

concentrate on the Ketchikan paper. But Lew was quick to help reestablish small papers in both Petersburg and Wrangell.

Like many newspaper publishers, Lew Jr. was active in his community. He served on the Wrangell School Board, as mayor of Petersburg, and on numerous State boards including the Alaska Judicial Council, on the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska and as a member of the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association. He served on the State boards under every State Governor, Democratic or Republican, through his retirement in 1999. He also served as the first secretary of the Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Board just after statehood, helping to foster the State's strong fisheries ethics that helped salmon to recover from the catch disasters of the 1950s to the all-time records for salmon harvest currently being produced in Alaska.

Besides government positions, Mr. Williams was a lifetime member of the Petersburg Elks Lodge 1615, the American Legion, the Pioneers of Alaska, a past president of Rotary, and for 29 years was an adult leader in the Boy Scout program. He also was active in the Democratic Party and was awarded an honorary doctorate of humanities by the University of Alaska Southeast. He also was the founder of the regional Southeast Conference and was named Citizen of the Year by both the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce in the early 1980s. He won statewide recognition as the Alaskan of the Year in 1991.

But this speech is not meant as an obituary, but as a way for me to state my deepest appreciation for a man who epitomized Alaska during the past 70 years. He was a man who loved the beauty of Alaska, enjoying hunting and fishing on the nearby Stikine River. He also pushed for the development of Alaska from its timber industry in the southeast to the fishing industry around the State. He was a strong voice in favor of the aquaculture movement in the 1970s that helped the State preserve and grow its wild salmon populations. He also was a tireless supporter of environmentally sensitive oil and gas development, first in Cook Inlet and later in northern Alaska. Lew, having lived in the grinding poverty of Alaska long before statehood, always understood that Alaskans needed and still need good jobs and a strong economy so that the State can develop an economy strong enough to support good educational institutions, community infrastructure and allow the development of good health care and social service programs. He knew that Alaskans could grow the economy and protect our wildlife and environment. He never set up an artificial confrontation between the two goals.

After his retirement, Lew wrote with the late Evangeline Atwood, the book "Bent Pins to Chains: Alaska and its

Newspapers." The 2006 book is a lively history of Alaska as described through the development of its newspaper industry. The book, better than most, tells the tales of life in both the territory and State of Alaska as seen through reporters, editors and publishers. Lew, undoubtedly wrote the book as a way of honoring the many talented writers and editors that have practiced in Alaska over the past 49 years since statehood, many of them reporters he helped recruit out of journalism schools, and helped mentor and train once they arrived.

As his obituary earlier this week in the Ketchikan Daily News said, "He believed the editorial was the heart and strength of any newspaper. He editorialized for Alaska State, for the creation of the state ferry system, for the trans-Alaska pipeline, for power development, in support of the timber and fishing industries, and for airports, harbors and roads."

Alaskans have seen countless columns and editorials explaining to Americans—who never wanted to really understand the issue—why it was fully proper for some of Alaska's Federal highway funds to go for construction of a bridge from downtown Ketchikan to the city's airport, so that those who needed to fly out of the State's fifth largest city could actually get to their flights when high winds or low tides rendered the ferry system to the airport inoperative. For those who needed to catch emergency medivac flights, a bridge was no expensive trinket, but a life-saving link to the outside world. Lew always championed Alaska.

I can only say to his wife Dorothy, to his daughters Christena—Tena for short—and Kathryn, his son Lew III, and his daughter-in-law Vicki, and granddaughters Kristie, Jodi, and Melissa Williams, and great-grandson Milan Browne, all of Ketchikan; and his sisters: Susan Pagenkopf of Juneau and Jane Ferguson of California, how much he will be missed. Those in public life will miss his balanced and fair editorials, his prodding and his support. We will miss his ethics and deep-seated sense of fair-play and ethics. And we will miss his wise counsel and thoughtfulness and compassion.

Alaska, and the Nation, has lost a great citizen. Goodbye Lew, we will never forget you. •

HONORING READY SEAFOOD

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I celebrate the outstanding achievements of two brothers from Portland, ME, who recently won the U.S. Small Business Administration's Young Entrepreneurs of the Year Award on the local, regional, and national levels. John and Brendan Ready are the founders and owners of Ready Seafood and Catch a Piece of Maine, two highly successful firms that have transformed the Maine lobster market. I had the pleasure of meeting with the brothers just 2

weeks ago, and they are a true reflection of the dedication and zeal of Maine's legendary lobstermen.

The Ready brothers grew up in Cape Elizabeth, on Maine's picturesque coast, where they quickly grew fond of the sea. Venturing out with their uncle to catch lobsters, the pair learned the intricacies of the trade before their teenage years, and they continued to fish throughout high school. Attentive to their lifelong passion for lobstering, the brothers returned from college during summer breaks and even weekends to lobster. Additionally, John spent an extra year at Boston University to participate as a lobsterman in a co-op program.

When they arrived back in Maine following college—John from Boston University and Brendan from Stonehill College—the duo immediately sought to enter the Maine seafood market. In 2004, they opened Ready Seafood, a thriving wholesaler of fresh lobster and other seafood to domestic clients, as well as customers as far away as Italy, China, and Japan. To promote Maine's rich history of lobstering, the firm provides both internships and unique educational opportunities to high school and college students in the region, including an inside look at how Portland's waterfront works. The brothers have visibly transformed the company into a \$10 million business in just 4 short years.

In October 2007, seeking to create a one of its kind company in the crowded seafood industry, the Ready brothers launched Catch a Piece of Maine, a remarkable and innovative company that allows individuals and corporate clients alike to purchase lobsters caught especially for them. The buyers pay an annual fee, which entitles them to have their own personal lobsterman set their traps and collect their lobsters. The company began with 400 traps for 2008, all of which were in place by last Thursday, and each is guaranteed to garner a minimum of 40 lobsters throughout the remainder of the year. The lobsters are shipped at intervals scheduled by the client, and each shipment includes one pound of mussels and clams, a Maine dessert, and the traditional bibs and utensils essential to enjoying Maine's famed crustacean.

The program includes some additional distinctive features. Customers keep in touch with their personal lobstermen through the Internet by logging onto an individualized and regularly updated summary, including how many lobsters have been caught and when the traps were checked. Moreover, clients can have their lobsters shipped anywhere in the continental United States, making a great holiday gift, corporate thank you, or special anniversary dinner. Ever mindful of the future of Maine's gorgeous coast and those who rely on it, the Ready brothers send 10 percent of their profits to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute for marine ecosystem education programs for schoolchildren throughout the State.

The fundamentally forthright business philosophy of the Ready brothers is truly impressive. They represent the next generation of Maine lobstermen, and as such they continue and share the heritage of the State's prized tradition. Through both Ready Seafood and Catch a Piece of Maine, the brothers have already taken great steps to doing just that. I commend both Brendan and John for their originality and dedication—and for garnering the U.S. Small Business Administration's Young Entrepreneurs of the Year Award—and wish them well in their extremely bright futures.●

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.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004, WITH RESPECT TO THE BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION AND RE-EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN GOODS TO SYRIA—PM 46

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, and Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, authorizing the blocking of property of certain persons and prohibiting the exportation and re-exportation of certain goods to Syria, is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2008.

The actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, interfering in Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs including the recent revelation of illicit nuclear cooperation with North Korea, and undermining U.S. and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared with respect to this threat and to maintain in force the sanctions I have ordered to address this national emergency.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2008.

REPORT ON THE PRINCIPAL AGREEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CZECH REPUBLIC RELATIVE TO SOCIAL SECURITY—PM 47

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Social Security Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-216, 42 U.S.C. 433(e)(1)), I transmit herewith the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Czech Republic on Social Security, which consists of two separate instruments: a principal agreement and an administrative arrangement. The Agreement was signed in Prague on September 7, 2007.

The United States-Czech Republic Agreement is similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries. The United States-Czech Republic Agreement contains all provisions mandated by section 233 and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4).

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report prepared by the Social Security Administration explaining the key points of the Agreement, along with a paragraph-by-para-

graph explanation of the provisions of the principal agreement and the related administrative arrangement. Annexed to this report is the report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act, which describes the effect of the Agreement on income and expenditures of the U.S. Social Security program and the number of individuals affected by the Agreement. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreement and related documents to me.

I commend to the Congress the United States-Czech Republic Social Security Agreement and related documents.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2008.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:26 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, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2929. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

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

H.R. 3658. An act to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to permit rest and recuperation travel to United States territories for members of the Foreign Service.

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. 317. Concurrent resolution condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic draft constitution and scheduled referendum.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 7:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5919. An act to make technical corrections regarding the Newborn, Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3658. An act to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to permit rest and recuperation travel to United States territories for members of the Foreign Service; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 317. Condemning the Burmese regime's undemocratic draft constitution and scheduled referendum; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.