

Members remain active for their whole lives and are encouraged to contribute to their communities. Each chapter has its own community service focus. The Baton Rouge Alumni Chapter, for example, raises money through its annual Walter Banks Golf Classic for scholarships for high school seniors and also sponsors several kids to attend Kappa Kamp—a rigorous leadership institute for elementary and middle school aged young men. Chapters all over Louisiana are similarly committed to their communities.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Kappas from all over the country came to the aid of hurricane survivors along the gulf coast and helped with our recovery effort.

It is with great pride that we welcome all members of Kappa Alpha Psi to our Nation's Capital as they kick off the countdown to their centennial celebration in 2011.●

REMEMBERING JOEL PIERCE SMITH

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my good friend Joel Pierce Smith, Sr. He was a personal friend who passed away on July 30, 2009, and, along with his family, I mourn his passing.

Joel was born on February 13, 1929, in Samson, AL. After graduating from Florida State University, he went to work at the Birmingham News-Post Herald in 1953. This would mark the start of a newspaper career that would span five decades. Following his work in Birmingham, Joel served as the editor of the the Geneva Reaper for 3 years.

In 1958, Joel moved to Eufaula, AL, and was named editor of the Eufaula Tribune. A year later, he was named publisher. An avid journalist, Joel also edited and published the Cuthbert Times and News Record of Cuthbert, GA. In 1999, Joel handed over the editorial reins of the Eufaula Tribune to his son Jack, though he continued to write his weekly personal column, Candid Comments, until 2006. All told, Joel wrote Candid Comments for 51 years, never missing a week. He truly was an extraordinary newspaperman and, as such, garnered numerous state and national awards. These awards recognized both the quality of his work and his leadership in his community and amongst his peers. Among his honors were the Alabama Press Association's Community Service Award, General Excellence Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joel was active in both the Alabama Press Association and the National Newspaper Association throughout his career. He served as president for both the Alabama Press Association and the Alabama Journalism Foundation and he held a seat on the board of directors for the Alabama Press Association and the Georgia Press Association. Additionally, Joel served as the Alabama

State Chairman of the National Newspaper Association for many years, chairing the latter's 1992 Governmental Affairs Conference in Washington, DC.

Throughout his distinguished career, Joel remained an active voice for progressive change in Eufaula. Among other things, he encouraged the reorganization of the Chamber of Commerce, promoted tourism in the area, and crusaded for the preservation of Eufaula's architectural heritage. He served on the board of trustees at Birmingham-Southern College for more than 25 years, where he became life trustee, and at Andrew College in Cuthbert, GA. Joel served on the Board of Education of the city of Eufaula and as a trustee at the Lakeside School. His good work was not overlooked in the community and he was honored as the Eufaula Kiwanis Club's Citizen of the Year in 2002 and received the Alabama Historical Commission's Distinguished Service Award.

Joel is loved and will be missed by his wife Ann Sutton Smith and his three sons, Joel Pierce Smith, Jr., Abb Jackson Smith II, and William Sutton Smith. Joel was an inspiration to many and will be remembered as an outstanding husband, father, editor, publisher, friend, and community leader.

I ask the entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life of my friend, Joel Pierce Smith.●

RECOGNIZING CARLISA BAYNE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Carlisa Bayne, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Carly is a graduate of Spearfish High School in Spearfish, SD. Currently she is attending the University of Nebraska, where she is majoring in agricultural economics. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Carly for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING SARAH JOSEPHINE EVEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Sarah Josephine Even, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Sarah is a graduate of T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre, SD. Currently she is attending South Dakota State University, where she is majoring in journalism and mass communication. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sarah for

all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING LAUREN HAUCK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Lauren Hauck, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Lauren is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls. Currently she is attending the University of South Dakota. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lauren for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING ZACH MULDER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Zach Mulder, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Zach is a graduate of Western Christian High School in Hull, IA. Currently he is attending Dordt College, where he is majoring in political studies. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Zach for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER NELSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Alexander Nelson, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Alex is a graduate of Fergus Falls Senior High School in Fergus Falls, MN. Currently he is attending the University of Arizona, where he is majoring in business economics. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alex for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING NOLAN THOMAS SCHROEDER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Nolan Thomas Schroeder, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Nolan is a graduate of Hot Springs High School in Hot Springs, SD. Currently he is attending the University of Wyoming, where he is majoring in political science and business marketing. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Nolan for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL STROMMEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Samuel Strommen, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Sam is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently he is attending the University of Arizona, where he is majoring in political science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sam for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING ANDREW JONATHAN TIMM

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Andrew Jonathan Timm, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Andrew is a graduate of Watertown High School in Watertown, SD. Currently he is attending the University of Minnesota, where he is majoring in political science and economics. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Andrew for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING DANIELLE MARIE ANDERSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Danielle Marie Anderson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Danielle is a graduate of Plankinton High School in Plankinton, SD. Currently she is attending South Dakota State University, where she is majoring in business economics. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Danielle for

all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

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

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.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and referred as indicated:

S. 1547. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937 to enhance and expand the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 1572. A bill to provide for a point of order against any legislation that eliminates or reduces the ability of Americans to keep their health plan or their choice of doctor or that decreases the number of Americans enrolled in private health insurance, while increasing the number of Americans enrolled in government-managed health care.

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-2603. A communication from the Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wetlands Reserve Program" (RIN0578-AA47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2604. A communication from the Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Environmental Quality Incentives Program" (RIN0578-AA45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2605. A communication from the Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, Commodity Credit

Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conservation Stewardship Program" (RIN0578-AA43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 31, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2606. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, (23) reports relative to vacancy announcements, nominations, actions on nominations, or confirmations within the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2607. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Changes to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and Fiscal Year 2010 Rates (CMS-1406-FC/IFC; CMS-1393-F; CMS-137-F)" (RIN0938-AP33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2608. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities for Fiscal Year 2010; Minimum Data Set, Version 3.0 for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Medicaid Nursing Facilities (CMS-1410-F)" (RIN0938-AP46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2609. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for Federal Fiscal Year 2010 (CMS-1538-F)" (RIN0938-AP56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2610. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Hospice Wage Index for Fiscal Year 2010 (CMS-1420-F)" (RIN0938-AP45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 30, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2611. 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 "Treatment of Services Under Section 482, Allocation of Income and Deductions from Intangible Property, Stewardship Expense" (TD 9456) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2612. 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 "Coordinated Issue: Leveraged Oil and Gas Drilling Partnerships" ((LMSB-4-0709-030) (Uniform List No. 263.02-01)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 3, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2613. 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 "Coordinated Issue: The Applicable Recovery Period under IRC