

Anybody who has met Senator Grafstein immediately recognizes him as a man of tremendous energy, deep commitment and brilliant mind. Commenting on Jerry's career, one of his Canadian Senate colleagues noted the daunting task of paying tribute "to a force of nature disguised as a person." A successful lawyer, businessman and member of the Liberal Party, he was summoned to the Canadian Senate in 1984. Jerry Grafstein's accomplishments over the next 25 years of public service are much more than I can relay here.

I do, however, want to highlight Jerry's prominent work with the 56 countries, 300 member OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Serving for 6 years as the Assembly's treasurer and then, with me since 2007, as one of nine Vice Presidents, Jerry has understood the potential of this multilateral parliamentary forum to promote human rights, democracy and tolerance. Such a vital forum, however, does not just magically appear for the world's benefit. Someone has to take the time to make it function by participating as an officer, attending countless organizational meetings and, for us and our Canadian neighbors, traveling frequently across the Atlantic to do so. Jerry was one who rose to the challenge and then some.

Even as he helped on organizational matters, Jerry Grafstein found more time than most others to focus on substance. First and foremost, he has helped to lead the charge against rising anti-Semitism across Europe and around the world. Diplomacy has a tendency to soften the criticism and downplay the negative, often until it is too late, but Jerry has helped to ensure that the OSCE did not shy away from dealing directly with this and other manifestations of hate and prejudice that dangerously confront far too many societies. Today, thanks to the vigilance of Jerry Grafstein and others, efforts to promote greater tolerance are now a solid, ongoing and vital aspect of the OSCE's work.

This distinguished Senator from Canada also found time to participate and help lead OSCE PA missions observing elections and referenda in places like Russia, Ukraine, Georgia and Montenegro. By being an international observer, he became a witness to history and, in my view, helped history forward and make the world a more democratic place.

In all his public endeavors, Jerry Grafstein has been a close friend of the United States of America. He has helped over the years to develop the bilateral dialogue between the U.S. Congress and the Canadian Parliament. He has come here to Washington on many occasions, including as a participant in Helsinki Commission events. He has always made clear that he is Canadian and proud of the country he represents, but that has never kept him from developing areas of common interest and seeking points of agreement even on

some issues where our national views may otherwise diverge.

Jerry Grafstein has been and will remain a close personal friend as well, always concerned, always engaging, never pretentious. I wish him and his wife Carole the very best. Although he deserves some time off, I am confident that he will remain prominent in the life of the vibrant city of Toronto.

In noting the many accomplishments of Jeremiah Grafstein and thanking him for his commitment to public service, I respectfully borrow the Canadian Senate's tradition and join his colleagues in saying: "Hear, Hear!" On a personal level, I believe I speak for numerous colleagues of my own in saying that Jerry will be missed, and always welcome to come and visit.●

TRIBUTE TO TOMÁS VILLANUEVA

● Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize a very special advocate, activist, and champion for equal rights in my home State of Washington on his birthday.

Tomás Villanueva has been a farmworkers, warehouse packers, and other economically disadvantaged laborers advocate since the early 1960s. Tomás was one of the first people involved in the United Farmworkers Union in my home State and has fought for years to ensure that workers are treated with dignity, respect, and under the protections of the law.

Tomás' involvement with the human rights movement began in the early 1960s when he was inspired by UFW leader Cesar Chavez. And since that time, Tomás has fought for numerous causes and people while maintaining his reputation as a kind, generous, compassionate and humble leader.

Tomás has also been a close friend and partner of mine for a very long time. He has helped my staff and I recognize the depth of the difficult conditions that farmworkers face, and has been a consistent voice in fighting to improve conditions through the legislative process.

Farmworker housing is a moral issue, an economic issue, and a family issue. Too many workers and their families face very difficult living conditions. Some live in their cars. Others share run-down, overcrowded rooms with other families. These are not the kinds of living conditions we can tolerate in the United States in the 21st century. They are certainly not suitable for the people who help put food on our tables and who keep our State's economy strong. Tomás knows that we can and must do better.

Tomás Villanueva was 14 when his family emigrated from Mexico. After following the crops for three years, the family settled in Toppenish, Washington in 1958. Tomás spent the next several years working various jobs before earning a high school GED and enrolling in Yakima Valley College.

Hearing about Caesar Chavez's United Farm Workers movement,

Tomás travelled to California in 1967 to learn about organizing. Returning to the Yakima Valley, he helped found the United Farm Worker Cooperative, one of the very first Chicano organizations in the State of Washington.

From 1967 to 1974, Tomás devoted himself to farm worker organizing and Chicano movement activism. Out of these efforts came the Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic, the United Farm Workers Service Center, a wave of hop harvest strikes in 1969, 1970, 1971, and a successful grape boycott.

In 1974, Tomás started a construction company with his father and brothers, but in the 1980s he was back in the union movement. In 1986 he became the first president of the newly formed United Farm Workers of Washington State. Today he lives in Toppenish and remains active in State and local politics.

Tomás Villanueva continues to be a valued friend, hard-working partner, and widely-respected leader in his community. I am so pleased to recognize his lifetime of achievements on this special day.●

RECOGNIZING SUTHERLAND WESTON MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, as we approach the holiday season, we are frequently reminded of the generosity and warmth that Americans demonstrate year in and year out at this most festive time. In particular, we often hear stories of employees at local businesses who graciously donate their time and efforts to help the less fortunate. This week I wish to recognize the employees of one such company who consistently work to improve the lot of everyone in their community.

Sutherland Weston Marketing Communications of Bangor is a cutting-edge firm that specializes in a host of marketing topics, including public relations, media, and branding. Specifically, the company helps its customers design memorable flyers and mailers, effective television advertisements, and state-of-the-art Web sites, and teaches them the increased value of employing popular social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, in their marketing decisions. Since its inception in 2005, Sutherland Weston has assisted dozens of clients throughout Maine seeking ways to enhance their image and broaden their customer base. Among them are local small businesses such as Maine Wood Concepts of Guilford and Raye's Mustard Mill of Eastport; organizations like the Bangor Symphony Orchestra; and institutions such as the University of Maine.

Furthermore, members of the Sutherland Weston team participate regularly in conferences and seminars to better educate the public on how to maximize marketing strategies. One such event is the Social Media 101 seminar, held this past March, where the firm's owners—Elizabeth Sutherland

and Cary Weston—presented a workshop designed at increasing the professional use of sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

The nine employees of Sutherland Weston are also active members of the greater Bangor community, contributing to various philanthropic endeavors on a regular basis. This past June, the company took part in the 25th Trek Across Maine in support of the American Lung Association. The “Green Marketeers,” including Sutherland Weston employees, spouses, and friends, took to their bicycles for the 180-mile trip from Bethel’s Sunday River mountain to the coastal town of Belfast, raising nearly \$8,000 in pledges along the way.

Additionally, in recognition of the true meaning of Christmas, the company’s employees donated time and talent this year to creating a new, user-friendly Web site called Christmas is for Kids, a critical program that facilitates donations of holiday gifts for underprivileged children across Maine. The Web site allows users to find the name and hometown of a child, as well as the specific gift he or she is requesting, adding a personal touch to the experience. Donors indicate which gift they are willing to purchase so that it can be removed from the listing, doing their best to ensure that no child is left out. Several sponsors have suggested that because of Sutherland Weston’s noteworthy Web site, 2009 may be the most successful season in the program’s 27-year history.

As we look forward to celebrating the upcoming holidays with our loved ones, let us take a moment to remember those experiencing sorrow during this joyous season. And let us also recognize those who are working in every community across the country to make someone’s day brighter through deeds great and small. I thank Elizabeth Sutherland, Cary Weston, and everyone at Sutherland Weston Marketing Communications for their selfless gift this holiday season, and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:49 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 1084. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe a standard to preclude commercials from being broadcast at louder volumes than the program material they accompany.

H.R. 1517. An act to allow certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees who serve under an overseas limited appointment for at least 2 years, and whose service is rated fully successful or higher throughout that time, to be converted to a permanent appointment in the competitive service.

H.R. 2194. An act to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran.

H.R. 3978. An act to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept and use gifts for otherwise authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to preparedness for and response to terrorism, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1472. An act to establish a section within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to enforce human rights laws, to make technical and conforming amendments to criminal and immigration laws pertaining to human rights violations, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 223. Concurrent resolution providing for the sine die adjournment of the first session of the One Hundred Eleventh Congress.

At 2:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

At 5:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 1110. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent caller ID spoofing, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4314. An act to permit continued financing of Government operations.

H.J. Res. 64. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2010, 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. 160. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of the American Kennel Club.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1084. An act to require the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe a standard to preclude commercials from being broadcast at louder volumes than the program material they accompany; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1110. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent caller ID spoofing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1517. An act to allow certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees who serve under an overseas limited appointment for at least 2 years, and whose service is rated fully successful or higher throughout that time, to be converted to a permanent

appointment in the competitive service; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2194. An act to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3978. An act to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept and use gifts for otherwise authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to preparedness for and response to terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

H. Con. Res. 160. Concurrent resolution honoring the American Kennel Club; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-4057. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Basic Provision” ((7 CFR Part 457 (RIN0563-AC23)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4058. A communication from the Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Agricultural Management Assistance Program” (RIN0578-AA50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4059. A communication from the Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regional Equity” (RIN0578-AA44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4060. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Potato Research and Promotion Plan; Assessment Increase” (Docket No. AMS-FV-09-0024; FV-09-706FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4061. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Vegetable Import Regulations; Modification of Potato Import Regulations” (Docket No. AMS-FV-08-0018; FV08-980-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4062. A communication from the Regulatory Officer, Foreign Agricultural Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting,