

2007, the President signed the Pool and Spa Safety Act into law.

One of the most touching moments in my time in the Senate was that day in December when I was able to call Scott Taylor from the Senate cloakroom to let him know that the pool safety bill had passed. Abbey may have been a small girl, but there is no doubt she had a super-sized impact on our world.

From the beginning, Abbey said she wanted her story told so that it would make a difference. And it did. Although Abbey is no longer with us, she will always live on through this important new law that will protect other children so they do not have to suffer what she did. I am certain that this new law would not have passed except for the inspiring courage of Abbey Taylor and her family. It was their gift to all the children of America.

The city of Edina, MN, will designate May 24, 2008, as Abigail Taylor Day the day Abigail would have celebrated her seventh birthday.

On May 24, I ask that we join in honoring Abbey Taylor, “Amazing Abigail” as we called her, and keep the entire Taylor family—Scott, Katey, Grace, Christina, and Audrey—in our thoughts. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their courage and their pursuit of a safer America for all our children.

ENHANCING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS ACT OF 2008

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, last year, I was proud to cosponsor America COMPETES, legislation which addressed many issues essential to maintaining America’s competitive leadership in an increasing competitive and technological global marketplace. I was heartened by the bipartisan support for that effort. Today, I rise to urge my colleagues to join me and my friend from Indiana, Mr. LUGAR, in extending that effort, by supporting legislation to enhance education efforts in science, technology, engineering and mathematics—the fields known as STEM.

Strengthening STEM education is important not only to foster the innovation needed to ensure our nation’s future prosperity, but also so that every citizen can benefit from our democracy’s ever-increasing pace of technological and scientific advance. Federal agencies currently administer more than a hundred different STEM education programs, with over \$3,000,000,000 spent annually. Yet there is little coherence among these efforts. There is a clear need for increased coordination of STEM education among states, and between the efforts of federal agencies and of state and local educators.

The intent of our legislation, the Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Technology Act of 2008, is to bring coherence and coordination to these efforts, for the benefit of stu-

dents, science, and society. The legislation establishes a STEM Education Committee within the President’s Office of Science and Technology Policy to coordinate the initiatives of the many Federal agencies engaged in STEM education, and to avoid unnecessary duplication among these efforts. It consolidates existing STEM education initiatives within the Department of Education under the direction of an Office of STEM Education. It authorizes grant funding for States which choose to work together to develop rigorous common STEM education standards with more meaningful and effective ways of measuring student learning. And it facilitates sharing of information about effective educational practices and innovations so that they become widely available to STEM teachers and educators. Throughout this legislation, there is emphasis on developing strategies to increase the participation of Americans from underrepresented populations in our national science and engineering enterprise, bringing new perspectives for the benefit of all.

All of these efforts together will strengthen our efforts to help students learn, and teachers teach, not just to train the scientists and engineers of the future, but to empower all students to become more fluent in science and technology, and more capable in math.

I am pleased that Mr. LUGAR has joined in this effort, as have Mr. SANDERS and Mr. BROWN. In the House, Mr. HONDA has introduced companion legislation, joined by a bipartisan group totaling 40. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING KATELYN BOWLES AND RILEY MILLER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I congratulate Ms. Katelyn Bowles and Ms. Riley Miller on receiving the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Sponsored by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Prudential Spirit of Community Award recognizes middle and high school students who perform outstanding community service at the local, State and national level. Each year, two students are chosen as State honorees from each of the 50 States, and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Bowles, a senior at Montgomery County High School in Mount Sterling, KY, has been recognized as one of the Commonwealth top youth volunteers. She spearheaded a campaign to renovate the Mount Sterling C&O Train Depot, an integral part of the community tradition. By initiating a business plan between Future Business Leaders of America members and local government agencies, Ms. Bowles successfully secured \$200,000 in grants for the project, including \$153,000 from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. Ad-

ditionally, she managed to recruit fellow high school students to help with much of the renovation, scheduled to be completed next year.

In addition to being chosen as a State honoree, Ms. Miller, an eighth grader at Drakes Creek Middle School in Bowling Green, KY, has been selected as one of America’s top 10 youth volunteers. She is recognized for her outstanding efforts in raising \$50,000 for childhood cancer research over the past 3 years. Having lost two younger brothers to leukemia, raising money for cancer research is a particularly important mission for Ms. Miller. Last year alone, Ms. Miller managed 29 lemonade stands with over 200 volunteers across Bowling Green, raising \$19,000. This incredible feat demonstrates her exceptional dedication, organizational skill, and enormous capacity for leadership.

Ms. Bowles and Ms. Miller have proven themselves to be exemplary students and volunteers, deserving of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award. They are an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to student leaders and community volunteers everywhere. I look forward to seeing all that they will accomplish in the future. •

RECOGNIZING L. ROBERT KIMBALL

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize the contributions of a community leader from my home State of Pennsylvania, Mr. L. Robert Kimball. Bob Kimball’s name has become synonymous with high-quality work that clients have come to expect from the architecture, engineering, technology, and consulting firm that he founded 55 years ago in his home town of Ebensburg, PA.

The firm’s professional services are well known both in Cambria County and among the public and private marketplaces it serves. Far less recognized are the contributions that Bob makes to his community.

In addition to his involvement on the boards of various civic, higher education, and professional organizations, his support extends to the fine and performing arts, education, athletics, youth organizations, community economic development initiatives, and health and human service agencies. His generosity is not limited to monetary contributions and sponsorships. He also encourages active participation by his staff in community activities. Bob wants to make sure that his firm never forgets its small-town foundation.

Under his leadership as founder, Bob places a high priority on treating clients, staff, and the community with consideration, appreciation, and fairness. These core values are among the key components of the firm’s success.

Bob Kimball has enjoyed a successful career and has continuously shared that success, experience, and guidance with the community in Cambria County. He has distinguished himself as a

business leader, an accomplished professional engineer, a successful entrepreneur, and a dedicated family man.

On behalf of the United States Senate, we recognize Mr. L. Robert Kimball's commitment to his community in Ebensburg, PA.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM PEYTON HARRIS

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President. I rise today to tell you about a wonderful and humble man, William Peyton Harris of Camden, AL, who died on February 25, 2008.

Mr. Harris was born October 22, 1909. He was a man who loved adventure and a man of many talents. He survived the Great Depression and worked some weeks for \$5 per week. He grew up in a time when good morals, good manners, and discipline were the norm.

He was very fortunate to have married Lois Sutherland who was the perfect life partner for him. She was with him for 62 years. They had one son, my friend, Billy, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

At the age of 12, he rode a horse 2½ miles to see the last steamboats loading cotton bales on the Alabama River. Then, in the early 1960s, he salvaged an old steamboat that sank in 1850 and his discovery revealed lost treasure.

He was well known in his later years for his artwork of Old South scenes and wildlife, especially the wild turkey, which he also loved to hunt. His art studio was in the back of an old country store he owned and operated for many years in Possum Bend. The store was known as the "Social Center" of Possum Bend. After renting out the country store, he concentrated more on his art. His popularity grew and in 2001, he was interviewed by CNN and the interview aired on national television. Buyers for his art increased and more visitors stopped by his studio. No matter how busy he was, there was always time for his friends and customers. Good conversation occurred on subjects from politics to weather, and from grandchildren to divorces and if you were down and out, or had a cold, he would always offer you a little of his special "remedy."

As a son of a store owner in a nearby community myself, I remember some of those times very well when as a young boy I observed such scenes, but times have changed. We are much "busier" now, though not necessarily wiser. The old store stands vacant. Only fond memories remain of the life of a wonderful man who was one of the last of a great generation.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Kathryn Tucker Windham, who is celebrating her 90th birthday on June 5, 2008. In Alabama, one of our greatest treasures is our history, which is often best learned

through the stories told by others. Alabama is lucky to have one of the world's best storytellers, Kathryn Tucker Windham, who shares her memories and observances of our State's social history in a way unlike any other. Kathryn can tell stories about graveyards and ghosts, cooking or recipes and the Gee's Bend quilters that provide her listener with a unique view into life in the rural South.

Born in Selma, AL, Mrs. Windham grew up in Thomasville, where she began her writing career at the age of 12 working for the Thomasville Times, a local weekly newspaper. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL, Kathryn became one of the first women to cover the police beat for a major daily newspaper in the South at the Alabama Journal. She also worked as a reporter, photographer, and State editor for the Birmingham News and as a reporter, city editor, State editor, and associate editor for the Selma Times-Journal, where she won Associated Press awards for her writing and photography.

Kathryn is also the author of 24 books and is a playwright. She is widely recognized for storytelling abilities in classrooms, historical meetings, and storytelling events across Alabama. In addition to her writing career, Mrs. Windham worked as the community relations coordinator for the area agency on aging, which serves 12 rural counties in southwest Alabama and promoted statewide war bond drives during World War II.

Mrs. Windham's work in radio brought her a new level of notoriety, as she is now a favorite contributor to National Public Radio's program, "All Things Considered." Her tales about life in the rural South tell listeners more about our region than is widely known and have included stories about rumors of people who could kill a rattlesnake by spitting, a hailstorm in Thomasville that was supposed to have knocked the eyes out of goldfish in a pond, or the frog houses Alabama children make with cold mud.

Quoted in a 1999 article for Current magazine, Windham said of her storytelling, "It preserves a part of our Southern history maybe, our heritage. We need to know where we came from." I could not agree with her more. Kathryn Tucker Windham will leave an important legacy as a trailblazing female journalist and a chronicler of life in Alabama that I greatly admire.

I join Kathryn's three children, Kathryn Tabb Windham, Amasa Benjamin Windham, Jr., and Helen Ann Windham Hillyer, and her two grandsons, David Wilson Windham and Benjamin Douglas Hillyer in wishing Mrs. Windham a happy 90th birthday. Mrs. Windham is a special and unique lady, and I wish her the very best.●

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

At 10:13 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 2712) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, In which I originated, it was resolved that the said bill pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

At 1:40 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 and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 2829. An act to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008, Which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 17. Joint resolution directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean.

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

H.R. 752. An act to direct Federal agencies to transfer excess Federal electronic equipment, including computers, computer components, printers, and fax machines, to educational recipients.

H.R. 1771. An act to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.

H.R. 3323. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey a water distribution system to the Goleta Water District, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3819. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for such treatment until such veterans are transferred to Department facilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4841. An act to approve, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement entered into to resolve claims by the Soboba Band of