

Service Office West Detachment, Bremerton, WA. In July 1997, he reported to Commander Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan, as the Fleet Judge Advocate. Vice Admiral MacDonald assumed command of Naval Legal Service Office, Northwest, in August 1999, serving as commanding officer until June 2002. He was assigned to the Pentagon as the Special Counsel to the Chief of Naval Operations from June 2002 through October 2004. In November 2004, Vice Admiral MacDonald became the Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Navy and Commander, Naval Legal Service Command. In July 2006, Vice Admiral MacDonald assumed his current position as Judge Advocate General of the Navy.

Vice Admiral MacDonald is admitted to practice before the courts of the State of California and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. His military decorations include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, and the Navy Achievement Medal with Gold Star.

It is through the commitment and sacrifice of Americans such as Vice Admiral MacDonald that our Nation is able to continue upon the path of democracy and strive for the betterment of mankind. I am proud to thank him, his wife Karen, and daughter Erin for his honorable service to our nation in the U.S. Navy. I wish him fair winds and following seas as he concludes a distinguished naval career.●

COMMENDING VINCE NESCI

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I recognize Vince Nesci who, in a few months, will retire from Amtrak after 33 years as its chief mechanical officer. Vince has dedicated his adult life to improving passenger rail transportation in America, and I wish him the very best in retirement.

Railroaders are not employed; they serve, and Vince's retirement will culminate a lifetime of service to the railroad and country. He began his service in the Air Force as a flight engineer, flying on the remarkably durable C-130 Hercules transports. He performed aerial delivery missions of every kind—paratroop drops, low altitude equipment and cargo drops, and heavy equipment drops.

After leaving the Air Force, Vince went to work on the Penn Central Railroad in 1974. Since that day, he has never drawn a paycheck that wasn't issued by a railroad. He began in the traditional way, as a laborer in the mechanical department, working on the famous GG-1 class electric engines that Penn Central had inherited from its 1930s-era predecessor, the Pennsylvania Railroad. He qualified as an electrician and a machinist, putting his natural engineering aptitude to the task of

learning the tics and tricks of 40-year-old locomotives with millions of miles on them.

His skill was rewarded, and he rose through the ranks. Promotion followed promotion, and he soon became a foreman and then a general foreman with Penn Central. When Amtrak took over its labor force from the freight railroads, Vince continued the unforgiving job of making sure that engines and cars would be ready to roll when the minute hand touched the top of the hour in Washington, Boston, or New York each day. He was there to work on each generation of new engines and to supervise the men and women who were working on them. He witnessed the end of the GG-1s and saw three new generations of locomotives emerge for Northeast Corridor service.

When the time came to rebuild the 20-year-old AEM-7 locomotives in 2001, Vince took on the job as the company's chief mechanical officer. This was a demanding job, and the shops accomplished it in large part because Vince was there to keep the process moving, to wade into a problem on the shop floor, and to figure out the answers to tough technical questions that manuals and instructions couldn't answer. He was no mere manager—he was that very traditional combination of expert practical mechanic, engineer, and operating man that railroad chief mechanical officers have always had to be. And through some of the toughest times Amtrak has ever faced, when money to keep the trains on the road was scarce, he kept things moving. He was famous on the railroad for his good humor, his skill, and his understanding of how locomotives worked. He was liked, but more importantly, he was respected, and his opinion carried weight in both the board room and on the shop floor.

Vince begins almost every day of his work with a smile. There is hardly ever a time that, when you talk to Vince, he does not greet your questions or begin his answers without a smile. When he talks about the cars and locomotives in his care, he speaks quickly because he is enthusiastic and wants you to feel the enthusiasm he has for the work he does. Whether the temperature is 100 degrees or 10 below zero, Vince always wears a short-sleeved white cotton shirt. If one asks him why he only wears a short-sleeved shirt, he will tell you without a moment's hesitation that when you wear short sleeves, you don't have to roll up your sleeves when you get to work.

People like Vince Nesci don't come along very often, and when they do, we should be thankful that we get to spend time with them and learn from them. The railroad is a better and safer place because of Vince, and the good news is that he has helped train a cadre of people who will be there after he leaves to carry on the work that needs to be done.

Now he has come to the end of his long career, and will soon depart into a well-earned retirement. His working

life has encompassed the transformation of the Northeast Corridor, from a tentative experiment to a modern, high-speed intercity passenger rail system. Nobody has worked harder than Vince to build the railroad that may one day become a model for transportation in our country, and no one can take more justified pride in the safe, reliable, and frequent passenger rail service that travelers enjoy today than Vince Nesci.

I thank Vince for the warm friendship that we share, and I congratulate him on a truly remarkable and distinguished career. I wish him, his wife Donna, and their family the very best in all that lies ahead for each of them. As we say in the Navy on occasions like this, "fair winds and a following sea."●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF JEFFERSON, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 150th anniversary of the founding of Jefferson, SD. This community in southeastern South Dakota has a rich heritage, as well as a promising future.

Jefferson was first settled in 1859 by three families on the site of Lewis and Clark's first settlement in South Dakota. Its original name was Adelescat after young girl, Adele, lost her cat and all the settlers joined together to find it. In 1876, the town built their Grasshopper Cross to keep their crops safe after 2 particularly hard years. The town was formally organized in 1885 after the arrival of the railroad and renamed for President Thomas Jefferson.

The people of Jefferson celebrate this momentous occasion on the weekend of July 10-12, 2009. South Dakota's small communities are the bedrock of our economy and vital to the future of our State. One hundred and fifty years after its founding, Jefferson remains a progressive community and a great asset to the wonderful State of South Dakota. I am proud to honor Jefferson on this historic milestone.●

REMEMBERING MARIA CAROLINA HINESTROSA

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Maryland, and breast cancer fighters worldwide, I wish to express my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Carolina Hinestrosa, who passed away last week after battling soft tissue sarcoma, a side effect of past breast cancer treatment. Ms. Hinestrosa served for 5 years as the executive vice president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, in which capacity she fought passionately for the coalition's work to eradicate breast cancer. My thoughts and prayers are with Ms. Hinestrosa's family and friends during this difficult time.

After a 1994 breast cancer diagnosis, Ms. Hinestrosa turned her suffering into an opportunity when she joined

with a group of survivors and health care professionals to form Nueva Vida, the only comprehensive support network for Latinas with breast and cervical cancer in the Washington metropolitan area.

As executive director of Nueva Vida, Ms. Hinestrosa gave voice to the struggles of Latinas with breast cancer, representing them on the board of directors of the National Breast Cancer Coalition and the National Cancer Institute's Central Institutional Review Board. She also played a leading role in the development of the International Latina Breast Cancer Advocacy Network.

While serving as executive vice president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, Ms. Hinestrosa was a member of many national panels including the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program and numerous committees for the Institute of Medicine. Most recently she was an appointee to the IOM Committee on Comparative Effective Research.

Ms. Hinestrosa is remembered by those who knew her as an extraordinary woman who contributed so much to women's health, breast cancer, and minority rights. An outpouring of admiration has come from the many people she touched.

Fran Visco, president of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, said Ms. Hinestrosa "was incredibly brilliant, analytical and at the same time warm and compassionate. Nothing intimidated Carolina because of her determination to change the system." Director of the National Cancer Institute John Niederhuber wrote "she was a remarkable woman. She was the type of person who you never forgot encountering. She was smart and passionate; committed and accomplished. The cancer community has lost an important voice." The director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Carolyn Clancy, worked frequently with Carolina and wrote that "her legacy is that patients and consumers are recognized voices in efforts to improve health care quality. Her contribution has inspired physicians, scientists, employers to focus on patients needs."

Ms. Hinestrosa was born in Bogotá, Columbia, and came to the United States in 1985 on a Fulbright scholarship to pursue a master's in economics. Carolina impacted countless people in her work both here in Washington, DC, and elsewhere. She was just 50 years old at the time of her passing and leaves behind a husband and daughter.

We must carry on Ms. Hinestrosa's work in eradicating breast cancer from our midst. Until then, we must continue to support one another and honor the legacy of passion and commitment that Carolina left behind.●

COMMENDING KEVIN McENEANEY

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate and honor Mr. Kevin McEneaney of Dover, NH, for

his faithful service to the New Hampshire Board of Land Surveyors. Mr. McEneaney served on the board from August 18, 1999, until July 11, 2009, and he led the board as chairman during the final 2 years of his term.

The New Hampshire Board of Land Surveyors' mission is to set the standards for licensing and regulating land surveyors. The board sets the technical and ethical standards for the profession and is committed to upholding the highest level of public safety.

For a decade, Mr. McEneaney demonstrated the utmost integrity and professionalism in his work on the board. His colleagues have recognized his diligence and his generosity of spirit. His contributions to the Board of Land Surveyors and to the people of New Hampshire are admirable. I commend Mr. McEneaney for his exemplary service to our State.

On a personal note, I have known Mr. McEneaney since he was a student in my class at Dover High School almost 40 years ago. I have seen firsthand his integrity, his work ethic, and his commitment to his community. I know he will succeed in whatever he does, and I wish him well in his future endeavors.●

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

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 2454. An act to create clean jobs, achieve energy independence, reduce global warming pollution and transition to a clean energy economy.

H.R. 2647. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, to provide special pays and allowances to certain members of the Armed Forces, expand concurrent receipt of military retirement and VA disability benefits to disabled military retirees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2892. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2996. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environ-

ment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution; without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

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. 89. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and objectives of the Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. OBERSTAR of Minnesota, Chairman, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Vice-Chairman, Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York, Mr. STUPAK of Michigan, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. HODES of New Hampshire, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois, Mr. STEARNS of Florida, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CHANDLER of Kentucky, Chairman, Mr. SIRES of New Jersey, Vice-Chairman, Mr. CLYBURN of South Carolina, Mr. ETHERIDGE of North Carolina, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. PETRI of Wisconsin, Mr. BOOZMAN of Arkansas, Mr. CRENSHAW of Florida, Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama, and Mr. LATTA of Ohio.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 703(c) of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (50 U.S.C. 435 note), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Public Interest Declassification Board for a term of 3 years: Mr. David Skaggs of Longmont, Colorado.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2996. An act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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

H. Con. Res. 89. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and objectives of the Prague Conference on Holocaust Era Assets; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.