

County War in Wyoming, told from the cattle barons' point of view. Even Wister's famous line from the novel was not original. The phrase, "When you look at me smile," came from a local man named William Hines. His novel brought fame and recognition to Wyoming's culture and history. In 1913 the Virginian Hotel was built by August Grimm and named after Wister's novel. To this day, visitors from all over the world enjoy a nice meal and a comfortable night's sleep at the Virginian.

The area surrounding Medicine Bow has long been host to several energy industries. Coal and uranium mines brought jobs to the area. Presently, wind turbines secure Medicine Bow's future and contribution to the America's energy market. Without a major interstate nearby, the Medicine Bow Valley has been able to secure and maintain its majestic western roots. Modernization may sweep through, but valleys like the Medicine Bow remind us of the Old West legacy.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the town of Medicine Bow, I invite my colleagues to visit this historic place. I congratulate the citizens of Medicine Bow who steward this important piece of Wyoming's history and present it to visitors from all over the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING REVEREND GEORGE POULOS

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the extraordinary service and remarkable character of Reverend George Poulos of the Church of the Archangels in Stamford, CT, who recently retired after over a half decade of service.

Reverend Poulos has come to hold a special place in our hearts and minds over his 53-year career. Over the years, he has been a spiritual father and friend to thousands of Connecticut families. As parish priest for Church of the Archangels, Reverend Poulos has officiated over 2,000 baptisms, 1,000 weddings, and 800 funerals. Although his formal tenure as parish priest ended earlier this week, Reverend Poulos remains intimately connected to the birth, life, and remembrance of the Stamford community. I have known Reverend Poulos for many years and treasure the example he has set in his career of devoted service; I am grateful for all the wisdom he has offered me personally.

The Church of the Archangels where Reverend Poulos served as parish priest is a magnificent structure built in the 11th century Byzantine style; in fact, it is the only true Byzantine-style church in the Western Hemisphere. As a 16-year-old, I watched the amazing structure emerge just down the street from the house where I grew up. When you enter the church, the left side wall reads: "AGIASON TOUS AGAPONTAS

THN EFPREPEIAN TOU OIKOU SOU," which means, "Bless those who love the beauty of thy house." Reverend Poulos has offered us a rare kind of love that helps the Stamford community practice reverence, celebrate growth, and appreciate all the beauty of this life.

Our State and this Nation are blessed to have leaders like Reverend Poulos in our communities. As he retires from his church to spend time with his wife Christine, his five sons, and six grandchildren, I thank him for his service and assure him that his important contributions and generous spirit will never fade from our memory.●

REMEMBERING H.A. "RED" BOUCHER

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as our colleagues know, this year marks the 50th anniversary of Alaska's admission to statehood. Earlier this year I had the privilege to speak at a number of events to kickoff the 50th anniversary celebration. I marveled at the fact that so many of Alaska's statesmen and stateswomen—the people who led Alaska from a frontier territory to a modern and vibrant state—are still with us today. The founding fathers and mothers of so many of our States are just names in a history book. In contrast, the founding fathers and mothers of Alaska are not remote historical figures, but our friends and neighbors. Alaska's history is very much a living history. That is a source of great pride to me and to all Alaskans.

Yet every year, it seems, we lose another piece of Alaska's living history as those who played a significant role in the statehood fight and the early growth of our 49th State pass on. Today it is my sad duty to acknowledge the loss of Red Boucher, the first elected lieutenant governor of Alaska. Red died last Friday at the age of 88. This Friday the people of Alaska will celebrate Red's life at a memorial service in Anchorage.

Everyone who knew Red knew of his persuasive gifts. Born in Nashua, NH, he grew up in St. Vincent's Orphanage in Fall River, MA, where he was placed at age 9 after his father's death in 1930. Seven years later Red, who was barely 16 years old, talked his way into the U.S. Navy. He served for 20 years, including all of World War II. After he left the service he ended up in Fairbanks, where in 1958 he established one of Interior Alaska's first sporting goods stores. But sports was only one of his passions. Politics was clearly another.

Following service on the Fairbanks city council and as mayor of the city of Fairbanks, Red served as lieutenant governor of Alaska under Governor Bill Egan from 1970 to 1974.

After his term as lieutenant governor, Red did not disappear from public service. During his nationwide travels from 1976 to 1980 at the behest of

the Citizens for Management of Alaska's Lands, Red met with hundreds of newspaper editorial boards, winning acclaim for his strong reasoned arguments for why the Arctic Coastal Plain should be left open to oil and gas development if an environmental impact statement proved it could be developed without environmental harm. Many credited Red's efforts as the reason that ANWR's coastal plain was not locked up as wilderness when ANILCA was enacted in 1980. He returned to Juneau in 1985 representing an Anchorage district in the Alaska House of Representatives. And in 1991 Red was elected to the Anchorage Assembly.

In the minds of many Alaskans these significant contributions are relatively minor. They would regard Red's creation of the Alaska Goldpanners, Fairbanks' summer baseball team, as his most enduring accomplishment. He managed the team from 1960 to 1969. During the 1964 and 1965 seasons Red managed a young pitcher named Seaver, Tom Seaver.

The alumni list of the Alaska Goldpanners reads like a "who's who" of Major League Baseball. In fact, nearly 200 Goldpanner alumni have gone on to play in the majors. Then there was Dan Pastorini who pursued a career in football as quarterback for the Houston Oilers, Oakland Raiders, Los Angeles Rams, and Philadelphia Eagles.

The Alaska Goldpanners continue to delight Alaskans and visitors from around the world each summer at Growden Memorial Field. At the time of his death, Red was the director of external affairs for the team.

Two days after Red's passing, at 10:30 P.M. on the evening of Sunday, June 21, his beloved Goldpanners took the field against the Lake Erie Monarchs. It was Fairbanks' 104th annual Midnight Sun Game, game played each year to commemorate the Summer Solstice. That game ended in the wee morning hours of Monday, June 22, with a 6-3 victory for the "Panners." Red's still watching out for them.

In his later years Red championed bringing modern telecommunications and computing technologies to the remotest parts of Alaska. He hosted a statewide cable television show called "Alaska On Line." I was proud to be Red's guest on more than one occasion. We discussed ANWR and the need to construct a pipeline to transport Alaska's abundant natural gas supplies to market.

The formula for "Alaska On Line" was simple: Invite interesting guests and let them tell their stories. These shows are virtual oral histories of Alaska. In fact, many of the tapes have already been acquired by the University of Alaska Anchorage Consortium Library for use by historians and scholars.

Red Boucher lived every day to the fullest enriching the lives of his fellow Alaskans in innumerable ways. I join with Red's family and all Alaskans in mourning the loss of this exemplary Alaskan.●

WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I honor the recipients of the West Virginia School of Excellence award for the 2008–2009 academic school year. This is a prestigious award given to schools for providing rigorous curricula, innovative programs, and exhibiting an overall high standard of learning. Those receiving the award this year were Ben Franklin Career and Technical Center in Kanawha County; Poca Middle School in Putnam County; Eagle School Intermediate in Berkeley County; Davis Creek, Village of Barboursville, and Martha Elementary Schools all of Cabell County; Cottageville Elementary in Jackson County; and Stratton Elementary in Raleigh County. They are all incredibly impressive schools that are challenging their students. I would like to take a little time to highlight how each school is preparing their pupils for future success.

Ben Franklin Career and Technical Center, located in Dunbar, centers its curriculum on the principle of preparing all students for the 21st century by training them to operate efficiently in a complex economy. It offers career preparation programs, short-term skill courses, and customized training for local businesses.

Poca Middle School is based on the principles of allowing students to “master basic academic skills and to explore and identify their own interests and talents.” It is a school that prides itself on offering students various opportunities to explore the arts and to actively pursue their interest by attending a wide range of classes and school events. It has allowed students to experience a more personal learning environment by implementing an online math program. The school’s use of online learning is just the beginning of the many expanded learning programs that West Virginia schools will be implementing in the near future.

Eagle School Intermediate, located in Martinsburg, is dedicated to “providing educational opportunities for all students to reach their highest academic potential.” Eagle School Intermediate was one of the first schools in West Virginia to allow parents to track their student’s progress via online grade checking. This is just another example of how West Virginia is expanding its boundaries towards providing the most in-depth academic technology to its students and their parents.

Davis Creek Elementary School, located in Barboursville, is an extraordinary representation of the Mountain State’s flourishing primary education programs. For the 2006–2007 school year, the Cabell County public school was declared a National Blue Ribbon School. Davis Creek served 169 students in grades K–5 and has also been named a West Virginia Exemplary School.

Village of Barboursville Elementary School, located in Barboursville as well, is an institution that is focused on cohesive learning among students and faculty. It boasts a strikingly high

parental approval rating. The school focuses its curriculum on providing students with the opportunity not only to learn inside the classroom, but also to develop proper social skills that can be taken and used to develop a stronger bond with the community.

Martha Elementary School, also located in Barboursville, is an institution founded on cooperation between parents and students to create an environment conducive to learning. This 300-student rural school focuses on endowing students with the opportunity to follow their dreams. The dedicated faculty uses innovative programs to assist students on an individual basis, allowing for a more personalized educational experience. The school strives to create an atmosphere of support among family, the school, and the community.

Cottageville Elementary, located in Cottageville, is dedicated to providing “equity and excellence in education.” The school bases its curriculum on the belief that all students should be held to a high standard and endowed with the resources necessary to receive an excellent education. Teachers and faculty strive to provide their students with the skills necessary to excel academically by creating a support system that includes the school, family, and the community.

Stratton Elementary, located in Beckley, strives to afford all of its students the opportunity to learn at a pace that is the best match for each individual. Stratton offers many gifted programs and online learning portals that allow students to take more advanced courses and to have access to one-on-one help around the clock.

Once again, I congratulate these eight schools for receiving the West Virginia School of Excellence award, a distinction each school undoubtedly deserves. I commend them on their impressive achievements and applaud all of the administrators, teachers, and students for the wonderful example they set for all West Virginians.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks,

announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 407. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2009, 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, to codify increases in the rates of such compensation that were effective as of December 1, 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1777. An act to make technical corrections to the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mrs. GILLIBRAND).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1344. A bill to temporarily protect the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 25, 2009, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 407. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2009, 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, to codify increases in the rates of such compensation that were effective as of December 1, 2008, 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–2091. A communication from the Director of Regulatory Management, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Triallate; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 8421–2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2092. A communication from the Director of Regulatory Management, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2-Butenedioic acid (2Z)-, monobutyl ester, Polymer with methoxyethene, sodium salt; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 8418–7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2093. A communication from the Director of Regulatory Management, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Oxirane, 2-methyl-, Polymer with Oxirane; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 8420–9) received in the Office of the President of the