

importantly, changing the nature of their relationship with the governments in the countries in which they operate.

This is critical to our energy security, our national security and for the welfare of the citizens of these countries.

When we look at countries situated on oil and natural gas reserves, we think these countries have won the global version of the economic lottery. But what economists have found by studying these resource-rich countries is that they often fare worse than their resource-poor neighbors, both economically and politically.

In these countries rich in natural resources, governments do not provide the most basic of information concerning natural resource revenues. This lack of transparency facilitates and even encourages corruption. This often leads to grinding poverty in countries that are paradoxically rich in natural resources.

This legislation will provide much-needed regulatory and legal support to existing initiatives such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, EITI, and Publish What You Pay.

It is critical that the United States lead by example on transparency. That is why this legislation also encourages the United States to become an implementing country under EITI.

U.S. implementation of EITI would have practical and symbolic value on a number of fronts.

While this legislation puts human rights front and center in the global energy discussion, it also empowers people to fight corruption and hold their governments accountable. Greater transparency will lead to greater stability in countries that benefit from their natural resources and will lessen volatility in the global energy market, making them more conducive for long-term investments.

Just as importantly, U.S. implementation would bolster the momentum for the EITI, helping to make it a truly global standard for transparency in extractive industries. Leading by example is one of the most powerful ways the U.S. can encourage other countries to sign on to the initiative.

I look forward to working with our colleagues to ensure passage of this important and timely legislation.

THE SITUATION IN HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Monday, September 21, President Manuel Zelaya returned to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, for the first time since he was deposed and exiled in a June 28th coup d'etat, taking refuge in the Brazilian Embassy. His return has led to the installation of a curfew, violence between Zelaya's supporters and Honduran security forces, and troubling reports of the detention and physical abuse of his supporters.

I am encouraged by reports that representatives of Roberto Micheletti,

who currently occupies the Presidency, have met with President Zelaya. As divided as these two factions are, these talks need to continue in order to resolve this situation peacefully before the country descends into further bloody confrontations between civilians and police, or it leads to violent fractures within the military.

I continue to believe that the proposal for the restoration of President Zelaya and early elections, put forward by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, has the best chance of resolving this conflict. Brute force, like that reported from Honduras this week, will achieve nothing but further polarization.

If President Zelaya is guilty of violating the law, as some have maintained, there are constitutional procedures for dealing with that. But by abusing the law themselves and simply throwing him out of the country, those who claim to have acted in the interests of the Honduran people only compounded the country's problems. Honduras, an impoverished country that needs the support of the United States and its neighbors, can ill afford this crisis to continue.

REMEMBERING FRANK FERTITTA

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President. I wish to honor the memory of a remarkable human being who inspired those around him with kindness, generosity, and devotion. He was a man who loved his family and understood the value of education.

Lately, it seems that heads of corporations and big businesses have become about as popular as lawyers and politicians. Well, you don't have to look further than the legacy of Frank Fertitta, Jr., to understand that compassion and respect can very much be part of a successful mission statement.

The name Fertitta may be best known in Las Vegas, NV, but the lessons of how this gaming patriarch lived his life should be emulated around the world.

Frank Fertitta, Jr., moved to Las Vegas in 1960 with his lovely wife Victoria. He started as a bellman and slowly worked his way through the ranks—dealer, pit boss, general manager. But what he will be remembered for professionally is his vision and understanding of business and human nature.

In 1976, Frank opened a 5,000-square-foot building called The Casino. Those around him had their doubts about whether this venture would succeed. Instead, Frank became a pioneer of a gaming niche that catered to locals. His little experiment eventually became the Palace Station. Thirty-three years after that first venture, Station Casinos today has 18 casinos and resorts and employs more than 13,000 people. And today, another generation of Fertittas is working to keep the vision of Frank Fertitta, Jr., alive and well.

His success, however, is not what made Frank Fertitta, Jr., so extraor-

dinary. It was his character and integrity that truly made him an example to all. With the utmost respect, he was called Mr. Fertitta by longtime employees and patrons of Station Casinos. That is because he showed respect to all he came into contact with, and they knew it.

I was fortunate to know Mr. Fertitta and call him a friend. He was genuine and unwavering in his support. The kind of person you were blessed to have in your life.

Described as quiet and polite, family and faith were the foundations of his life. Mr. Fertitta showed how a successful, hard-working businessman can also be a dedicated family man. Each week his whole family gathered at his and Victoria's home for Sunday dinner. This was a tradition that all of the Fertittas have cherished over the years. Anyone who knew him knew his family came first.

He was also a consistent and valued friend to many philanthropic organizations in Las Vegas. He and Victoria were involved with the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Bishop Gorman High School, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, the Nevada Cancer Institute, Opportunity Village, St. Judes Ranch, and the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health.

It is one thing to be generous with your resources. It is another thing to raise your children to also be generous with theirs. That was part of Mr. Fertitta's success. He was proud that his children had become such generous contributors to the community. They did so because he set such a strong example.

Las Vegas lost a visionary with the recent passing of Mr. Fertitta. He taught us all how to respect others—regardless of one's status, how to dream big, and how to give back to our communities. There aren't many people like Mr. Fertitta in the world. We should all take a page from his mission statement to ensure that his brand of success lives on.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

2009 SERVICE TO AMERICA MEDAL RECIPIENTS

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I honor and congratulate three outstanding Federal employees from Maryland—Thomas Alexander Waldmann, Patricia Guerri and Deborah Jin—who have recently been awarded Service to America medals in recognition for their great work.

Our Federal employees are on the front lines every day, working hard for America. Their commitment to public service makes life better for us all. I am proud to honor these three terrific Federal employees from Maryland today.

For the past five decades, Dr. Thomas Alexander Waldmann has devoted himself to performing cutting-edge

science at the National Institutes of Health. His work has resulted in great advances in treatment for patients with multiple sclerosis, various types of cancer and AIDS. Dr. Waldmann's commitment to transforming scientific research to save and improve lives has earned him the nickname "renaissance scientist" by his peers. His seminal research extends from the study of the immune system to clinical trials of immunotherapeutic agents, which help your immune system perform better. His innovative use of clinical trials has helped transform the way trials are used to treat patients, and has led to the development of treatments for fatal forms of leukemia and lymphoma and for multiple sclerosis.

Dr. Patricia Guerry of the U.S. Naval Medical Research Center is an innovator in combating food-borne illnesses throughout the world. After the discovery of the most common cause of food-borne illnesses, the *Campylobacter* microbe, in the late 1970s, researchers struggled to understand it and develop vaccines to combat it. But Dr. Guerry was unwavering in her quest to study the *Campylobacter* microbe, overcoming many barriers and working with limited resources to develop a promising new vaccine that may be only a couple years away from human trials. Over the past 3 years, Dr. Guerry and her group have had impressive success in advancing a vaccine, working at a breakneck pace. Dr. Guerry's success is especially promising for American troops abroad, who are particularly vulnerable to food poisoning.

Dr. Deborah Jin is another pioneering researcher. A research team leader at the JILA-National Institute of Standards and Technology joint institute in Boulder, CO, Deborah and her team have made great advances in the field of physics, including the creation of a new form of matter, a major discovery in the race toward superconductivity. Superconductivity—using extremely low temperatures to move electrons through a magnetic field—can potentially lead to breakthroughs in energy efficiency and computing. Deborah's team raced against six other teams worldwide to be the first to make this discovery.

These three Marylanders exemplify the very best that our Federal employees have to offer. But don't think that there aren't thousands of stories like this across the country, from Atlanta to Silver Spring. They work hard so that the American people have a government they can count on. I will continue to stand sentry so that Federal employees get the pay and benefits they have earned and the job security they deserve.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROL BROADNAX

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate and thank a true dedicated public servant upon her retirement. Ms. Carol Broadnax, a long-

time resident of Alexandria, VA, is retiring on October 2, 2009, after 42 years of service in our Federal Government. I want to recognize Carol's outstanding service to the public, and especially, her 30 years of Federal service at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Carol started out at the CPSC as a clerk typist and then as a secretary in the Directorate for Communications under Kenneth Rashid and Bessie Draper at the 18th Street location, and then she moved to the agency's Bethesda, MD, location. There, she worked in the Office of the General Counsel as the secretary for Richard Allen, general law division. Over the course of her long and distinguished Federal career she served as the secretary for the following general counsels: Martin Katz, Daniel Levinson, Acting General Counsel John Mackey, James Lacy, Acting General Counsel Susan Birenbaum, Clement Erhardt, Jerry Thorn, Eric Rubel, Jeffrey Bromme, Michael Solender, William DuRoss and John "Gib" Mullan. Since 2005, she has been the administrative officer in the Office of General Counsel at the CPSC to former General Counsel Page Faulk and Acting General Counsel Lowell Martin. Carol currently works for CPSC General Counsel Cheryl Falvey. We congratulate and thank Carol for her enormous contributions to product safety and for her outstanding Federal service.●

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 12:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3183) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; it agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. BERRY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. OLVER, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. OBBY, Mr. FREILING-HUYSEN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr.

REHBERG, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. LEWIS of California as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2918) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 3631. An act to amend title XVIII to provide for the application of a consistent Medicare part B premium for all Medicare beneficiaries in a budget neutral manner for 2010.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 163. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of September 23, 2009, as "National Job Corps Day".

H. Con. Res. 191. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make technical corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 2918.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3631. An act to amend title XVIII to provide for the application of a consistent Medicare part B premium for all Medicare beneficiaries in a budget neutral manner for 2010; to the Committee on Finance.

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

H. Con. Res. 163. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of September 23, 2009, as "National Job Corps Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 801. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive charges for humanitarian care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to family members accompanying veterans severely injured after September 11, 2001, as they receive medical care from the Department and to provide assistance to family caregivers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-80).

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 110th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs" (Rept. No. 111-81).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first