

Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon. Lewis was also selected for the Infantry OCS Hall of Fame for obtaining field grade rank starting from the rank of private.

After a distinguished military career, in 1972 Lewis retired at the rank of colonel from the Army. Following his retirement, Lewis returned to Marion and remained very active in the community. He served as administrator for the local Public Housing Authority, formed Stewart Real Estate, rehabilitated two historic homes and a Marion commercial building, served as director of special services for the district attorney, 4th Judicial Circuit, AL. He was also deeply involved in the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Perry County Historical Society, and the Lions Club. As an active member of St. Wilfred's Episcopal Church, Lewis served as senior warden of the Vestry and led the revival of the church's historic cemetery.

Lewis is loved and will be missed by his two sons Lewis Minor Stewart, Jr. and SG Matthew Rebel Stewart, U.S. Army, Retired, as well as his four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and two sisters. Lewis was an inspiration to many and will be remembered as an outstanding husband, father, soldier, churchman, community contributor, friend, and leader.

I ask the entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life of my great friend, Lewis Minor Stewart.●

COMMENDING KATIE'S CAFÉ

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, tourism represents Maine's largest economic sector, and as a result, many of my State's nearly 150,000 small businesses are seasonal. But this year, between the deepest economic recession our country has faced since the Great Depression and a streak of unfortunate weather throughout Maine, these boutiques, shops, and restaurants are in many cases not experiencing the level of business they would traditionally. Despite these disparaging factors, one small restaurant in the town of Ogunquit, Katie's Café on Shore Road, recently undertook a significant and bold expansion to attract new customers.

While Katie's Café on Shore Road is a new restaurant on the scene, having opened just last year, it has already taken noteworthy steps towards establishing itself as a preeminent member and integral part of the local community. Katie's is owned by Rich Yurko; Donna Andersen; Rob Leary; and Katie Yurko, Rich and Donna's mother for whom the restaurant is named. An Alberta, Canada, native, Katie and her husband Mike, along with their six children, are known for their abundant energy and hospitality. The Yurko family's first foray into the hospitality business occurred in 1999, when they purchased Breakfast on the Connecticut, a luxurious bed and breakfast in Lyme, NH.

Although a new establishment, Katie's boasts a knowledgeable staff with years of experience in the restaurant industry. The café is run by David Carme, who brings with him a plethora of experience from some of Boston's finest restaurants, including Teatro, an upscale Italian restaurant in Boston's theatre district, and Mistral, a trendy French Mediterranean establishment in the city's south end. Katie's also added executive chef Jason Grant to the team in May. An experienced cook, Grant brings 20 years of culinary experience to this new position.

Following a successful first year of operation last year, Katie's Café used the winter to expand its facilities, adding 40 new seats including a new porch seating area. Additionally, Katie's increased its kitchen space as well as the size of its lounge. With this recent expansion, Katie's Café serves as the perfect meeting place where customers are assured that they will receive a five star dining experience in a welcoming, relaxed social environment. With its expanded capacity, Katie's provides a unique locale for special events such as birthdays, weddings, receptions, and family holiday gatherings. Additionally, the café hosts "Lounge Socials" every Saturday and Sunday, complete with complementary appetizers and drink specials.

In its short time on Shore Road, Katie's has already taken the initiative to join with other area businesses in making several community events successful. In particular, the restaurant helped sponsor last December's Christmas by the Sea festivities, and took part in the town's Cinco de Mayo weekend this past May. These annual celebrations are a true example of community spirit, and they draw new faces from across the region to explore Ogunquit and the surrounding towns of York County.

A noteworthy seasonal small business that has quickly made a name for itself, Katie's Café has taken several concrete steps to ensure that it has a bright future beyond these tumultuous times. I congratulate everyone at Katie's Café for their vision and creativity, and wish them many more successful seasons.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:29 a.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. 1511. An act to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1675. An act to amend section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

H.R. 2920. An act to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration.

H.R. 2938. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project.

H.R. 2972. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 West Edward Street in Erath, Louisiana, as the "Conrad DeRouen, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 3119. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 867 Stockton Street in San Francisco, California, as the "Lim Poon Lee Post Office".

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1511. An act to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1675. An act to amend section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2920. An act to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration; to the Committee on the Budget.

H.R. 2938. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2972. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 West Edward Street in Erath, Louisiana, as the "Conrad DeRouen, Jr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3119. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 867 Stockton Street in San Francisco, California, as the "Lim Poon Lee Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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-2394. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Basic Provisions; Grape Crop Insurance Provisions and Table Grape Crop Insurance" (RIN0563-AC09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2395. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Livestock Indemnity Program and General Provisions for Supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs" (RIN0560-AH95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 14, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2396. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conservation Reserve Program" (RIN0560-AH80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 14, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2397. 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 "Fenamidone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8423-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2398. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Persons Contributing to the Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Parts 543) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2399. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a confirmation in the position of Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development in the Department of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2400. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Iranian Transactions Regulations" (31 CFR Parts 560) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2401. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the remaining obstacles to the efficient and timely circulation of \$1 coins; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2402. A communication from the Director of Insular Affairs, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on Guam: Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2008"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2403. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Energy, transmitting proposed legislation to repeal Subtitle J, Ultra-Deepwater and Unconventional

Natural Gas and Other Petroleum Resources, of Title IX of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2404. 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 "Lead; Minor Amendments to the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program" (FRL No. 8422-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2405. 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 "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to General Air Quality Rules and the Mass Emissions Cap and Trade Program" (FRL No. 8931-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2406. 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 "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Rhode Island; Correction of Effective Date Under Congressional Review Act" (FRL No. 8930-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2407. A communication from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting proposed legislation which authorizes appropriations for fiscal year 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2408. 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 "Applicable Federal Rates—August 2009" (Rev. Rul. 2009-22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2409. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Annual Report on Disability-Related Air Travel Complaints; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2410. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, annual reports relative to the category rating system for the Department of Justice; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2411. A communication from the Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Privacy Office Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2009 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2412. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2413. A communication from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the transfer of funds between drug control agency programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2414. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Hart-Scott-Rodino Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2008"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-58. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to address the escalating electronic payment interchange rates that merchants and consumers are assessed; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

Whereas, improved technology combined with consumer convenience has caused a rise in credit and debit card electronic payment systems; and

Whereas, in order for merchants to accept these payment systems, merchants are required to enter into an unfair contractual relationship with the credit card companies and their member banks; and

Whereas, in exchange for the electronic payment system, merchants must pay interchange fees and these interchange fees are usually hidden and not disclosed to the consumer; and

Whereas, credit card companies increase interchange fees and change the terms of merchant contract agreements without providing sufficient written or electronic notice to card accepting merchants; and

Whereas, the interchange fees are ultimately passed on to the consumers, including those who pay with cash or a check and who, in effect, subsidize rewards given to credit card customers; and

Whereas, the number of rewards cards in circulation is rapidly increasing, and the new rewards cards carry higher interchange fees and therefore, are more costly for both merchants and consumers; and

Whereas, merchants are contractually obligated to accept all cards from a credit card issuer and may not refuse payment from a card charging higher interchange rates; and

Whereas, the interchange fees, including those paid on food and gasoline, are typically almost double the profit margin of the merchant; and

Whereas, traditional economic models are not applicable because merchants are forced to accept contractual terms dictated often without notice or recourse; and

Whereas, small businesses struggle to absorb the constant increases in the cost of accepting electronic payments; and

Whereas, it is advantageous that economic models facilitate a highly competitive marketplace; and

Whereas, the increased consumer use of electronic payments requires Congress to assure the existence of a highly competitive and vibrant market that promotes an economic playing field that is fair to consumers, merchants, and card providers: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby memorializes the Congress of the United States to address the escalating electronic payment interchange rates that merchants and consumers are assessed. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.