

where we had lived, to Philadelphia, PA, to live with my father's sister because my father could not earn a living in Kansas.

Recently, not unexpectedly, Annie has become infirm. When I have visited in recent years, it has been difficult to talk to her, but last night we had a nice conversation over the phone.

Her longevity has set a remarkable family record evidencing good genes and setting a Strom Thurmond-like target to emulate. She is a wonderful woman, a wonderful aunt, and a wonderful role model.

Happy Birthday, Tante Annie!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ESTABROOK'S

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, with Christmas just a few short days away, we have all witnessed the signs of the season popping up in our neighborhoods. From vibrant wreaths and Christmas trees to wind-blown snow banks, these peaceful symbols provide many of us with a comforting feeling of home. Today I recognize a small Maine nursery that grows its own beautiful poinsettias, and supplies many other seasonal flora, to accentuate the beauty of the Christmas season.

Estabrook's has been a reliable family-owned, full service garden center for more than 50 years. Located in the coastal town of Yarmouth, Estabrook's grows fresh plants in its over 20 greenhouses and outdoor growing areas. The company also operates seasonal locations in Scarborough and, beginning earlier this year, in Kennebunk. Home to an abundance of trees and shrubs, perennial and annual flowers, and seeds for growing vegetables, Estabrook's also carries a variety of gardening supplies, such as chemicals, fertilizers and tools. In an effort to better inform its customers about the wonders of gardening, Estabrook's user-friendly website offers a variety of tips and best practices regarding caring for flowers and plants.

To properly celebrate the holidays, Estabrook's provides its clients with an abundance of seasonal items. For example, during the Christmas season the nursery creates stunning fresh centerpieces and grows its own brilliant red poinsettias. Additionally, aside from Christmas trees and wreaths, the company stocks a variety of garlands, roping, and other timely decorating supplies and ornaments to bring home the memorable sights and smells of the season.

Beyond its role as a stellar nursery, Estabrook's prides itself as being an extraordinarily active member of the local community. The company has widely promoted the Herbie Project, an undertaking to save New England's largest American Elm Tree, known to locals as Herbie. This initiative is particularly noteworthy given that Yarmouth has lost roughly 800 American

Elm trees to Dutch Elm Disease over the past fifty years. Additionally, Estabrook's has donated its gift certificates, cleverly known as "Estabucks," to community efforts, including the Holiday Boast N Toast Auction to benefit the Yarmouth Chamber of Commerce's Scholarship Fund and YarmouthCAN, a nonprofit that assists those needing a helping hand. The nursery has also taken great strides toward creating the Yarmouth Community Garden, which raises vegetables that are then donated to the area's disadvantaged individuals and families.

A well-known and trusted name in the community for over half a century, Estabrook's is a valued business in the town of Yarmouth because of its longstanding dedication to quality greenery and its visible presence in civic endeavors townwide. I thank everyone at Estabrook's for their caring and kind commitment to others, and wish them a happy and safe holiday season.●

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, which will celebrate their 125th anniversary in 2010.

Located in Rapid City, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology has been a national leader in preparing world-class engineers and scientists since 1885. Graduates design, construct, and operate the most modern technology to meet complex challenges such as climate change, bioenergy, mineral extraction and processing, advanced materials, environmental quality, and national defense. School of Mines alumni are held in the highest regard by their fellow leaders in industry, consulting, government, health, research, and education.

The School of Mines is proud to be a leading partner in bringing the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory, DUSEL, from an extraordinary vision to a phenomenal reality. The longstanding connections between the School of Mines and the Homestake Mine began in 1885 when the university was established to meet the growing research needs of the mining industry, led by Homestake. These connections continued when nearly a decade ago, the School of Mines helped champion the conversion of the mine into a national laboratory. Today, as we continue to prepare leaders in engineering and science, we are collaborating with our colleagues to transform Homestake into a world-class laboratory to further exceptional research and discoveries not yet imagined.

Rugged individuals and pioneers in engineering and science founded the School of Mines' intellectual environment more than a century ago. The university's faculty, staff, students, and alumni carry on that tradition today. In 2010, the School of Mines celebrates 125 years of award-winning faculty, staff, and students collabo-

rating to solve issues of critical importance to South Dakota, the nation, and the world. Please join me as we celebrate their legacy of educating the leaders of tomorrow.●

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.)

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-4126. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9087-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4127. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference; Correction" (FRL No. 9093-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4128. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change of Address for Submission of Certain Reports; Technical Corrections" (FRL No. 9093-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4129. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Monterey Bay Region 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 8983-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4130. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Maintenance Plan for Carbon Monoxide; State of

Arizona; Tucson Air Planning Area" (FRL No. 8982-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4131. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Coverage Determinations"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4132. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Countries Whose Pleasure Vessels May Be Issued Cruising Licenses" (CPB Dec. 08-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 15, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4133. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Permitted Disparity in Employer-Provided Contributions or Benefits" (Rev. Rul. 2009-40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4134. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unpaid Loss Discount Factors for 2009" (Rev. Proc. 2009-55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 10, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4135. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Head Start Efforts to Prevent and Reduce Obesity in Children"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4136. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the inventory of activities for fiscal year 2009 under the FAIR Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4137. A communication from the Inspector General, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the General Services Administration's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4138. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4139. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Iowa Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4140. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Process for Seizures and Forfeitures Under the Immigration and Nationality Act and Other Authorities" (RIN1651-AA58) received on December 15, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4141. A communication from the Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the transfer of detainees (OSS Control No. 2009-2057); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4142. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fourth Quarterly Report from the Attorney General to Congress; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4143. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Trade Commission Report to Congress on The U.S. SAFE WEB Act: The First Three Years"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 2188. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to conduct a Joint Venture Program to protect, restore, enhance, and manage migratory bird populations, their habitats, and the ecosystems they rely on, through voluntary actions on public and private lands, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-111).

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. SPECTER:

S. 2918. A bill to make improvements to certain loan programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2919. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to advance the ability of credit unions to promote small business growth and economic development opportunities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 2920. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to condition the receipt of certain highway funding by States on the enactment and enforcement by States of certain laws to prevent repeat intoxicated driving; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2921. A bill to provide for the conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, to require the Secretary of the Interior to designate certain offices to serve as Renewable Energy Coordination Offices for coordination of Federal permits for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to integrate renewable energy development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. Res. 382. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of observing the National Slavery and Trafficking Prevention Month from January 1 through February 1, 2010, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, modern slavery; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BURR, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. Res. 383. A resolution designating January 2010 as "National Mentoring Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 583

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1798

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1798, a bill to provide for the automatic enrollment of demobilizing members of the National Guard and Reserve in health care and dental care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1810

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish physical activity guidelines for the general public, and for other purposes.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to reduce the rape kit backlog and for other purposes.

S. 2781

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to change references in Federal law to mental retardation to references to an intellectual disability, and to change references to a mentally retarded individual to references to an individual with an intellectual disability.