

of this remarkable marine is felt by all Nebraskans, and his courage to follow his dreams will remain as an inspiration.●

RECOGNIZING HODGDON YACHTS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I commend a Maine business that last month unveiled a remarkably sturdy vessel for use by our Nation's Navy SEALs, a project for which I was honored to secure funding for. Hodgdon Yachts of East Boothbay, a family-owned company for five generations, has been a source of pride for Maine's boatbuilding industry for nearly 200 years, and its recent accomplishment is without a doubt one of its most impressive.

Hodgdon Yachts began building boats in 1816, when the company launched the 42-foot schooner *Superb*. Since then, Hodgdon Yachts has developed a reputation as one of New England's premier shipbuilders, persevering through difficult times and continually reevaluating its company's methods to be consistently on the cutting edge of the latest technologies. Of particular note for the State of Maine is Hodgdon's 1921 schooner *Bowdoin*, named for the Brunswick alma mater of Arctic explorer Donald MacMillan. The boat proved itself an invaluable tool in Arctic research and sailed more than 300,000 miles over 26 icy voyages in its career. Prior to the *Bowdoin*, the company turned its attention to building submarine chasers for the military in World War I, and continued its defense work by gaining minesweeper and troop transport contracts during both World War II and the Korean war.

By the late 1950s, Hodgdon Yachts returned to building more traditional wooden yachts for a variety of customers. By the mid-1980s, the company began to modernize its shipbuilding, providing clients with yachts of superb quality and strength while employing innovative technology in the creation of its boats. Hodgdon Yachts recently began using carbon Kevlar deposits to construct its yachts to make the boats as strong and secure as possible.

Hodgdon's proficiency in using Kevlar proved useful when, in May 2005, the company won a contract from the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research to build the prototype for a new special operations craft using these composites. The ship has a foam core surrounded by multiple layers of carbon, and its durability is reinforced by an outer layer of Kevlar. On January 11, 2008, the company launched this prototype, the 82-foot Mako V.1, named for a shark that frequents the Gulf of Maine's waters. It is the first Navy vessel constructed with carbon-fiber technology and was designed to protect Navy SEALs from injuries caused by the harsh conditions of the seas. Hodgdon teamed up with Maine Marine Manufacturing and the University of Maine in completing the Mako V.1, and I am so proud of the role that each

played in supporting our nation's armed forces. I look forward to successful trials by the Navy and the continued role Hodgdon Yachts will play in the production of this fine vessel.

Throughout its history, Hodgdon Yachts has produced over 400 yachts and ships, perhaps none more vital than its latest. The company's work to keep shipbuilding alive and well in Maine is well documented, including President Tim Hodgdon's involvement in the formation of Maine Built Boats, an alliance whose goal is to present Maine's boatbuilding industry to a wider global audience. I firmly believe that, given our seafaring history and established work ethic, Mainers build the best ships, and Hodgdon Yachts only further exemplifies this tradition. I commend everyone at Hodgdon Yachts for their remarkable accomplishment in the Mako V.1, and wish them well in their future boatbuilding endeavors. ●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ROCK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of John Rock, who passed away in November of 2007. John was an invaluable member of the Black Hills community, and he will be truly missed by all who knew him.

John will be remembered for his dedication to service in the Black Hills region. He made many invaluable contributions to the region through his extensive knowledge and life experiences. This dedication was evident through John's support of the Mammoth Site museum in Hot Springs, SD. He worked with the finance/personnel and governance committees and the board of directors of the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD, Inc., from 2001 to 2007.

In addition to his being recognized by the Mammoth Site board, two theater seats will be dedicated to John and his wife Bonnie. A plaque in John's honor will also be placed on the Memorial Wall at the Mammoth Site.

John Rock's absence will be deeply felt in the Black Hills community. He was a truly dedicated individual who will be remembered for his lifetime of service to others.●

TRIBUTE TO VIOREL G. "VI" STOIA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Viorel G. "Vi" Stoia, a great South Dakotan who passed away on January 28, 2008.

Vi Stoia was born on February 13, 1924 in Aberdeen, SD, and began his lifetime of service and leadership at Aberdeen Central High School where he served as senior class president. Vi continued this leadership and service while he served in the U.S. Navy and attended the University of Minnesota. In 1949, Vi graduated with a degree in business administration and married his lifelong companion, Donna Marie Maurseth.

Vi's thirst for knowledge along with his extraordinary leadership abilities

served him well during his lifetime. His long and illustrious professional career included countless distinguished appointments, awards, and honors.

Vi will be remembered by the Aberdeen community because of his exuberant service and dedication to constant improvement of the city, county, and State. Vi was a member of numerous community organizations, including the Aberdeen Jaycees and the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Vi's dedication and leadership were instrumental in rallying support for dozens of community projects.

The profound wisdom and deep commitment that Vi possessed is reflected through his role in the businesses, health organizations, educational affiliations, and political organizations for which he so diligently served throughout his life. Vi also received many awards recognizing his excellent work and service including: Distinguished Alumni Award—NSU, 1976; the George Award, 1979 and 1994; South Dakota Community Volunteer of the Year, 1991; Distinguished Service Award, Excellence in Economic Development, 2000; and South Dakota Medal of Distinguished Excellence, 2008.

Vi will be lovingly remembered by his wife Donna as well as his children and grandchildren as a loving husband, father, and a great man. He will forever remain in our hearts for his contributions to the Aberdeen area and the entire State of South Dakota. Few men will ever give as much of themselves or make as much of a difference in the lives of others as Vi Stoia. Today we celebrate the life and accomplishments of this great man. Although he does not stand among us, his legacy will live on for a time without end. For all that has been accomplished and achieved, for all of the lives that have been touched and enhanced, thank you, and God bless Viorel G. Stoia.●

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 a treaty 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 DECLARED WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA'S DESTRUCTION OF TWO UNARMED U.S.-REGISTERED CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT—PM 36

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 the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, which states that the national emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, as amended and expanded on February 26, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2008.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 6, 2008.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:31 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. 4253. An act to improve and expand small business assistance programs for veterans of the armed forces and military reservists, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2596. A bill to rescind funds appropriated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, for the City of Berkeley, California, and any entities located in such city, and to provide that such funds shall be transferred to the Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps account of the Department of Defense for the purposes of recruiting.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4881. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Bank's operations during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4882. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluopicolide; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL

No. 8341-6) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4883. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Boscalid; Denial of Objections" (FRL No. 8347-3) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4884. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Live Oak, Florida)" (MB Docket No. 07-131) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4885. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Charlo, Montana)" (MB Docket No. 07-143) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4886. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast Signals: Amendment to Part 76 of the Commission's Rules" ((FCC 07-170)(CS Docket No. 98-120)) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4887. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Report and Order and Declaratory Ruling" ((FCC 07-186)(CG Docket No. 03-123)) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4888. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the implementation of Public Law 106-107 during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4889. A communication from the Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of Special Regulation for the Central Idaho and Yellowstone Area Non-essential Experimental Populations of Gray Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains" (RIN1018-AV39) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4890. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Tidewater Goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)" (RIN1018-AU81) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4891. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health and Safety Data Reporting: Addition of Certain Chemicals" ((RIN2070-AB11)(FRL No. 8154-2)) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4892. A communication from the Program Manager, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program" (RIN0970-AC27) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4893. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the impact of increased minimum wages on the economies of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4894. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Department's competitive sourcing efforts during fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4895. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-23" (FAC 2005-23) received on January 28, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4896. A communication from the Acting Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the Kansas Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4897. A communication from the Acting Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the Missouri Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4898. A communication from the Acting Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the District of Columbia Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4899. A communication from the Acting Staff Director, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Commission's recent appointment of members to the South Carolina Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4900. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to its budget request for fiscal year 2009; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-4901. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change in Disease Status of Surrey County, England, Because of Foot-and-Mouth Disease" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0124) received on January 31, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4902. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mexican Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0129) received on January 31, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4903. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting,