

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:

By Mr. KOHL, from the Special Committee on Aging:

Special Report entitled "Recognition of Excellence in Aging Research Committee Report" (Rept. No. 110-527), pursuant to S. Res. 89, Sec. 17(d), February 28, 2007, Resolution Authorizing a Study on the Problems of the Aged and Aging.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3725. A bill to promote economic recovery through green jobs and infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 3726. A bill to reauthorize the Crime-Free Rural States Grants program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 3727. A bill to require the designation of the Federal building located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, S.W., Canton, Ohio, as the "Ralph Regula Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3728. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to waive non-Federal share requirements for certain transportation programs and activities through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 3729. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the imposition of a fee or tax for direct gaseous emissions by livestock; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 3730. A bill to expand, train, and support all sectors of the health care workforce to care for the growing population of older individuals in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DODD, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3731. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (division A of Public Law 110-343) to provide the Special Inspector General with additional authorities and responsibilities, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. REID:

S.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution ensuring that the compensation and other emoluments attached to the office of Secretary of State are those which were in effect on January 1, 2007; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr.

LEVIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. Res. 728. A resolution designating January 2009 as "National Mentoring Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 729. A resolution expressing the opposition of the Senate to a proposed regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency, now under review in the Office of Management and Budget, that would undercut air quality protections established by Congress in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 for national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments, and national seashores; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to prohibit the implementation or enforcement of certain regulations.

S. 2063

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2063, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the economic security of the United States, and to expand future prosperity and growth for all Americans.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 3484

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3484, a bill to provide for a delay in the phase out of the hospice budget neutrality adjustment factor under title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

S. 3656

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3656, a bill to preserve access to healthcare under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

S. RES. 725

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 725, a resolution acknowledging the accomplishments and goals of the Youth Impact Program.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 3726. A bill to reauthorize the Crime-Free Rural States Grants pro-

gram; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce the Crime-Free Rural States Reauthorization Act, a bill designed to help rural communities deal with a growing drug and crime problems made worse by the devastating recession we now face.

This week the Senate is focused on passing a bill to authorize billions of dollars to bail out the automobile industry. Congress has already passed legislation providing for hundreds of billions of dollars to rescue the financial industry. These are difficult pieces of legislation, but we are trying to protect countless jobs and the economy as a whole. These efforts have done little, though, to help the millions of people in rural America, who have been hit as hard as anyone by the devastating effects of this recession, but will see few benefits from financial and corporate bailouts.

We must help rural communities, and they especially need our help as they try to pull together to combat the worsening drug and crime problems that threaten the safety and well-being of too many in our small cities and towns and, most particularly, our young people. The Crime-Free Rural States Reauthorization Act will provide just this kind of help.

I pushed for the original Crime-Free Rural States grant program. It was first authorized in 2002 and funded in 2003. Like too many valuable programs to help local law enforcement and crime prevention, it was allowed to lapse under the Bush administration. The program provides grants for rural states to come up with a plan to help communities confront drug and crime problems and to offer training and assistance for local prevention programs and law enforcement. This program can help cash-strapped communities with assistance they desperately need.

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee traveled to St. Albans, VT, to hear from the people of that resilient community about the persistent problem of drug-related crime in rural America, and about the innovative steps they are taking to combat that problem. The introduction of this bill is a small first step to apply the lessons learned in that hearing and in previous hearings in Vermont and elsewhere.

Drug-related crime is not just a big-city issue. As we heard in St. Albans last week and at a hearing in Rutland earlier this year, drugs and related crime are a growing problem in rural communities in Vermont and across the country. Fortunately, resourceful communities like St. Albans and Rutland are coming together to find innovative, community-based solutions to these complex problems.

Of course, law enforcement continues to be an important component in our efforts to combat the scourge of drugs. There continues to be an urgent need for the Federal Government to support