

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT R. FISCHER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Herb Fischer as he retires from a long and distinguished career in education. His service and commitment to California's schoolchildren, and to his community, have provided an example for us all.

Dr. Fischer received his undergraduate degree in business administration from California Polytechnic San Luis Obispo. He later earned his teaching credential, master's degree, and doctorate from the University of California, Riverside. Dr. Fischer served his 38-year career in education in San Bernardino County, beginning as a classroom teacher. He later served as a principal and district administrator in the San Bernardino City Unified School District, where he remained for 22 years. One of his chief accomplishments was his administrative support for San Bernardino City Unified's Desegregation and Integration Magnet School Program. This has been a model in providing quality programs for all students and offers parents and students more educational choices. Dr. Fischer also served as superintendent of the Colton Joint Unified School District for 7 years. There he directed a staff of over 2,500 employees. In 1998 Dr. Fischer was elected to serve as County Superintendent, where he oversees the programs and operations of the County Superintendent of Schools Office, which has an annual operating budget of \$250 million.

Under Dr. Fischer's leadership, the County Superintendent of Schools Office has prioritized services to support school districts' efforts to improve student performance and accountability. This has included closing achievement and access gaps for underperforming schools and underrepresented students, improving postsecondary education and career readiness, and ensuring safe school campuses.

Among other accomplishments during Dr. Fischer's tenure, the County Superintendent of Schools Office lead a county-wide emphasis to improve student performance collectively with district superintendents, resulting in increased scores on the State Academic Performance Index for 7 consecutive years. He also was responsible for the construction of the county's first permanent school site, the Dorothy Gibson County High School in Ontario, and six additional schools to improve housing for the 6,000-plus special and alternate education students served by the county. Dr. Fischer also established three regional councils to provide seamless education, and close access and achievement gaps for students, and launched the Alliance for Education initiative that has over 1,500 business, labor, community, and faith-based partners working with public schools to improve the college, career, and labor readiness of students.

For his outstanding leadership and contributions to education and the community, Dr. Fischer has been recognized by many organizations. He was awarded the University of California, Riverside Alumni Association's prestigious Alumni Public Service Award for his service to the public sector. He has been recognized by the Rialto/Fontana Chapter of the NAACP, the Victor Valley African American, and Inland Empire Hispanic Chambers of Commerce for building collaborative relationships to benefit the education of all students throughout San Bernardino County. Most recently, the Mount Baldy Chapter of the Building Industry Association recognized Dr. Fischer for his leadership in developing partnerships with business leaders.

Throughout his long career in education and public service, Dr. Herbert R. Fischer has consistently provided for stronger communities and higher educational attainment, and he has provided a model of exemplary service to us all. I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his retirement. •

PRAISE FOR THANKSUSA AND TENNESSEE SONGWRITERS

• Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, today I praise the efforts of ThanksUSA and two of Tennessee's outstanding songwriters, Leslie Satcher and Monty Holmes. This weekend, these parties will join together to perform a charity concert for our country's Armed Forces.

ThanksUSA is a nonpartisan charitable endeavor to encourage Americans of all ages to "thank" the men and women of the United States Armed Forces by providing academic scholarships for their children and spouses. ThanksUSA offers two interconnected programs: the national treasure hunt and the military family scholarship program. The treasure hunt raises awareness and money for the scholarship program.

This weekend's charity concert would not be possible without the talent and performances of Ms. Leslie Satcher and Mr. Monty Holmes. In the traditional Tennessee spirit, Ms. Satcher and Mr. Holmes have volunteered to perform their own country music hits to entertain the attendees.

With dreams of making it big in country music, Satcher moved to Nashville to put her song writing skills to the test. After a church friend encouraged her to show her work to Larry Strickland and Naomi Judd, Satcher's career in country music officially began, and her dreams became a reality. Leslie is no stranger to charity concerts as she is frequently found on stage performing for benefits with other country music celebrities.

Another gifted songwriter and performer, Monty Holmes, will join Satcher in the evening's benefit concert. At a young age, country music was instilled in Monty Holmes. With a

grandfather who played the fiddle, guitar and piano, Monty grew up with a love of music. As a young adult, Holmes moved to Nashville and quickly gained a reputation for both his voice and his words. Writing songs for some of country music's greatest artists, Holmes quickly earned a prominent place in country music.

It is a privilege to serve in the Senate on behalf of Tennesseans such as Leslie Satcher and Monty Holmes, who personify the voluntarism and patriotism of Tennessee. Leslie and Monty have shared many stories, memories, and inspirations through the mouthpiece of country music. I thank them and ThanksUSA for their efforts. I cannot think of a more valuable way to express our gratitude for our troops than with the gift of education. •

TRIBUTE TO JUDY GORMAN

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to offer my heartfelt congratulations to a South Dakotan who has been very committed to the educational well-being of the young people in my State.

For the past 6 years, Judy Gorman has served as executive director of the Department of Defense program, STARBASE. Exclusively designed for young adults, STARBASE provides science, math, technology and engineering skills through hands-on experience in aviation and space-related fields. She has served as an effective liaison with schools, military, community, and business leaders and has worked tirelessly to develop a superb curriculum in the community of the Black Hills.

In early August, Judy will retire from the program she has worked so hard to promote and foster. While executive director she has overseen 191 STARBASE classes of over 4,800 students, 2 manufacturing classes of 35 students, and 5 "Feel the Power" graduate classes. Her dedication to the STARBASE program was grounded in a 23-year career as an elementary counselor, special educator, and fourth grade teacher in the Rapid City Area Schools and Meade School District. She also has served as the administrator for Project Achieve, a summer youth program for at-risk teens in the Rapid City area. For many years she supported and guided her husband, Mike Gorman, in his excellent leadership as the Adjutant General of the South Dakota National Guard.

I commend Judy for her years of great stewardship with the STARBASE program. I had the privilege of touring the facilities a few years ago, witnessing first-hand the importance of the program and commitment Judy brings to her students. There are few better rewards for an educator than witnessing countless students expanding their horizons, applying science, math, and engineering in aviation and space-related fields of study. You may expect this from high school, college,

or graduate students, but Judy has been able to "plant the seeds of learning" in the minds of fourth graders. Those seeds will undoubtedly result in a bright future as these youngsters grow up to pursue their dreams and goals. Many will look fondly to Judy's great guidance and tutorship.

On the occasion of her retirement, I want to wish Judy all the best. I want to thank her for her tireless work and dedication to the STARBASE program and her commitment to the youth of South Dakota. The legacy of her work will rest in the minds of these young people, for which I thank her for her service on behalf of all South Dakotans, and wish her well in her retirement.●

HONORING COUNCILMAN KEVIN KINGSTON

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge Councilman Kevin Kingston, Sr. of Slidell for his dedicated service to the State of Louisiana. I would like to take a few moments to remark on his accomplishments.

Mr. Kingston was born in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, but resided in Slidell since 1979. His nickname was "Kingfish," and he was truly a man of the people. He owned Kingfish Seafood Market on Pontchartrain Drive and also ran Lil' Ray's Seafood Restaurant for 18 years until the 1990s. Mr. Kingston had gusto for life and food; however, it was his service on the City Council that gave him his greatest pleasure. He was elected in 1998 in District D representing west-northwest Slidell and in 2006 was elected to serve as Councilman-at-Large representing the entire city. In the past year, he took a special interest in helping a handful of residents replace their storm-damaged mobile homes. His measure, which passed on the council's third try in almost 2 years, amended a section in the city's zoning code that prohibited people from placing new trailers in the city even if the old ones were destroyed by an act of God. A popular public servant and caregiver, he would often pay people's water and light bills, gestures that displayed his big heart and kind spirit.

Kevin Kingston passed away Thursday, July 3, after a long battle with liver disease that included a liver transplant in 2003. He is survived by not only family members but also the grateful city of Slidell and council who have lost a great man and great leader. Mr. Kingston opened his heart to everyone he came in contact with and his generosity and friendship will be deeply missed.

Thus, today, I honor a fellow Louisianan, Kevin Kingston, Sr., and thank him and his family for his dedicated service to our State and Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 and withdrawals which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 364. Concurrent resolution recognizing the Significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15344), the Minority Leader reappoints the following member to the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors: Mr. Thomas A. Fuentes of Lake Forest, California.

At 2:39 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. R. 6532. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance.

H. R. 6545. An act to require the Director of National Intelligence to conduct a national intelligence assessment on national security and energy security issues.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 395. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of an additional number of copies of the 23rd edition of the pocket version of the United States Constitution.

At 7:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5501) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5235. An act to establish the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6532. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 6545. An act to require the Director of National Intelligence to conduct a national intelligence assessment on national security and energy security issues; to the Committee on Intelligence.

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

H. Con. Res. 364. Concurrent resolution recognizing the Significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3335. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 2617. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2008, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans (Rept. No. 110-430).

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 Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 3323. A bill to provide weatherization and home heating assistance to low income households, and to provide a heating oil tax credit for middle income households; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 3324. A bill to provide leadership regarding science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BAYH, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3325. A bill to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3326. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to local education agencies to improve college access; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3327. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the State plan amendment option for providing home and community-based services under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 3328. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for a one-year extension of other transaction authority; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 3329. A bill to amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to expand the category of individuals eligible for compensation, to