

Charlene had the opportunity to design the program to implement punch card voting; to design, implement, and monitor the computerized database for voter registration; and to implement the National Voting Rights Act, making modifications to the database to conform. Charlene has been instrumental to making the voting process in the State of Missouri a secure one.

Charlene was also instrumental in securing the new electronic voting system required by Help America Vote Act. As a sponsor of the Help America Vote Act, I express my gratitude to Charlene in executing this program.

She has been an active member of The International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials & Treasurers since 1981, serving as State director from Missouri for 10 years, treasurer of IACREOT and special assistant to the president in 2004.

Charlene received her formal education from the University of Missouri, in Columbia, MO, where she majored in math and physics.

She and her husband Wade are the parents of three married children, and they have eight grandchildren.

Charlene, congratulations on your well-deserved retirement and best wishes for your future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO DICK HOXWORTH

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the career of journalist Dick Hoxworth who, after serving the residents of central Pennsylvania for 40 years, retired from his post as anchor on WGAL-TV on Christmas Eve.

The longest serving anchor in the Harrisburg media market, Dick covered some of the most newsworthy events in the region's history. Most notably, he covered the Agnes flood in 1972 and was one of the first reporters on the scene at the Three Mile Island nuclear accident. During the Vietnam war he reported on the return of the first American prisoners of war, as well as the arrival of the first Vietnamese refugees to the United States. In the political arena, Dick Hoxworth covered stories at both the Pennsylvania State Capitol and the White House.

Dick was a highly decorated newsmen. Over the course of his distinguished career, he received awards from the Associated Press, the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, and was nominated for 29 regional Emmy Awards, winning 3 times.

But simply listing Dick Hoxworth's accomplishments and accolades within the field of journalism doesn't tell his full story. Dick was an old-fashioned "news man," getting his start before blogs, the Internet, 24-hour cable news, and live satellite feeds. However, as time went on, he did one of the most difficult things to do in a profession he transcended the changes that were taking place in his field. Dick continued broadcasting, writing, and reporting even as the faces and technology

around him changed with the times. Rather than be deterred by these changes, he embraced them and continued to thrive.

Edward R. Murrow once said, "the newest computer can merely compound, at speed, the oldest problem in the relations between human beings, and in the end the communicator will be confronted with the old problem, of what to say and how to say it."

For 40 years, Dick Hoxworth knew what to say and how to say it. And, in doing so, he has made Pennsylvania proud. Today I would like to recognize and pay tribute to that service and his long and successful career. ●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES A. TEGNELIA

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the accomplishments and leadership of Dr. James Tegnalia for his service to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency—DTRA—and the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. DTRA is a 2,000-member combat support agency which is charged by the Department of Defense to safeguard the United States and its allies from weapons of mass destruction.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Jim and DTRA in their role as the primary implementers of the Nunn-Lugar program. I am thankful to have had such a strong ally in the fight against nuclear proliferation. The agency is an integral actor in the fight to reduce WMD proliferation worldwide and has proven to be an extraordinary source of leadership in reducing the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. James Tegnalia, of Albuquerque, NM, has served as the Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency since February 2005, and will leave that post in February 2009, after 4 years of dedicated service. Dr. Tegnalia's accomplishments are as wide in scope as they are large in number, and for this we honor him today on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Dr. Tegnalia was instrumental in institutionalizing and integrating the mission of combating weapons proliferation across the Department of Defense and in guiding agency support to the global war on terrorism. The integration of Department of Defense missions in both fighting terror and WMD proliferation has allowed both agencies to share valuable resources and seek common purpose in our efforts on both important fronts.

Jim has been a tireless champion of international efforts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and his understanding of the threat of weapons of mass destruction to our nation and U.S. interests abroad is unparalleled. This expertise and dedication manifested itself in a leadership role for the agency in the establishment of regional and global nonproliferation partnerships. Working closely with the Department of State, Dr. Tegnalia has

been a vocal advocate of the President's Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, a program designed to prevent terrorists and dangerous regimes from threatening the United States and its allies with the world's most deadly weapons.

I have had the opportunity to travel extensively with Dr. Tegnalia and the experts at DTRA to Nunn-Lugar dismantlement sites all over the world. I remember fondly a trip we took just 2 years ago. He joined Sam Nunn and I in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the program on a trip to Russia, Ukraine, and Albania. We enjoyed good conversation on the program's significant contributions to international security and Nunn-Lugar's future prospects in countries outside the former Soviet Union. Jim has been an immensely successful leader and colleague in the fight to keep the United States safe and secure against the threats of weapons of mass destruction. We are indebted for his service and honor his commitment to this country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him good luck in his future endeavors and thanks for a job well done.●

HONORING MAINE ENERGY SYSTEMS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, while many hold an idyllic notion of Maine in the winter as a haven for skiers and snow enthusiasts, Mainers know that the cold winter months bring with them many dangers, particularly when it comes to heating homes. That is why I wish to recognize Maine Energy Systems of Bethel, a small business that is using technology and innovative thinking to help solve our Nation's energy crisis and keep Mainers warm during the State's lengthy winter.

Maine Energy Systems is the product of three men: Les Otten, Dr. Harry "Dutch" Dressler, and William Strauss. They came together in 2007 to brainstorm a way to reduce energy costs for Mainers and for the Nation. When the trio formed Maine Energy Systems they agreed that any solution had to: Reduce dependency on foreign oil; be environmentally sensitive; be renewable; and be affordable. With these goals in mind, they spent 14 months researching every aspect of energy delivery and production. These efforts eventually bore fruit when they partnered with German manufacturer Bosch to create a wood pellet fueled boiler system suitable for sale in America.

Bosch created a boiler fueled by high-grade wood pellets that are pumped through an automatic feeder into the boiler itself. The wood pellets are made directly from trees or from the byproducts of other wood manufacturing processes before undergoing a unique and exciting process. The wood is first dried, pulverized and forced under high pressure through the holes in a die, a specialized manufacturing tool. The

holes force the wood into a tightly compact pellet shape that stores energy without wasting space. These pellets are extremely versatile and can be made from either hardwood or softwood.

Once inside the boiler, the pellets are fanned in order to ensure maximum combustibility. Finally, the pellets are burned, generating heat that can be used as a home heating source. The boiler has already been approved by the Underwriters Laboratories and proven reliable by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In addition to their dependability, wood pellets are also environmentally friendly.

The wood pellets have very little ash content. Unlike traditional log fires, burning pellets do not appear to create chimney deposits and in fact, burning wood pellets creates no visible smoke. The only byproduct left after burning is wood ash, which is actually beneficial to garden and lawn soil. Wood pellets are a local renewable resource, and many of the pellets used by Maine Energy Systems come from trees in the small Maine town of Athens. In this way, Maine's abundant forests can help reduce our Nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy, in particular Middle Eastern oil. The carbon footprint created by wood pellet burning stoves is only 28.6 lbs. per million British thermal units, which ranks as one of the most efficient ways to heat a home.

Maine Energy Systems is at the vanguard of the "green" product revolution, creating a product that is beneficial to the environment, saves consumers money, and produces profits and jobs. Entrepreneurs in the purest sense of the word, Maine Energy Systems' founders have provided our country a tremendous opportunity for a better future. I wish Les Otten, Dr. Harry "Dutch" Dressler, William Strauss, and Maine Energy Systems continued success as they help Mainers save money, energy, and the environment.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution to provide for the counting on January 8, 2009, of the electoral votes for President and Vice President of the United States.

S. Con. Res. 2. Concurrent resolution extending the life of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

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

S.J. Res. 3. Joint resolution ensuring that the compensation and other emoluments attached to the Office of Secretary of the Interior are those which were in effect on January 1, 2005.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1. A bill to create jobs, restore economic growth, and strengthen America's middle class through measures that modernize the Nation's infrastructure, enhance America's energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need, and for other purposes.

S. 2. A bill to improve the lives of middle class families and provide them with greater opportunity to achieve the American dream.

S. 3. A bill to protect homeowners and consumers by reducing foreclosures, ensuring the availability of credit for homeowners, businesses, and consumers, and reforming the financial regulatory system, and for other purposes.

S. 4. A bill to guarantee affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans, and for other purposes.

S. 5. A bill to improve the economy and security of the United States by reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign and unsustainable energy sources and the risks of global warming, and for other purposes.

S. 6. A bill to restore and enhance the national security of the United States.

S. 7. A bill to expand educational opportunities for all Americans by increasing access to high-quality early childhood education and after school programs, advancing reform in elementary and secondary education, strengthening mathematics and science instruction, and ensuring that higher education is more affordable, and for other purposes.

S. 8. A bill to return the Government to the people by reviewing controversial "midnight regulations" issued in the waning days of the Bush administration.

S. 9. A bill to strengthen the United States economy, provide for more effective border and employment enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 10. A bill to restore fiscal discipline and begin to address the long-term fiscal challenges facing the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 33. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the proper tax treatment of certain indebtedness discharged in 2009 or 2010, and for other purposes.

S. 34. A bill to prevent the Federal Communications Commission from repromulgating the fairness doctrine.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 22. A bill to designate certain land components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

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-221. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Big Spring, TX" ((Docket No. FAA-2008-0757)(Airspace Docket No. 08-ASW-13)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 11, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-222. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the economic benefits of recreational boating in the Great Lakes basin; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-223. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Administration and Resources Management, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Agency's competitive sourcing activities during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-224. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2, 4-D, Bensulide, Chlorpyrifos, DCPA, Desmedipham, Dimethoate, Fenamiphos, Metolachlor, Phorate, Sethoxydim, Terbufos, Tetrachlorvinphos, and Triallate; Technical Amendment" (FRL-8393-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-225. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Designations for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particle (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (RIN2060-AO02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-226. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Attainment Demonstration for the Dallas/Fort Worth 1997 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL-8758-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-227. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois and Indiana; Finding of Attainment for 1-Hour Ozone for the Chicago-Gary-Lake County, IL-IN Area" (FRL-8757-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 5, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.