

schedule, saving \$2.2 million; the construction of 300 new military family housing units; a temporary lodging facility; and a new main gate complex.

Colonel Bird's outstanding leadership abilities inspired excellence and achievement in others, and his comprehensive view of the wing's mission within the context of the broader mission of the Air Force and the U.S. military made him a particularly outstanding commander. My staff and I have enjoyed an extremely positive working relationship with Colonel Bird and his staff, which helps to ensure that Mountain Home AFB not only retains critical missions, but is considered for others as it possesses one of the top training ranges in the Nation and has the strong support of the local community and the State.

Colonel and Mrs. Bird have been exemplary representatives of the Air Force and good friends to Idaho. They will be greatly missed. On behalf of the State of Idaho, I wish them well as they move back to Washington, DC, where Colonel Bird will work as Chief of the Force Application Division at the Pentagon, and I thank them for their continued service to our Nation and for their time as gunfighters in the great State of Idaho.●

TRIBUTE TO B.M. "MACK" RANKIN, JR.

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about a dear friend whose contributions to the great State of Texas and our Nation are most notable.

B.M. Rankin, Jr., known by his friends as "Mack," is a pioneer in the oil and gas industry. More than three decades ago, Rankin and two partners, W.K. McWilliams, Jr. and James R. Moffett, founded McMoRan Exploration Co., an independent public company engaged in the exploration, development and production of oil and natural gas offshore in the Gulf of Mexico and onshore in the gulf coast area. Today Rankin is the vice chairman of both McMoRan Exploration Co., NYSE, and Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc., NYSE, the world's third-largest copper deposit and the single largest gold deposit in the world.

Rankin's expertise and knowledge of America's energy resources, coupled with his leadership and vision for our country's energy needs, have transformed public policy in this area.

For the past 2 years, he has served as the chairman of the U.S. Oil and Gas Association. Under his guidance, the association has provided the industry with representation in legislative, regulatory and public affairs, and it serves as a resource on technical matters. Membership in the association represents all segments of the industry, including major oil and gas companies, independent oil and gas producers, refineries, natural gas and petroleum products transportation and distribution companies, natural gas generation

companies, and other firms and individuals involved in the industry.

Throughout his career Rankin has been a strong advocate for clarity and practicality in the ongoing debate to formulate a responsible national energy policy. Because of his steadfast efforts, the oil and gas industry plays a leading role in these policy debates and deliberations.

A native of Dallas, Rankin is an active member and generous benefactor of a number of local charitable foundations. He has served on the Board of Visitors of the University Cancer Foundation of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital Cancer Center and as chairman for the Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, CLL, Global Research Foundation.

On May 13, 2010, Rankin will step down as chairman of the U.S. Oil and Gas Association. On this special occasion I want not only to commend Rankin for his lifelong dedication to energy policy but also to thank him for his tremendous commitment to our State and country.●

GOVERNOR'S WORK-LIFE BALANCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate 17 Arkansas employers that were recently honored by the Arkansas Governor's office for providing resources to help their workers balance work and family life. As the mother of twin boys, and like every working parent, I find it can be a challenge to balance family life with my work responsibilities. I commend these Arkansas employers for providing resources that support employees in balancing the needs of both work and family.

The winners, based on number of employees, were:

LARGE COMPANIES

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Gold
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Silver
Ernst & Young, LLP, Rogers, Bronze
Fayetteville Public School District, Fayetteville, Bronze

MEDIUM COMPANIES

Winrock International, Little Rock, Gold
Arkansas Educational Television Network, Conway, Silver
Delta Dental of Arkansas, Sherwood, Bronze

SMALL COMPANIES

Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon & Galchus, P.C., Little Rock, Gold
Arkansas Power Electronics International, Inc., Fayetteville, Silver
White River Planning & Development District, Inc., Batesville, Bronze

The Work-Life Initiative also announced Spotlight Award winners, honoring organizations that provided exemplary strategies that support a healthy work-life balance. They were:

Arvest Bank, Ft. Smith and River Valley Region, Ft. Smith
Bell & Company, PA, North Little Rock
Friendship Community Care, Russellville
Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center, Bentonville
McKee Foods Corporation, Gentry

The Mature Worker Award also recognized three companies for their ongoing efforts to provide a work environment friendly to mature workers. The winners were:

Arkansas Educational Television Network, Conway

Bank of the Ozarks, Little Rock
Saline Memorial Hospital, Benton

Mr. President, I congratulate each and every member of these organizations for their dedication to their families, work life, and our great State of Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING BLACK DINAH CHOCOLATIERS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize Black Dinah Chocolatiers, a rare treasure of a company found on the tiny, remote Maine island of Isle au Haut in Penobscot Bay. While this small business may be nestled on a small island, it is no secret to the world. Featured in Martha Stewart Living and various other publications, chocolate lovers travel from near and far to take the 45-minute ride by mail boat or ferry from the mainland to indulge in the rich, delightful taste of Black Dinah's specialty handcrafted chocolates.

The history behind this tasty small business is a tale of adventure and creativity. Black Dinah Chocolatiers' founders Kate and Steve Shaffer fell in love with the small fishing and lobstering community of Isle au Haut after moving there in 2004. Not seeking employment in the island's traditional trades of lobstering and carpentry, Kate and Steve designed an alternative business plan that consisted of a product that could be marketed and shipped off the island year-round to compensate for cold Maine winters and a sparsely populated customer base on the island. Their solution was chocolate.

With Kate's years of experience in the restaurant industry, Steve's experience in the computer repair business, and some assistance from one of Maine's exceptional women's business centers, the Shaffers launched Black Dinah Chocolatiers in July of 2007. Today, thousands of chocolates are shipped off the island to every State during holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Mothers Day. In addition to an active mail order business, the Shaffers supply their artisan chocolates to Maine gourmet food stores, wine shops, and florists. They also run an organic bakery and coffeehouse from May through September for tourists and locals alike. This small business has a tremendous impact on the island's community—not only through its satisfying contribution of extraordinary chocolate but as a profitable venture that is helping to sustain its local economy through sales that have doubled each year since its inception.

Black Dinah Chocolatier further assists the regional economy through its

use of local Maine produce. Kate turns out dozens of handmade Venezuelan, Belgian, and rare Peruvian-style chocolates, including truffles and caramels, all of them flavored with natural ingredients—organic herbs, flowers, fruits, and even cheeses cultivated by the region's farmers. In fact, each season's flavored chocolates are dictated by what is at the nearby Stonington farmers market on the mainland. Every chocolate features at least one ingredient from a Maine farmer located within 50 miles of the company's base.

The Shaffers understand how critical it is for their business to establish and maintain local relationships, especially on an island the size of Isle au Haut. In a truly Maine example of how neighbors help each other to this day, Kate told *Martha Stewart Living Magazine*, "It's not as though you can go to the store when you run out of butter. If I run out of butter I'll go to Diana, the innkeeper. For cream cheese, I call Brenda, a lobsterman's wife, who makes lots of crab dip. And of course, if anyone needs sugar or chocolate, they come to me."

A true sweet spot in the heart of an island community as well as the hearts of chocolate lovers worldwide, Black Dinah Chocolatiers is a prime example of a Maine small business that seeks to be a profitable venture and a good neighbor. I commend its founders, Kate and Steve Shaffer, for their ingenuity in creating this thriving and viable business, as well as for their commitment and dedication to helping grow their local economy, and I wish them the sweetest success in the future. ●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BARKER

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this week in Bend, OR, the community will be honoring one of the great advocates for Oregon's veterans, Mike "Rocky" Barker. Mike has been an incredible partner to me and my staff as we have worked to improve health and other services for central Oregon's military veterans.

Mike's incredible service to our Nation began with 8 years in the U.S. Air Force as an air traffic controller. He went on to a career with the FAA at the Butte, MT, Flight Service Station and then moved to central Oregon where he ran the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program. In that post he became nationally recognized as the VA's top service officer for 1999, and shortly thereafter he received similar national recognition from the VFW.

Always looking for ways to help veterans in need, Mike ran the incarcerated vet program for a number of years. During his leadership, more than 95 percent of the veterans who came through his program stayed out of prison.

He retired in 2003, and the hallmark of his career from 1970 to the present—whether as a professional or as a volunteer—has been his insight and leadership on issues that matter to military veterans.

When I was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996, Mike immediately rolled up his shirt sleeves to work with me and our staff to open up the VA's Central Oregon Community Based Outreach Clinic—the first of its kind to open up east of the Cascades. Before this clinic got off the ground, central Oregon veterans had to drive to the Portland VA Medical Center for the medical services our Nation promised them—a 6-hour round trip. That hardship is now a thing of the past for Oregon's veterans. Today, the clinic is such a success that we are now in the process of expanding it.

Throughout all of his work on veterans' issues, Mike had a particular feel for the challenges his fellow servicemembers faced with post traumatic stress disorder, PTSD. He had started working with people dealing with illness during the Vietnam era, and continues to this day. Three years ago, Mike brought together a diverse group of veterans' leaders and formed the Central Oregon Vet Center Task Force to find ways to support veterans in their community. Mike led the group's monthly meetings, as they brainstormed strategies to persuade the VA how important it was to create a vet center in eastern Oregon. Almost a year ago we finally achieved that goal, and the Central Oregon Vet Center is now open for service. It is a place where combat veterans can get counseling and, just as importantly, find a community of people who have a common experience as warriors for the United States.

Thank you, Mike, for your friendship, your dedication, and your service to our veterans. ●

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 and a treaty 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 10:57 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1067. An act to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the

threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, and for other purposes.

S. 3333. An act to extend the statutory license for secondary transmissions under title 17, United States Code, and for other purposes.

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

S. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that general aviation pilots and industry should be recognized for the contributions made in response to Haiti earthquake relief efforts.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

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

H.R. 1121. An act to authorize a land exchange to acquire lands for the Blue Ridge Parkway from the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1442. An act to provide for the sale of the Federal Government's reversionary interest in approximately 60 acres of land in Salt Lake City, Utah, originally conveyed to the Mount Olivet Cemetery Association under the Act of January 23, 1909.

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-5817. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (21); Amdt. No. 3369" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5818. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, -900, and -900ER Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0430)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5819. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Model 747-200B Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2010-0381)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5820. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440 Airplanes)" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2009-0525)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2010; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.