

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.

The Lansdowne Police and Fire Departments have developed a strong relationship with the association to ensure that residents are kept informed about crime and other safety issues.

This year, as part of the 100th anniversary celebration, the Lansdowne Improvement Association is bringing back the once-traditional Lansdowne Parade, featuring music and entertainment.

I wish to express my congratulations to the Lansdowne Improvement Association, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important milestone for the Lansdowne community.●

TRIBUTE TO TAMMI MACKEBEN

● Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize one of my constituents, Tammi Mackeben, who has been named the 2008 School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counselor Association. Mrs. Mackeben was also named the Texas Multi-Level School Counselor of the year by the Texas School Counselor Association in 2007.

The School Counselor of the Year contest is open to all 100,000 members of the school counseling profession. Mrs. Mackeben was nominated for this award by Principal Ricardo Damian and was evaluated by a select panel of industry experts on several criteria including: creative school counseling innovations, effective counseling programs, leadership skills and their contribution to student advancement. Mrs. Mackeben is 1 of 10 finalists from across the Nation, and the only representative from Texas.

Mrs. Mackeben has worked as a counselor at the Ernesto Serna Two Way Dual Language School in El Paso, TX, for 7 years. She and her colleague Norma Guerra are responsible for counseling close to 700 students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. Mrs. Mackeben works with students in the sixth through eighth grades, helping them to navigate personal and academic challenges, and preparing them to continue their education in high school. Both Mrs. Mackeben and Ms. Guerra have implemented Comprehensive Developmental Guidance and Counseling on their campus. The Guidance and Counseling Program received the CREST Award—Counselors Reinforcing Excellence for Students in Texas—from the Texas School Counselor Association and the RAMP Award—Recognized ASCA Model Program—from the American School Counselor Association during the 2006–2007 school year.

The guidance, support and compassion that Mrs. Mackeben shares in her daily work is perhaps one of the best gifts a teacher can offer to her students. For all this and for being such a great Texan, I can only say: Thank You, Mrs. Mackeben!●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:16 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. 1528. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the New England National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1528. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the New England National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-277. A resolution adopted by the Columbus City Council in the State of Ohio relative to the foreclosure crisis; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-278. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to pass legislation allowing for local licensing of tour guides; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-279. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature urging Congress to take action to honor the sovereignty of individual states to regulate and command the National Guard of the states; to the Committee on Armed Services.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLVE NO. 6

Whereas the National Guard is the oldest component of the armed forces of the United States and one of the nation's longest-enduring institutions; and

Whereas the National Guard traces its history back to the earliest English colonies in North America, who were responsible for their own defense and, as such, organized their able-bodied male citizens into militias; and

Whereas the authors of the United States Constitution empowered the United States Congress to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and, to recognize the militia's state role, the founding fathers reserved the appointment of officers and training of the militia to the states; and

Whereas the federal government's preemption of the authority of the state or governor in natural and manmade disasters is opposed by all of the nation's governors; and

Whereas the role of the National Guard in the states and in the nation as a whole is too important to have major policy decisions made without full debate and input from governors through the policy process; be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature exhorts the United States Congress and the federal administration to understand the significant effect on Alaska and all the states by the expansion of presidential authority over the National Guard during natural and manmade disasters; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges federal action to honor the sovereignty of the individual states to regulate and command National Guard troops during emergencies and disasters, and to take whatever actions are necessary to correct the encroachment of constitutional authority to protect the citizens of each state.

POM-280. A joint resolution adopted by the Alaska State Legislature opposing any international designation of land in the state without the consent of the affected local governments; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLVE NO. 18

Whereas the United Nations has designated over 60 sites in the United States as "world heritage sites" or "biosphere reserves," which altogether are equal in size to the State of Colorado, the eighth largest state; and

Whereas art. IV, sec. 3, United States Constitution, provides that the United States Congress shall make all needed rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States and nothing in the constitution shall be construed to prejudice any claims of the United States or of any state; and

Whereas many of the United Nations' designations include private property inholdings and contemplate buffer zones of adjacent land; and

Whereas some international land designations, such as those under the United States Biosphere Reserve Program and the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, operate under independent national committees such as the United States Man and Biosphere National Committee that have no legislative directives or authorization from the United States Congress; and

Whereas local citizens and public officials concerned about job creation and resource-based economies usually have no say in the designation of land near their homes for inclusion in an international land use program; and

Whereas these international designations are an open invitation to the international community to interfere in domestic economies and land use decisions; and

Whereas environmental groups and the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, have been working to establish an international park, a world heritage site, and a marine biosphere reserve called Beringia covering parts of western Alaska, eastern Russia, and the Bering Sea, and in Glacier Bay National Park; and

Whereas foreign companies and countries could use these international designations in western Alaska to block or inhibit economic development that they perceive as competition; and

Whereas animal rights activists could use these international designations to generate pressure to harass or block harvesting of marine mammals by Alaska Natives; and

Whereas international designations may be used to harass or block industrial development in the state, including projects related to fishing, mining, timber harvesting, railroads, power transmission lines, pipelines, and other oil and gas development; and

Whereas the subsistence and recreational use of fish and game resources in the state could be severely and negatively affected by international land use designations; and

Whereas the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the collaboration of the United States Department of the Interior, has recognized the Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek World Heritage Site in Alaska, and has listed the Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,