

readiness group, South Dakota National Guard families are provided with an extended network of support and resources to help them through their time apart. Among her many tasks, Tammy maintains the telephone tree, publishes newsletters, provides baked goods to soldiers at monthly drills, organizes family events, and prepares families for possible deployments. Countless lives have been touched by her efforts.

Tammy is dedicated and committed to her volunteer work; she has been the family readiness group leader for the past 11 years. She was recently recognized for her efforts when she was presented with the AMVETS PNC John S. Lorec National Guard Volunteer of the Year award at the National Guard Family Program conference in St. Louis, MO.

I am pleased that Tammy's efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated with this prestigious award. I applaud her for her years of hard work. Tammy's work in our communities and State is a testament to her selfless service to our country. Tammy's efforts on behalf of all those that are currently serving in the National Guard are a shining example of patriotism, and we can all be inspired by her dedication and service.●

#### 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF UNIVERSITY OF SIOUX FALLS

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of University of Sioux Falls. Over the course of its history, USF has continuously produced extraordinary graduates with a Christian liberal arts education. In the modern, high-tech, and competitive environment in which we live, USF students are equipped with the skills that are essential for success.

In education, technology, and research, USF is at the forefront of academic and cultural achievement, with enrollment now at 1,700 and a diverse student body from over 20 States. For 125 years, the university has helped students realize their potential by offering them a quality education and a positive social and religious environment. USF graduates are well-equipped to succeed in a competitive world, delivering countless benefits to organizations and communities close to home and around the globe.

I am proud to have this opportunity to honor the University of Sioux Falls for its 125 years of outstanding service. I strongly commend their hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that their substantial efforts are being publicly honored and celebrated.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RICK AND KATHY CLARKE

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise to honor two great Oklahomans, Rick and Kathy Clarke, who are in Washington,

DC, for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's annual Angels in Adoption Gala. I was pleased to select Rick and Kathy as 2008 Angels in Adoption because of their great commitment to adoption at both a personal and professional level.

When Rick Clarke served for 5 years as a judge in juvenile court, working with abused and neglected children every day, both he and his wife, Kathy, formed a desire to help children who are most in need—those without families. Today, Rick dedicates part of law practice to adoption cases. He serves as a volunteer attorney through Tulsa Lawyers for Children, as a guardian ad litem through court appointments, and is on the board of Heritage Family Services, a Tulsa-based adoption agency. Kathy has served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children. She also currently works on special education issues and is a member of the PTA.

However, it is this family's personal story that sets it apart. The Clarkes have personally participated in the adoption process for 13 years and have adopted nine children. Throughout these years, the Clarke family has faced tragedies, hardships, and obstacles. Yet they continue to grow as a family, both in number and in character.

The Clarke's first adopted child was a 3-year-old boy from Oklahoma. The next two young children joined the family from Russia after being diagnosed with medical complications. The Clarkes later adopted three unrelated girls—aged 15, 13, and 8—through Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Lastly, they provided homes to two sisters from Liberia and an older boy from Ethiopia.

The faith and perseverance of Rick and Kathy Clarke enables them to overcome the challenges of providing a permanent and loving home to so many children. Remaining steadfast in their dedication and belief that God has a special plan for every child, Rick and Kathy have raised each of their nine children to be productive, healthy, and strong leaders in their schools and communities.

The Clarkes truly represent the blessings and the power of adoption. I am pleased to congratulate Rick and Kathy Clarke, Oklahoma's 2008 Angels in Adoption, and to welcome them to our Nation's Capital for this special honor.●

#### TRIBUTE TO HAROLD O. BOURNE

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, several weeks back I had the great pleasure of visiting with a constituent I would like to honor today. Milwaukee resident Harold O. Bourne recently received the Federal Aviation Administration's Wright Brothers Master Pilot award for flying 50 years without incident.

Mr. Bourne has given much to his country over the years. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1951, entered flight

school in 1953 and served one tour in Korea, two tours in Germany and two tours in Vietnam. In 1980, after 30 years of service he retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel and master army aviator. Upon his retirement, he moved to Milwaukee where his love for and expertise in aviation was put to good use. Mr. Bourne embarked on what would become a 20-year career with Astronautics Corporation of America, a world leader in supplying military and commercial electronics for aviation.

At 78, Mr. Bourne is still flying. He is a gentleman in the truest sense of the word. Harold and his wife of 57 years, Anne, have given much of themselves over the years, not only to aviation but to their community and their church. And for that I congratulate and honor them.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MARK MILLAR

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I congratulate Mark Millar on receiving the 2008 Angels in Adoption Award, a tremendous honor that highlights his tireless commitment to achieving permanent family connections for children in foster care in Maine. What a well-deserved accolade for such an ennobling endeavor.

Mark Millar began his career as a protective services worker and has been a critical part of Casey Family Services in Portland for more than 20 years. In that time, he and his dedicated staff have helped transform the lives of countless families, by promoting kinship care, providing counseling and other services to strengthen families postadoption, and helping Maine reduce the amount of time required to reach legal permanence when a child enters foster care.

Undoubtedly, we as a nation can and must do more to better equip families who sacrifice so much to provide safe, loving homes for children in foster care. For many families, the decision to open their home to a child is easy, but it can also be emotionally trying and financially taxing. That's why Mark Millar's work at Casey Family Services is so indispensable and profoundly worthy of this distinction. At a time where Federal dollars for child welfare services are regrettably too few, Mark Millar and Casey Family Services offer families a support system that is dependable and viable.

Mark Millar has also performed remarkable work in helping teens prepare for the challenges of adulthood, whether through his efforts with the First Jobs program, which provides initial and transitional employment opportunities at Hannaford for youth aged 15-21, or Casey's outdoor work-readiness and skill development program. And he has been selfless in his extraordinary contributions and inspiring through the power of his benevolent example. In short, Mark understands and lives out what American novelist, Herman Melville, once eloquently described in words . . . "We

cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results."

Championing the cause of children and garnering tangible results that effect the everyday lives of many Mainers are the true measure of Mark's phenomenal trajectory of accomplishment in helping others. And so, we couldn't be more grateful to Mark for what has given and continues to give back to Maine, and I couldn't be more pleased about this tribute bestowed upon him which is a fitting recognition of all he has achieved on behalf of all whom he has served.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JACK VAN DER GEEST

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the 85th birthday of Jack van der Geest of Rapid City, SD. A native of the Netherlands and author of "Was God on Vacation?", Jack's life story is a heroic depiction of courage and the willingness to act against the evils that threaten our world and our freedoms.

Born in the Netherlands in 1923, Jack's younger years witnessed the horrifying and devastating effect of Nazi Germany in Europe. Jack endured many trials and tribulations after the Nazis invaded his homeland in 1940; however, none of them would prove to break Jack's spirit of perseverance. After his capture, Jack's resilience served him well as he became one of only eight prisoners to escape from the Buchenwald concentration camp.

Following Jack's escape from terror in the heart of Nazi Germany, he further pledged his services to fight the Nazi occupation throughout Europe. Jack joined the French Underground and helped Allied paratroopers escape capture in Vichy, France. Soon after, Jack arrived in England where he became an interpreter for the storied 101st Airborne. Jack eventually immigrated to America and became a United States citizen in 1953.

In 1995, Jack authored the book "Was God on Vacation?", an autobiography of his life during World War II. This astonishing work gives an in-depth account of Jack's struggles and endeavors from 1940-1947. Jack's testimony truly shines a light on the persecution and challenges many Europeans endured during World War II and how some fought dearly to repel the Nazi aggressors. The story of Jack van der Geest reminds us to never take for granted the freedoms that so many have fought for in our armed services and around the world.

I would like to send my heartfelt congratulations to Jack on his 85th birthday and thank him for telling his story and allowing us all to never forget how fortunate we are to be free.●

#### RECOGNIZING ARMOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Armour Elementary School for being named a 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School. The commitment to quality education that has been shown by the faculty, teachers and students at Armour Elementary School is truly invaluable in shaping the future leaders of this country. The work that they are doing to meet higher achievement standards and greater accountability serves as a model to other schools throughout our State and Nation.

Again, congratulations to Armour Elementary School for being named a blue ribbon school and for making South Dakota proud.●

#### RECOGNIZING WHITEWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Whitewood Elementary School for being named a 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School. The commitment to quality education that has been shown by the faculty, teachers and students at Whitewood Elementary School is truly invaluable in shaping the future leaders of this country. The work that they are doing to meet higher achievement standards and greater accountability serves as a model to other schools throughout our State and Nation.

Again, congratulations to Whitewood Elementary School for being named a blue ribbon school and for making South Dakota proud.●

#### 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

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2403. An act to designate the United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige Jr., United States Courthouse".

S. 2617. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to codify increases in 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 that were effective as of December 1, 2007, to provide for an increase in the rates of such compensation effective December 1, 2008, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 6:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5167. An act to terminate the authority of the President to waive, with regard to Iraq, certain provisions under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 unless certain conditions are met.

H.R. 6889. An act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Education to purchase guaranteed student loans for an additional year, and for other purposes.

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. 390. Concurrent resolution honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5938) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide secret service protection to former Vice Presidents, 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. 5167. An act to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to remove the authority of the President to waive certain provisions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

H. Con. Res. 390. Concurrent resolution honoring the 28th Infantry Division for serving and protecting the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on September 16, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 2403. An act to designate the United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse".

S. 2617. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to codify increases in 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 that were effective as of December 1, 2007, to provide for an increase in the rates of such compensation effective December 1, 2008, and for other purposes.