Small Business Person of the Year for 2009 by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The award recognizes Ms. Eng's dedication to success, her passion for her work, and her positive attitude. She is among 53 top small business persons who will be honored at the Small Business Administration's National Small Business Week events. Ms. Eng's company is a premier designer and producer of dimensional solutions for trade show exhibits, events, environments and for all face-to-face sales, marketing, and corporate needs.

I commemorate the work of Carla Eng and congratulate her for receiving this prestigious award. She is a role model for success and an inspiration to us all. I hope you will join me in wishing Carla the best of luck in her future endeavors.●

CONGRATULATING THE GEORGETOWN/SCOTT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Georgetown/Scott County Chamber of Commerce, a nonprofit business organization that recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The Georgetown/Scott County Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1959. The chamber promotes local businesses and ensures that jobs stay in the Georgetown and Scott County area. During this uncertain economic time, organizations such as the Georgetown/Scott County Chamber of Commerce strive to ensure that local businesses continue to prosper. The chamber celebrated this distinct milestone at its annual banquet on April 24, 2009, where current chamber president Christie Hockensmith expressed her optimism for the next 50 years.

Again, I congratulate the Georgetown/Scott County Chamber of Commerce on 50 years of service. I wish the chamber the best in the future and in continued support of local businesses.●

REMEMBERING M. ALLYN DINGEL, JR.

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I would like to honor a fellow Idahoan who served the Idaho legislature, the Idaho, judiciary, the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho and the Idaho State Bar with honor, integrity, and good humor. M. Allyn Dingel, Jr., passed away at his home in Boise, ID, on April 23, 2009 after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

Allyn was born in Twin Falls, ID, where he played baseball and was the student body president at Twin Falls High. He attended college at the University of Idaho, and continued to organize spontaneous renditions of the Idaho Vandal fight song, whether asked to or not.

Allyn attended New York University Law School, where he was one of the top students and was a member of the NYU Law Review. Allyn worked for the Idaho Attorney General's Office for 3 years, and then spent more than 40 years in private practice. In his spare time, he served as Chancellor for the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho, providing extensive legal services pro bono.

Allyn was a trial lawyer, and the courtroom was his stage. His methods were not always conventional. He had his own vocabulary, and a way of communicating that was sometimes humorous, but always believable. Allyn was a lawyer's lawyer. He was a fellow of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. He served as Idaho's representative to the Ninth Circuit Commission, and was Idaho's delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates. The Idaho State Bar honored him in 2004 when he was named its Distinguished Lawyer, and in 2008 the Idaho Judiciary named a courtroom in Boise after him.

Allyn was a lobbyist for both the insurance industry and the Idaho judiciary. He was especially effective as a lobbyist because he never forgot a political story or a point of Idaho trivia. As a lobbyist, he was generous with his humor and his story-telling. Shortly before his death, the Idaho legislature honored him with Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 111, which commended him for his lifetime service to the legislative branch of the State of Idaho.

But for all of Allyn Dingel's many accomplishments, he will be remembered most for his great compassion and his ability to find the good in people. It was said that he never forgot, but he always forgave. We can imagine him at the Pearly Gates telling St. Peter some long story about Idaho politics. We just hope those in line behind him were patient as he tried to teach St. Peter the words to the Vandal fight song.

I am honored to reflect on Allyn Dingel's wonderful, exemplary life, and pleased to call him my friend. He was an individual who made the most from the opportunities that presented themselves, and Idaho is better for that. My condolences go out to his family: his beloved wife Fran, his sons and their wives, Bryan and Valencia and Mike and Lori, and his six grandchildren. ●

REMEMBERING SAL GUARRIELLO

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Sal Guarriello, a decorated veteran and an incredible public servant.

Mr. Guarriello was a beloved citizen of West Hollywood, serving for 19 years on its city council and for three terms as its mayor. During his nearly two decades on the council, he was a voice for the Russian, disabled, and LGBT communities, seniors, and veterans.

Mr. Guarriello received a Purple Heart when he was wounded while serving as an Army combat medic during World War II. For the rest of his life, he strove to honor and represent the needs of his fellow veterans. In 1998, he proposed that a veterans' memorial be built in West Hollywood to honor the sacrifices of all of America's veterans, and 5 years later his vision became reality.

Before joining the West Hollywood City Council, Mr. Guarriello worked to provide affordable housing as a member of the board of directors of the West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation and the West Hollywood Rent Stabilization Commission.

Mr. Guarriello also created the West Hollywood Children's Summer Olympics, initiated a successful anti-drunk driving campaign, and formed the Eastside Redevelopment Agency, which was instrumental in the successful negotiation of a plan to rehabilitate Santa Monica Boulevard.

Sal Guarriello will be remembered by his family, friends, and constituents as a patriot, a public servant, and an exceptional leader of the community.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Pleasant Valley Elementary School in South Windsor, CT. Pleasant Valley, or ''PV'' as it is affectionately referred to by many in South Windsor, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this June. To mark this momentous occasion, I feel it is fitting to reflect back on all this school has done for its students and its community.

Pleasant Valley's motto is ''Pleasant Valley School, a place to learn, to grow, and to care,'' and many of the students, parents, and faculty that have been involved with the school would attest that it has more than succeeded in creating such an environment. For 50 years, Pleasant Valley has helped the children of South Windsor develop a love of learning and discovery while instilling in them the skills and work ethic needed to succeed in South Windsor's excellent secondary schools.

When Pleasant Valley first opened in September 1958, it taught grades one through eight. While it was tough managing a large group of kids with such large age differences, those who attended or worked at the school during this time fondly recall basketball games, spelling bees, school plays, dedicated teachers, and, of course, friendships that would last a lifetime. Eventually, Pleasant Valley would become responsible for teaching students in kindergarten up to the fifth grade, and would always remain a vibrant, innovative place of learning.

Over the years, Pleasant Valley's staff has consistently launched inspired new initiatives designed to connect with their students. In 1981, PV started the Read at Home Program, which was put together to encourage students to read on their own. The theme for the program's first year was ''footsteps to reading,'' which allowed students to post a paper foot on the school's walls for every book they read. By the end of the year, students had

managed to cover almost the entire school, including the principal's office. In 1989, the school established the Special Friends Program—the first in South Windsor—to provide a safe setting, counseling, and friendship to at-risk students and those students experiencing sudden changes in their lives.

In the 1990–1991 school year, Nancy Mason, the school nurse, and Priscilla Spencer, the school's gym teacher, introduced an inventive project designed to teach students about both geography and physical fitness. The students were told that the school's mascot—Popcorn the Panther—was going to take a walking trip across the United States in which he would travel a mile for every mile that each student walked or ran. For the rest of the year, students were required to walk or run at least half a mile during every recess period and were encouraged to walk more. Prizes were given to the class and grade that contributed the most miles to Popcorn's journey. Throughout the year, teachers would have friends and family members who lived around the country send postcards ''from Popcorn'' so that students could see the fruits of their efforts and learn about various regions of the country. This successful program concluded with a large welcome home ceremony at the end of the school year, with several students joining Popcorn, played ably by an older student, for his final walk back to school.

At a time when much of our focus is understandably on improving schools that are not living up to standards, it is important to take time out to recognize those schools that have consistently provided a quality education to their students and that are constantly striving to find new ways to inspire students to reach new heights. For 50 years, Pleasant Valley School of South Windsor, CT, has been one of these schools; providing students with the ideal setting in which to develop their abilities, meet friends, and cultivate new interests. It truly is a place to learn, to grow, and to care. I congratulate all of Pleasant Valley's students, alumni, faculty, parents, and volunteers on a remarkable 50 years and look forward to seeing how they tackle the challenges of the future. Their dedication is truly an inspiration and should serve as an example to us all.●

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN WENDELL B. RIVERS

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Navy CAPT Wendell B. Rivers, who passed away on Saturday, May 9, 2009.

Wendell ''Wendy'' Rivers was born in Seward, NE, on July 6, 1928. He graduated from Seward High School in 1946, where he was senior class president, an all-conference football and basketball player, and an 880-yard track specialist. Upon graduation, Rivers enlisted in the U.S. Navy, receiving an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in 1948 and graduating in 1952, when he received his commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. Following a brief tour on a destroyer during the Korean conflict, he entered flight training in 1953, receiving his wings in March 1954.

Over the course of his career, Captain Rivers distinguished himself in many assignments as a naval aviator, missile project officer, flight deck officer, and squadron operations officer. Subsequent assignments were in naval aviation on the west coast at San Diego, Moffett Field, Monterey, Point Mugu, and Lemoore. During the Vietnam conflict, Captain Rivers deployed on his last cruise from Alameda, CA, aboard the USS Coral Sea, as a member of Air Wing 15, Attack Squadron 155. On February 11, 1965, he flew the first of 96 combat missions over North Vietnam. Tragically, on his 96th mission, he was shot down and captured at Vinh, North Vietnam, where he was then held in captivity for 7½ years.

While a prisoner of war, POW, Captain Rivers kept his faith in God, country, and Navy, despite all the hardships facing him and his fellow POWs. His steadfastness and devotion to others was an inspiration to those fellow POWs. In fact, shortly after he was freed, as the guest of honor at a celebration of America's independence in Nebraska's Fourth of July capital city, which was also coincidentally his hometown of Seward, Captain Rivers expressed that deep down he and his fellow POWs were always convinced they would one day come home.

After the tremendous sacrifice he had already endured, Captain Rivers continued to serve the Navy until 1976. The end of his career included serving as the head of the Aircraft Survivability and Vulnerability Branch of the Naval Air Systems Command, for which VADM F.S. Petersen said, ''It was through Captain Rivers' personal forethought and initiative that this important aspect of Naval Aviation came to fruition.''

CAPT Wendell B. Rivers passed away in his home on May 9, 2009, at the age of 80. Over the course of his career, Captain Rivers received numerous commendations, decorations, and medals, including the Silver Star, Legion of Merit with Star, Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Vietnam Service Medal with three Silver Stars, Navy Occupation Medal, World War II Victory Medal, China Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and Korean Presidential Unit Citation. These awards reflect Captain Rivers' bravery and selfless service toward the security of our great country. The life and service of individuals such as Captain Rivers represents an example of patriotism we should all strive to emulate. I join all Nebraskans in mourning the loss of Captain Rivers and offer my deepest condolences to his family.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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

At 11:41 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2162. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the ''Herbert A Littleton Postal Station''.

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. 84. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 454. An act to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House insists upon its amendment to the bill (S. 454) to improve the organization and procedures of the Department of Defense for the acquisition of major weapon systems, and for other purposes, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: Messrs. SKELTON, SPRAT, ORTIZ, TAYLOR, ABERCROMBIE, REYES, SNYDER, SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Messrs. BRADY of Pennsylvania, ANDREWS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, COOPER, ELLSWORTH, SESTAK, MCHUGH, BARTLETT, MCKEON, THORNBERRY, JONES, AKIN, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, WILSON of South Carolina, CONAWAY, HUNTER, and COFFMAN of Colorado.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4412, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: Mr. LUJÁN of New Mexico.