

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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 3168. A bill to authorize United States participation in the replenishment of resources of the International Development Association, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-464).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2321. A bill to amend the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347) to reauthorize appropriations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-465).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2816. A bill to provide for the appointment of the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department of Homeland Security by the Secretary of Homeland Security (Rept. No. 110-466).

By Mr. BAUCUS, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3038. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-467).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 29. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, military, and other uses from the Santa Margarita River, California, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 31. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Wildomar Service Area Recycled Water Distribution Facilities and Alberhill Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation Facility Projects.

H.R. 236. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 813. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Prado Basin Natural Treatment System Project, to authorize the Secretary to carry out a program to assist agencies in projects to construct regional brine lines in California, to authorize the Secretary to participate in the Lower Chino Dairy Area desalination demonstration and reclamation project, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 816. A bill to provide for the release of certain land from the Sunrise Mountain Instant Study Area in the State of Nevada and to grant a right-of-way across the released land for the construction and maintenance of a flood control project.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

H.R. 838. A bill to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 903. A bill to provide for a study of options for protecting the open space characteristics of certain lands in and adjacent to the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1139. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design and construct facilities to provide water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and other uses from the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, Santa Ana River, California, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 1737. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired waters in the area of Oxnard, California.

H.R. 1803. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2246. A bill to provide for the release of any reversionary interest of the United States in and to certain lands in Reno, Nevada.

H.R. 2614. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in certain water projects in California.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2632. A bill to establish the Sabinoso Wilderness Area in San Miguel County, New Mexico, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

H.R. 3022. A bill to designate the John Krebs Wilderness in the State of California, to add certain land to the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park Wilderness, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 3323. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey a water distribution system to the Goleta Water District, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 3473. A bill to provide for a land exchange with the City of Bountiful, Utah, involving National Forest System land in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and to further land ownership consolidation in that national forest, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

H.R. 3490. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Bureau of Land Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk In-

dians of the Tuolumne Rancheria, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3682. A bill to designate certain Federal lands in Riverside County, California, as wilderness, to designate certain river segments in Riverside County as a wild, scenic, or recreational river, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

H.R. 5137. A bill to ensure that hunting remains a purpose of the New River Gorge National River.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 390. A bill to direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes.

S. 1477. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado.

S. 1680. A bill to provide for the inclusion of certain non-Federal land in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and the Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 1756. A bill to provide supplemental ex gratia compensation to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for impacts of the nuclear testing program of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1816. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish a commemorative trail in connection with the Women's Rights National Historical Park to link properties that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women's suffrage, and for other purposes.

S. 2093. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Missisquoi and Trout Rivers in the State of Vermont for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S. 2156. A bill to authorize and facilitate the improvement of water management by the Bureau of Reclamation, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Energy to increase the acquisition and analysis of water resources for irrigation, hydroelectric power, municipal, and environmental uses, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment:

S. 2255. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for studies of the Chisholm Trail and Great Western Trail to determine whether to add the trails to the National Trails System, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 2354. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey 4 parcels of land from the Bureau of Land Management to the city of Twin Falls, Idaho.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2359. A bill to establish the St. Augustine 450th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 2448. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to make certain technical corrections.

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 2535. A bill to revise the boundary of the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, and for other purposes.