AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL RANDY JOHNSON

● Mr. BOND. Madam President, we all know it would be impossible to do our jobs without the assistance of many dedicated professionals staffing the legislative liaison offices for all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Today, I pay tribute to COL Lisa Leonard and LTC Randy Johnson who joined the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison as the Army and Air Liaison Officers and together collectively served 12 years and are now, unfortunately for us, retiring at the same time.

Colonel Leonard and Lieutenant Colonel Johnson have served competently and well at a pivotal time in the history of the National Guard. Now, more than ever, America relies on the National Guard both at home and abroad. Since 9/11 more than 200,000 Guard troops have left their homes, their jobs, and their families to participate in the global war on terror. The National Guard has provided as much as half of the combat force and 40 percent of the total force in Iraq. Guard troops are also called upon to respond to natural disasters at home like Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Understanding these dual missions is a job in itself.

During Lisa and Randy's tenure, the National Guard has also had to weather a controversial base realignment and closure, BRAC, round and several other major legislative battles concerning relative troop strength, equipment levels and the ability of the Guard to participate in major Pentagon decisions.

Lisa's and Randy's contributions to the Senate began with their natural ability to establish personal relationships with staff while telling the story of the National Guard. They earned the respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle with their expertise, strong work ethic, and dedication to the job.

These are truly the unsung heroes of the legislative process, faithfully providing information, expertise, and analysis on behalf of the National Guard on myriad national security and homeland security issues.

We wish them both well in their well-earned retirement from Active Duty and from this assignment. They will be missed.●

##### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS W. RICHARDSON

● Mr. COCHRAN. Madam President, Mr. Thomas W. Richardson of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will soon retire with over 37 years of exceptional service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is member of the Senior Executive Service and is the Director of Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center Coastal Hydraulic Laboratory. His accomplishments and dedication to the Corps of Engineers' laboratory community and the Army are exceptional and will have a significant and long lasting positive impact on this Nation.

Following 3 years of service as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mr. Richardson began his Army civilian career in 1974 as a research hydraulic engineer at the U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, in Vicksburg, MS. Through the 1970s and early 1980s he was a principal investigator for research studies on dredging systems for beach nourishment for offshore sources and an assistant investigator on a research study to develop new systems for bypassing sand past tidal inlets. During this time he designed and constructed the world's first portable, land-based hydraulic sand bypassing system, which was delivered to the Corps of Engineers North Central Division as an operational plant. A systematic approach became available to address a major national concern with both economic and strategic aspects; that of bypassing sand to preserve beaches and to maintain harbor channels.

In 1983, Mr. Richardson became chief of the coastal structures and evaluation branch, Coastal Engineering Research Center where he supervised 16 researchers specializing in functional design and performance of coastal structures, dredging and sand bypassing systems, geomorphic evaluation, and empirical design methods for coastal projects. From branch chief he quickly moved up to division chief in 1985 and served in that capacity for 14 years, first as chief of the Engineering Development Division and then as the Chief of the Coastal Sediments and Engineering Division. He directed numerous comprehensive research and development investigations, and studies of coastal processes, sediment transport, shoreline change modeling, beach fill design methods, prototype systems design and development, and functional design of coastal projects. Notably, he developed general technical approaches

and R&D programs that produced the extraordinarily successful and patented CORE-LOC concrete armor unit and the Scanning Hydrographic Operational Airborne LIDAR Survey—SHOALS—system.

Mr. Richardson assumed the duties of acting assistant lab director in January 2000. In June of that same year, he was elevated to acting director, CHL. Mr. Richardson joined the Senior Executive Service in March 2002 upon becoming director of the CHL.

Under the leadership of Mr. Richardson, the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory directly supported the Army transformation, civil works strategic plan, global war on terrorism operations, and high priority civil works operations. In addition, CHL addressed critical levee issues for the Department of Homeland Security by developing a unique system to rapidly repair breaches in levees caused by natural phenomena or terrorist attack.

Throughout his career, Tom Richardson has demonstrated a profound commitment to the Army, the Corps of Engineers, and the Nation. He is a consummate professional whose performance in over 37 years of service has personified those traits of competency and integrity that our Nation has come to expect of its senior civilian leaders. I congratulate Mr. Richardson on his distinguished service to the U.S. Army and the Nation.●

##### REMEMBERING RYNE DOUGHERTY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Ryne Dougherty, a young man from Montclair, NJ, whose young life was tragically cut short on October 15. He suffered a fatal brain hemorrhage while playing football, the sport about which he was so passionate. Although he was only 16 years old, Ryne made a tremendous impact on his teammates, friends, and community. He was a caring and loving young man who displayed a special kindness and a deep commitment to his friends and family. An honor student and linebacker on the Montclair High School Junior Varsity football team, Ryne also found time to fix computers to benefit underprivileged families. Ryne was admired by all who knew him—over 1,000 mourners gathered together to remember him and comfort each other.

Ryne worked toward his goals with steadfast determination, eager to succeed. His football coach said that Ryne never sought glory or praise; he came to the field every day prepared to work his hardest out of respect for his teammates and love for the game. Family and friends said that Ryne always wanted to talk about football. He was always ready with the latest NFL statistics and greatly enjoyed playing football video games with his friends in his spare time. To honor Ryne, the New York Giants held a moment of silence during their game on October 19, a fitting tribute for a young fan.

Ryne was a mentor and an inspiration to his teammates. Many friends sought to follow his example: succeeding in school and working diligently on the field all while keeping a smile on his face. During Ryne's funeral, Rev. Gerald Whitaker asked the mourners to imagine that Ryne had made a game-saving tackle to end a big game against their rival high school. The crowd responded with a thunderous ovation, a fitting way to honor Ryne.

Finally, I would like express my sympathy to Ryne's family. I hope that they will be comforted by their many positive memories and by the outpouring of support from the Montclair community. His family decided to donate Ryne's organs, yet another way that Ryne has touched the lives of others. I am proud to honor him today.●

#### HONORING NEWLAND NURSERY AND LANDSCAPING

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, as we approach the holiday season, I wish to recognize a small business from my home State of Maine that has made its mark by its commitment to giving back to the local community. NewLand Nursery and Landscaping of Ellsworth has been providing Hancock County with quality landscaping services and floral arrangements for almost two decades, while simultaneously maintaining its status as an involved member of the greater Ellsworth area.

Beginning its landscape design operations in 1985 with a mere \$600, a pickup truck, and some tools, NewLand has continually expanded its services to become a well-known name for its gorgeous flowers, versatile garden products, and impressive landscaping business. A reputable source for gardening knowledge, customers in Downeast Maine have relied on NewLand for creative ways to enrich their home gardens or fashion a welcoming landscape at their business.

NewLand has designed some of Maine's most recognizable landscapes, from Bangor to Calais. Many locals and tourists alike will recognize NewLand's exquisite work at the Jordan Pond House in Acadia National Park, where the firm designed the tea garden, plantings, and other aspects. Additionally, NewLand has developed landscapes at the Mansfield baseball field in Bangor, the University of Maine's Hutchison Center in Belfast, and St. John's Church in Bangor.

NewLand has received several awards over the course of its history for the inventiveness and attractiveness of its work. It won the People's Choice Award five times at the Bangor Garden Show, from 1991 to 1994 and again in 1999. And in 2006, NewLand was recognized by Governor Baldacci, the Maine Commission for Community Service, and the Maine Volunteer Connection with the Small Business Volunteerism Award, commending the company for its culture of encouraging volunteering

among its employees and its generosity in assisting others throughout Hancock County. NewLand Nursery and Landscaping is a member of numerous community and statewide organizations, including the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce and the Maine State Florists' and Growers' Association.

Steve Elliot, the owner of NewLand, has certainly led by example when it comes to community service. Mr. Elliot most recently served as president of the Rotary Club of Ellsworth and was actively involved in organizing engaging Rotary meetings and service events. In fact, this coming Saturday, Mr. Elliot will join his fellow Rotarians for the third annual Gifting Experience. Members of the local club will take 23 8- and 9-year-olds shopping in downtown Ellsworth to buy gifts for their family members. They will then go to Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, where the children will wrap presents. At the conclusion of the day, Mr. Elliot dressed as Santa Claus will give each participant a gift.

No stranger to community involvement, Mr. Elliot also hosts a free annual fall children's festival at NewLand, where kids can enjoy hayrides and participate in bowling with pumpkins, as well as an Easter Egg Hunt each spring. He has additionally donated his time as a coach for the Blue Hill Athletic Department. Several years ago, NewLand also hosted the unveiling of the "Fishing for Friends" effort, a fundraiser for Faith in Action Community Connection, a volunteer group that assists the disabled and elderly in Hancock County.

The holiday season is a time to appreciate what we have and discover ways we can give to others. Steve Elliot and the employees at NewLand have truly taken this spirit to heart. I applaud Mr. Elliot and everyone at NewLand Nursery and Landscaping for their generous and dedicated work, and I wish them well in all of their future endeavors.●

#### TRIBUTE TO URSULA VILLERE

● Mr. VITTER. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Mrs. Ursula Villere on her 90th birthday which occurred November 30, 2008.

Mrs. Villere has been a Louisianan all her life, born in New Orleans and residing in Metairie since 1955. She graduated from Dominican High School and then Dominican College, where she was a member of the KKI Sorority. Taking a further interest in education, she proceeded to teach school both in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish until retiring in 1980. She is a loyal parishioner of St. Angela Merci Church and a loving mother and grandmother. She has 7 wonderful children who have given her 14 fantastic grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

I am proud to call Mrs. Villere a fellow Louisianan and would like to extend my best wishes to her and her

family on the occasion of her 90th birthday.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 333(a)(2) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-229), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following voting members to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino: Mrs. Rosa J. Correa of Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Dr. Aida Levitan of Key Biscayne, Florida.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 125(c)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker announces the November 14, 2008, joint appointment by the Speaker and the Majority leader of the Senate and appointment by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Oversight Panel:

Joint appointment: Mr. Damon Silvers of Maryland; and, Speaker's appointment: Mr. Richard H. Neiman of New York.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) announced that he had signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

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".

At 6:06 p.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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7311. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), the Minority Leader reappoints the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission, effective January 1, 2009: Mr. Larry Wortzel of Williamsburg, Virginia.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: