

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source [in 2007], including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the Committee: 95. (This figure does not include 16 alleged violations from the previous year carried into 2007.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 71. (This figure includes 5 matters originating in the previous year.)

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion": 15. (This figure includes 2 matters originating in the previous year.)

(3) The number of alleged violations in which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 16. (This figure includes 9 matters from the previous year carried into 2007 and includes 5 inquiries continuing into 2008.)

(4) The number of alleged violations that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations that the Committee dismissed for lack of substantial merit: 11. (This figure includes 7 matters from the previous year carried into 2007.)

(6) The number of private letters of admonition or public letters of admonition issued: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2007, the Committee, through its staff, conducted 121 ethics educational briefings and seminars, including 72 sessions for individual Member or Committee offices and 37 sessions for a general Senate audience.

In 2007, Committee staff handled over 16,000 telephone inquiries for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2007, the Committee wrote over 1,000 ethics advisory letters and responses, including over 700 advisories concerning gifts or travel.

The Committee issued over 3,500 letters concerning financial disclosure filings by Senators, Senate staff and Senate candidates, including over 1,200 letters concerning required amendments to these disclosure filings.

REMEMBERING MONE LITTLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Monday marked the 1-year anniversary of the tragic death of Mone Little. On January 28, 2007, 19-year-old Mone, granddaughter of late Motown legend and lead singer of The Temptations, David Ruffin, was gunned down in a drive-by shooting while walking with three friends in Detroit. While Mone was not the target, she was the only one in the group who was shot. Those responsible for this heinous crime have not been caught.

Mone, a student at Oakland Community College, was in the process of exploring her dreams. The community continues to grieve the senseless loss of this young woman. Unfortunately, we experience too many of these tragedies. Each year approximately 30,000 Americans are killed by a firearm, an average of 10 children and 74 adults each day.

Many of us continue to urge the Senate to pass sensible gun legislation. Law enforcement officers have re-

quested help in their difficult task of keeping our streets safe. Those that have been personally impacted by gun tragedies have called for change in the hope of protecting others from the pain they have endured.

The American people have a right to expect better protection against gun violence. Until Congress acts, many more lives will be lost. I once again urge my colleagues to take up and pass sensible gun legislation so that we can help prevent such tragedies.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. BALL

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Robert Ball. Bob Ball has been a champion of America's elderly since 1939, helping to guide and strengthen our Social Security system for nearly 70 years. He was America's longest serving Social Security Commissioner, overseeing improvements to benefits such as the introduction of automatic cost-of-living adjustments. Today, about a third of our Nation's elderly rely on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income, and two-thirds count on it to supply at least half of their income. It has been America's most successful anti-poverty program ever, due in no small part to Bob's influence.

While he is little known outside Washington, Bob played a critical role in the origins of our most recognizable Government programs. His work led to the introduction of Social Security disability insurance, and now because of him more than 7 million Americans who can't work due to a disability can still live in dignity. He helped create our Medicare system, which now provides health care to more than 40 million elderly Americans. Even as he became a Social Security recipient himself, he continued to defend the program against benefit cuts and privatization proposals. There is no question that Robert Ball's work has improved the lives of millions of Americans. His character, wisdom, and leadership will be greatly missed.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, very sadly, Robert M. Ball, Bob Ball, passed away on January 29, 2008, at the age of 93. Bob Ball had a truly exceptional record of public service and his passing is a loss to this nation. Bob Ball served as the longest serving Commissioner of the Social Security Administration from 1962 to 1973 and played a critical role in all changes to the Social Security programs for the last half century. He was a champion of social insurance programs, and through his leadership, the Social Security Administration tackled many challenges and served millions of Americans in need. Few individuals have had as direct and profound an effect on the lives of our fellow citizens. And I would like to express my personal gratitude for Bob Ball's dedicated service.

Bob Ball began his career with Social Security in a New Jersey field office in

1939. At SSA's headquarters, he served in various positions with the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance. He left the agency briefly in 1945 to serve as staff director for the Advisory Council on Social Security to the Senate Committee on Finance, and returned 4 years later serving as assistant director of the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance, and eventually, deputy director and acting director.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy appointed Bob Ball Commissioner of Social Security, a position he held under both Democratic and Republican Presidents—retiring in 1973. During his time at SSA, he helped establish the Disability Insurance Program, the Medicare Program, and the Supplemental Security Income Program. These programs now protect millions of Americans from what President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the hazards and vicissitudes of life—disability that prevents work, and extended old age, both of which can cause severe poverty.

Following his retirement, Bob Ball went on to be one of the most active and prolific advocates for Social Security and social insurance programs. He was an influential member of the Greenspan Commission, which in 1983 reestablished Social Security on a sound financial footing, and has written and spoken on every proposal to improve Social Security's current financing difficulties, including the grossly flawed proposals to privatize Social Security. Bob Ball founded the National Academy of Social Insurance in 1986 to promote understanding and informed policymaking on Social Security and other social insurance programs through research, training, and public events for the exchange of unbiased information.

Bob Ball was a great American who dedicated his life to serving others. His passing is a great loss to this body and to all policymakers. I am sure my colleagues will join me in offering our deepest condolences to his family and to his friends and colleagues. I hope that we can keep his dedication in mind as we continue his life's work and secure our retirement and disability programs for the millions of Americans who benefit and will benefit from his service.

WILD MONONGAHELA ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Wild Monongahela: A National Legacy for West Virginia's Special Places Act. This important piece of legislation sets aside over 47,000 acres of wilderness in the Monongahela National Forest so that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to enjoy the forest in its pristine state.

West Virginians have a proud tradition of mining and logging that provides needed resources for our entire country. I have no doubt that this tradition will continue for many decades

to come. However, at the same time, new development is coming to West Virginia. This is needed development that provides jobs for West Virginians and helps support our economy. But with this increased development comes a responsibility to set some part of our natural environment aside for those who come after us.

The Monongahela Forest encompasses nearly 920,000 acres of land in the heart of the Appalachian Mountain Range and contains some of the most ecological and geological unique reaches of our State. There are currently five wilderness areas in the Monongahela including the Cranberry Wilderness and Dolly Sods Wilderness. This bill will create four new wilderness areas and expand three of the existing areas. All of the land being designated as wilderness was already being treated as either recommended wilderness by the Forest Service or as backcountry recreation.

I want to extend my thanks to Congressman RAHALL for his leadership on this bill and congratulate him on drafting legislation that has received the support of West Virginia's entire bipartisan congressional delegation. Like all members of the congressional delegation, I have heard from hundreds of West Virginians how wilderness is important to them. I have heard how wilderness is a major draw for the outdoor tourism industry and will provide jobs. I have heard from West Virginians who want to make sure that they will be able to continue to fish pristine streams and hunt in the forests. They want to experience the excellent hiking and backpacking the hills of West Virginia have to offer, and make sure their grandchildren have that same opportunity. But the reason I heard more than any others from West Virginians was the need to protect some small part of God's creation as His stewards on this Earth.

This legislation has received support from diverse groups and people across West Virginia including the West Virginia AFL-CIO, the Fayette County Commission, West Virginia Council of Churches, and both the Pocahontas and Greenbrier County Conventions and Visitor Bureaus, just to name a few. I know that there will be people who feel that this legislation is too big and goes too far. At the same time I recognize those West Virginians who are disappointed that areas of the Monongahela Forest special to them were not included. But I believe this legislation strikes a careful balance that will protect West Virginia's forests and serve our State's interests for generations to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JACK B. WEIL

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I wish to make note of the recent passing of Jack B. Weil of Denver, CO. I

knew Jack personally. That puts me in the company of thousands. The passing of Jack B. Weil is not only a loss for his family, but it is a loss for the city of Denver and the State of Colorado, so I wanted to share a bit about Jack.

Jack was born on Nov 13, 1928, at Denver's Mercy Hospital. He graduated from Tulane University in 1952 and entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant, thus beginning a life of service to causes greater than himself.

In 1954, Jack joined the firm founded by his father, Rockmount Ranch Wear Manufacturing Company, where he worked until illness forced him to retire last year. While at Rockmount, Jack used his artistic flair to create many signature designs which have become icons of western shirt design. In fact his "Sawtooth" pocket and "diamond" snap design is the longest running shirt design in America, and it sits in a collection at the Smithsonian. Rockmount shirts have been worn by working cowboys, rodeo cowboys and the likes of Ronald Reagan, Elvis, Eric Clapton, Robert Redford, and more.

Jack was active in his community throughout his life. He supported higher education for all and served as the longtime chairman of the Foundation for the Community College of Denver. He supported the cause of historic preservation, even buying one of Denver's historic homes and fighting to preserve the historic character of the Humboldt Island neighborhood. He opened that same home for fundraisers for a wide spectrum of causes, including charitable and political ones. An accomplished artist, his abstract paintings provided pleasure to many people and were displayed in local galleries.

On the political front, Jack was proof that one could have strong convictions yet treat those with divergent views with respect and dignity. He never hesitated to state his views and he actively supported them by his involvement and leadership with various political organizations. When discussions would get too heated, Jack was quick with a wry comment or offcolor joke to break the tension and remind everyone of their commonalities, not their differences.

To the very end, Jack served others. He spent the past 2-plus years as the cochair of the USS *Mesa Verde* commissioning team. In that role, Jack supported the crew of this brand new Navy ship with both his time and his money. Despite his flagging health, he even attended the commissioning ceremony in Florida this past December to demonstrate his support of our brave sailors.

But you can not capture the essence of Jack B. Weil in his accomplishments. No, the true essence of Jack is captured in the lives he touched. You see, Jack Weil loved people. Be it buying someone who was having a bad day an ice cream cone or inviting people he had just met over to his house, Jack demonstrated a heart for people that we all would do well to follow. He made

friends wherever he went and always offered words of encouragement to those who needed them. This is best demonstrated by the volume of e-mails, phone calls, and letters that his family has received from all over the world offering their condolences and stories of how Jack touched them.

Though Jack moved in circles with the rich and powerful, he was completely unaffected by it. His son tells a story of Jack mentioning one day how he had sold some shirts to "some British musician . . . David something . . . Bowie," which his son thought was another one of Jack's jokes until he received a call from David Bowie's assistant the next day to order more shirts. Or the time Jack shared some laughs at a club with Robin Williams while having no idea who he was. That was how Jack was. It didn't matter if you were famous or powerful or a cleaning lady or a bartender, to Jack you were just his friend.

There is a line from a poem that all cadets at West Point learn that I think says it best: And when our course on earth is run, may it be said, "Well Done, be thou at peace." Well Done, Jack. •

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANSDOWNE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Lansdowne Improvement Association on its 100th anniversary. Since April 1908, the association has served the Lansdowne community, a neighborhood that has a rich and interesting history.

In the 1800s, the Whitaker Iron Company began mining ore in the area and farms soon followed. Once the mining pits were abandoned, underground springs filled the pits creating small ponds and lakes. The area continued to grow and develop, particularly with the influence of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The B&O Railroad opened the Coursey Station in what is now Lansdowne. The Coursey Station Senior Housing Center, a thriving mainstay of the community, is named for this station.

Throughout the 20th century, the community continued its growth around Coursey Station. Lansdowne quickly became known as a B&O town because many of its residents worked for the railroad. Many of its workers commuted to Baltimore City by train. This connection lasted until the 1960s when the B&O railroad closed the station. To this day, Lansdowne remains a very close-knit community.

The Lansdowne Improvement Association is an active and visible part of the community. It hosts monthly meetings that are well attended by the community. Working together to benefit the neighborhood, the Association sponsors the Citizens on Patrol program and a canned food drive, and it keeps residents informed about activities and concerns in the community.