

sense to the problem, and then communicating the result in clear and unmistakable terms. These skills were an invaluable resource for the Senate Judiciary Committee during my tenure, particularly during the Sotomayor and Kagan nominations. If there is a silver lining in his departure from Senator SESSIONS' staff, it is that he will continue his public service for the people of Alabama. His keen judgment and excellent personal integrity will be an asset to Congresswoman Roby, and I know he will be missed by his colleagues in the Senate."

Alan Hanson, chief of staff to Senator RICHARD SHELBY, said, "It is a credit to Stephen's abilities and work ethic that he has so rapidly advanced in his Capitol Hill career. Having worked with him for 3½ years and known him much longer, I can personally attest that he is a singularly talented and capable jack-of-all-trades. Senator SESSIONS' loss is truly Congresswoman Roby's gain, and I look forward to witnessing the great things STEPHEN will accomplish in his new role in the House of Representatives."

Sarah Haley, press secretary for Senator SESSIONS, said, "Stephen Boyd is a man of scrupulous character, sound ethics, and servant leadership. It has been a privilege to work under him. Stephen will be greatly missed by all of us."

Stephen Miller, press secretary for the Senate Judiciary Committee, said, "Stephen Boyd is a brilliant communicator, operating at a truly elite level. And yet he is the furthest thing from an elitist. Thoughtful, genuine, sincere—these are the traits so familiar to those who know him. I am proud to have had the chance to work with Stephen Boyd. But I am prouder still to call him a friend."

Ryan Patmintra, press secretary for Senator JON KYL, said, "Stephen's background in both policy and communications made him one of the top-notch Senate communicators on either side of the aisle. His ability to go beyond talking points and walk reporters through our arguments served us well. We were lucky to have him on our team. His presence and expertise will be sorely missed in the Senate."

Cindy Hayden, who served with Stephen Boyd during her tenure as my chief counsel, said, "Stephen displays unwavering devotion to Senator SESSIONS, to the people of Alabama, and to his principles. A talented lawyer and a trusted colleague, Stephen possesses a likeability even his opponents find hard to resist. I am confident his future colleagues will enjoy working with him as much as I did."

I will miss Stephen. He was always thinking down the road, anticipating programs, and protecting me and the Senate from unwise actions. That kind of attention to detail and good judgment is rare and noteworthy.

From the first day he joined my staff, Stephen has been a tremendous asset. He has earned the respect and

admiration of his colleagues, and has proven himself as a leader. His journey is only beginning, and I wish him all the best in the months and years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO KEVIN LANDY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish today to bid farewell and express my special thanks to Kevin Landy for his 13 years of extraordinary service on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Kevin, presently the committee's chief counsel and my longest serving committee staff member, is leaving the Senate this month. But I am happy to say he will continue his career in public service as the Director of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Office of Detention and Policy Planning, an office responsible for formulating and implementing reforms at immigration detention facilities.

As a Senator, I am privileged to work with dedicated Senate staffers like Kevin Landy, who want to take their talents, skills, and passions and put them to work for the American people.

Thomas Jefferson once asked the question: "What duty does a citizen owe to the government that secures the society in which he lives?"

Answering his own question, Jefferson said: "A nation that rests on the will of the people must also depend on individuals to support its institutions if it is to flourish. Persons qualified for public service should feel an obligation to make that contribution."

Kevin has answered his Nation's call and leaves the Senate with an exemplary record of achievement on behalf of the American people, on a wide range of issues. In particular, I'd like to highlight Kevin's role as my lead staff member on four bills that I count among my most important legislative accomplishments.

In the 107th Congress, Kevin successfully and simultaneously stewarded to passage two very different pieces of legislation. One of those bills established a new framework for the government's uses of the Internet and passed after a great deal of careful consensus building; the other bill established the 9/11 Commission to independently investigate the circumstances of the terrorist attacks and was enacted after a vigorous and often contentious campaign to surmount the administration's resistance.

First, Kevin drafted the E-Government Act, which I introduced in May of 2001, and which called for greater citizen access to government information, services, and regulatory proceedings over the Internet; better management of information technology; and greater protections for privacy and security.

When Kevin began work on this initiative he was trained as a lawyer and had no government IT background. Yet he worked meticulously with every relevant group and constituency first to become fully informed and then to en-

sure their concerns were addressed. More importantly, Kevin spent months negotiating with OMB officials to overcome the administration's initial opposition. The work paid off when the legislation passed both the House and the Senate by unanimous consent on the same day, November 15, 2002, and was subsequently signed into law the next month.

Some of Kevin's most significant work for our country was on legislation creating and reforming the institutions charged with the defense of our homeland from the terrorist threat.

Soon after the tragic September 11 attacks, Senator MCCAIN and I called for an independent bipartisan commission to investigate the circumstances surrounding the terrorist attacks and to provide recommendations designed to guard against future acts of terrorism. Kevin helped draft the legislation to establish the 9/11 Commission, which I introduced with Senator MCCAIN on December 20, 2001.

At first we had no other cosponsors, and faced the opposition of the administration. But over the next year Kevin worked closely with the families of the victims of 9/11, who lobbied ardently for our legislation both in the Halls of Congress and in the media, and the administration finally reversed its position the night before the Senate voted to approve the Commission by a vote of 90 to 8. Contentious negotiations with White House officials followed, but on November 27, 2002, the legislation establishing a 9/11 Commission was enacted.

Kevin's effectiveness and his strong relations with 9/11 family members stood him in good stead when I asked him to lead an even greater challenge 2 years later: helping win enactment of legislation to implement the Commission's ambitious and wide-ranging recommendations.

Following the release of the 9/11 Commission's report on July 22, 2004, Kevin led the combined efforts of the staffs of four Senators to quickly draft legislation, S. 2774, that implemented all of the Commission's recommendations, covering not only comprehensive reform of the intelligence community and the creation of a National Counterterrorism Center but also information sharing, terrorist travel, border security, and secure identification, among other topics. Because of the determined efforts of Kevin and his colleagues, I was able to join with Senators MCCAIN, BAYH, and SPECTER in introducing the legislation on September 7, just 6 weeks after the Commission's recommendations had been released.

Kevin continued to play a leadership role as I worked with the committee chairman and my close friend, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, to draft legislation that focused on the Commission's intelligence reform recommendations, S. 2845. On the Senate floor, provisions of the two bills were merged as we faced a blizzard of amendments and tough votes, before we won an overwhelming

Senate victory. An arduous conference followed, as several House committee chairmen adamantly opposed the bill—through it all Kevin fought to uphold the principles laid down in our legislation. We prevailed, resulting in the historic enactment on December 17, 2004, of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, IRTPA.

We faced even more complex procedural hurdles in 2007, when Senator COLLINS and I led the efforts of multiple Senate committees to assemble and enact provisions that built on what we had accomplished with IRTPA, mandating counterterrorism improvements in areas such as terrorist travel, communications interoperability, and aviation and maritime security. By then the committee's chief counsel, Kevin had demonstrated his skills at legislative maneuvering in a variety of circumstances. I called on him once again to help coordinate our team as we pushed through a difficult markup, a lively Senate debate, and a fiercely contested conference, at which approximately 15 Senate and House committees claimed jurisdiction and joined the fray. Our work resulted in ambitious legislation, known as the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007," enacted on August 3, 2007.

I have described his biggest accomplishments in the areas of national security and good government, but through his entire career Kevin has also shown a passion for the pursuit of justice, including justice for the powerless. Upon graduating from Amherst College, Kevin went to work defending the rights of prisoners to humane conditions in the Texas penal system. Then after graduating from Yale Law School, one of Kevin's jobs took him to Cambodia, where he worked with that nation's judges and prosecutors in an effort to help improve the rule of law as that nation struggled to emerge from its brutal totalitarian past.

On the committee, Kevin has worked tirelessly to improve the treatment of asylum-seekers who often languish in county jails and other immigrant detention facilities as they pursue their claims. He drafted the first bill to address immigration detention reform, the Secure and Safe Detention and Asylum Act, and in 2007 we won Senate passage of the bill as an amendment to ultimately unsuccessful immigration reform legislation. Although legislative progress in this area has proven elusive, Kevin's work helped to bring greater attention to the need for reforms. He has now embraced the opportunity to support the detention reform initiatives being undertaken at the Department of Homeland Security.

I have benefited greatly from Kevin's commitment to my goals and to the pursuit of excellence while achieving them. I want to thank him again for his hard work, his long hours, and selfless persistence in pursuit of worthy legislation.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO HAWAII EDUCATORS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate two outstanding educators from my state, John Constantinou, from Kea'au High School, and Yannabah Lewis, from Kealakehe High School, for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, is the highest recognition that a mathematics or science teacher may receive. Since the program's inception in 1983, more than 3,900 educators nationwide have been recognized for their contributions to mathematics and science education. As a former educator and principal, I know firsthand about the countless hours that go into creating curricula, and it makes me proud to see outstanding teachers receive recognition for their hard work.

The dedication of John and Yannabah to their field and to the children of Hawaii is undeniable. I applaud them both for receiving this outstanding recognition, and I wish them the very best in their future endeavors. ●

### TRIBUTE TO CAROL TWEDT

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Carol Twedt as she celebrates retirement from more than 20 extraordinary years of public service. Her earnest dedication to and enthusiasm for service to her fellow citizens has set an example for all to follow.

Carol's career began when she joined Jim Abdnor's successful Senate campaign against George McGovern in 1980. Her passion was pushed to a new level when Carol's husband Curt passed away at an early age in 1987. It was this event which prompted her to undertake the challenge of running for Minnehaha county commissioner. The level of courage and perseverance she demonstrated through her first campaign paid off with an overwhelming victory. In her five subsequent terms as a county commissioner, she has shown unceasing dedication and compassion to serving her constituents. Because of this remarkable resolve, Carol has made praiseworthy accomplishments in combating homelessness, improving juvenile services, and, above all, working to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of county operations.

Carol's service has benefitted the people of Minnehaha County over her many years of service. I would like to extend to her my heartfelt gratitude for her many years of outstanding service. ●

### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 10:18 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 1405. An act to redesignate the Longfellow National Historic Site, Massachusetts, as the "Longfellow House—Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site".

### 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-8492. A communication from the Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Chicago, IL; Fort Wayne-Marion, IN; Indianapolis, IN; Cleveland, OH; and Pittsburgh, PA, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AM21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2010; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8493. A communication from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semi-annual Report for the period of April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8494. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 and the Chairman's Semi-Annual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8495. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2010 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8496. A communication from the Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Arms Export Control Act (OSS Control No. 2010-1961); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-8497. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Alaska Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.