

military and veterans compensation. He is widely recognized as an expert in the field as well as a selfless advocate for individual soldiers and veterans in their legal struggles.

To those of us who are privileged to know Bill Greenberg personally, he brings passion, energy, hard work, patriotism, and dedication to all that he undertakes. These qualities have been recognized by his colleagues in the legal profession and in the Pentagon, where he has served with distinction and has consistently put foremost the interests of the individual reservist and the veteran. The American soldier has no greater friend than Bill Greenberg.●

RECOGNIZING AGREN APPLIANCE

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, small businesses are the engine of our economy. There are literally millions of unique stories about how these companies had developed since they opened their doors. Some of the most impressive businesses are family-owned entities that start with a handful of workers and a commitment to filling a niche in their city or town. Today I recognize Agren Appliance, a company that started with the basics and has blossomed into a familiar name to residents of Lewiston-Auburn, ME, for over 40 years.

The Agren family began serving the community in 1969, when they operated two repair trucks to fix appliances for families and individuals throughout the greater Lewiston-Auburn area. Their only technology was a rotary telephone to receive calls from those requiring assistance. Over time, the family developed a reputation for its reliability, gaining regular customers and parlaying that recognition into future success.

As a result of its strong and growing standing, Agren opened its first brick-and-mortar store in Auburn in 1978, carrying the Whirlpool brand of products. Over time, the company further expanded its reach, opening branches in the coastal town of Brunswick in 1983, as well as south Paris, in western Maine, in 1986. Later, Agren Appliance opened stores in south Portland and midcoast Maine, covering a large swath of the State's population. And on Monday, Agren Appliance moved from its former south Paris location to a newer, larger, 25,000-square-foot space in the neighboring town of Norway. The company has been recognized as one of the Nation's top 100 appliance retailers, an impressive feat in such a competitive market.

Agren now offers its customers a variety of products and brands—including televisions, beds, mattresses, and dining room sets. Nonetheless, each store is still a one-stop shop for all appliance needs, from dishwashers and refrigerators, to laundry machines and dryers. And the business stays true to its roots, boasting Maine's largest independent appliance repair team, as well as a fleet of repair trucks.

Furthermore, Agren Appliance is still family-owned and remains an integral part of the communities which it serves. The company frequently makes donations to organizations across the State, often providing gift certificates or various small appliances for silent auctions to benefit those in need. Additionally, at certain locations, Agren posts messages on their large electronic outdoor signs, advertising upcoming events and fundraising efforts from various members of the community—a generous act that helps promote worthwhile occasions and causes.

With five stores spread across the southern part of the State, Agren has developed from a small-town appliance repair business into a trusted name for appliance and furniture needs. I am always impressed by the ingenuity of small businesses like Agren, which has witnessed marked growth because of a strong work ethic and dedication to knowing and serving the community. I thank all of the company's employees for their hard work, and wish them much success in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. INOUE) reported that on December 21, 2010, he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 3082. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. INOUE) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 118. An act to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 1481. 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. 81. An act to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act

and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

At 1:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6547. An act to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require criminal background checks for school employees.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6523) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 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, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002) as amended, the Minority Leader reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Mr. Larry Wortzel, effective January 1, 2011.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 235 of the Tribal Law and Order Act (Public Law 111-211), the Minority Leader appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Indian Law and Order Commission: Mr. Thomas Gede of San Francisco, California.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 5605 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148), the Minority Leader appoints the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Key National Indicators: Mr. Marcus Peacock of Washington, D.C., and Mr. Tomas J. Philipson of Chicago, Illinois.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3243. An act to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to administer polygraph examinations to all applicants for law enforcement positions with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to initiate all periodic background reinvestigations of certain law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 3592. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Commerce Drive in Tyrone, Georgia, as the "First Lieutenant Robert Wilson Collins Post Office Building".

H.R. 4445. An act to amend Public Law 95-232 to repeal a restriction on treating as Indian country certain lands held in trust for Indian pueblos in New Mexico.

H.R. 5470. An act to exclude an external power supply for certain security or life safety alarms and surveillance system components from the application of certain energy

efficiency standards under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. BAYH).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 5116. An act to invest in innovation through research and development, to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6398. An act to require the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to fully insure Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. BAYH).

At 6:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6560. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 3481. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Federal responsibility for stormwater pollution.

S. 3903. An act to authorize leases of up to 99 years for lands held in trust for Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo.

S. 4036. An act to clarify the National Credit Union Administration authority to make stabilization fund expenditures without borrowing from the Treasury.

S. 4058. An act to extend certain expiring provisions providing enhanced protections for servicemembers relating to mortgages and mortgage foreclosures.

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

S. 372. An act to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 67. Concurrent resolution celebrating 130 years of United States-Romanian diplomatic relations, congratulating the Romanian people on their achievements as a great nation, and reaffirming the deep bonds of trust and values between the United States and Romania, a trusted and most valued ally.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 847) to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend and improve protections and services to individuals di-

rectly impacted by the terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5901) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investment in United States real property interest, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6517) to extend trade adjustment assistance and certain trade preference programs, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5367. An act to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise certain administrative authorities of the District of Columbia courts, to authorize the District of Columbia Public Defender Service to provide professional liability insurance for officers and employees of the Service for claims relating to services furnished within the scope of employment with the Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5446. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Florida Avenue in Cocoa, Florida, as the "Harry T. and Harriette Moore Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5493. An act to provide for the furnishing of statues by the District of Columbia and territories and possessions of the United States for display in Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 5702. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to reduce the waiting period for holding special elections to fill vacancies in local offices in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6205. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1449 West Avenue in Bronx, New York, as the "Private Isaac T. Cortes Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6397. An act to amend section 101(a)(35) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for a marriage for which the parties are not physically in the presence of each other due to service abroad in the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6494. An act to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 to improve the Littoral Combat Ship program of the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 6540. An act to require the Secretary of Defense, in awarding a contract for the KC-X Aerial Refueling Aircraft Program, to consider any unfair competitive advantage that an offeror may possess; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 6547. An act to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require criminal background checks for school employees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 6560. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-8582. 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 "Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals)" (FRL No. 8857-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8583. 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 "Flutolanil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8855-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-8584. A joint communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Power of the People: Building an Integrated National Security Professional System for the 21st Century"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-8585. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to India; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8586. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Turkey; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8587. 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 "Determination of Nonattainment and Reclassification of the Dallas/Fort Worth 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Texas" (FRL No. 9240-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8588. 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 "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Mississippi; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Rules: Nitrogen Oxides as a Precursor to Ozone" (FRL No. 9241-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2010; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-8589. 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 "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Modifications to Renewable Fuel