

our State. She lived a long and fruitful life; she will be missed by admirers around the world, but most of all by the Vermonters who knew and loved her.

TRIBUTE TO MIKLOS HARASZTI

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in my capacity as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I am pleased to commend Miklos Haraszti, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, for his years of dedicated service in the cause of advancing freedom of expression and media. An accomplished writer and journalist as well as a courageous human rights activist in his native Hungary for decades prior to the end of the Cold War, he was elected to parliament in the early 1990s. Since his appointment to his current position in 2004, Mr. Haraszti has been an outspoken champion for beleaguered journalists throughout the OSCE region.

Mr. Haraszti's periodic reports have proven invaluable in tracking trends regarding laws, policies and practices governing freedom of expression and media in the participating states. He has been vigilant in monitoring and reporting on issues arising from the adoption of "extremism" laws in a growing number of OSCE countries. The Representative on Freedom of the Media has likewise been a strong voice in calling for decriminalization of defamation and a critic of attempts by some regimes to restrict the Internet and new media technologies. Most importantly, he has responded to specific urgent situations and cases, including instances involving the harassment, physical attacks, and even murder of journalists. He has never shied away from naming names, he has never played favorites, and he has been a voice for those whom governments would like to silence.

Next month Mr. Haraszti will conclude his service as the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media. You can write a great mandate for a high-level official, but if you don't appoint the right person to the job, you won't get results. Mr. Haraszti has been the right person for the right job and we have been very fortunate that he has given 6 years to serve the greater good in the OSCE region.

The OSCE participating States will be hard pressed to find an individual to match his professionalism, passion, and integrity. I join my colleagues at the Helsinki Commission in expressing our deep appreciation to Miklos Haraszti, a tireless advocate for freedom of expression and media, for his service and we wish him the best in his future pursuits.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS STEWART AND PEGGY CLAYTON CHAPMAN

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Curtis Stewart and

Peggy Clayton Chapman as the 2009 Man and Woman of the Year, as named by the Dumas Chamber of Commerce.

I was pleased to be on-hand as Curtis and Peggy were recognized last month during the Annual Dumas Chamber of Commerce Banquet. I have felt a long kinship to Dumas, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made there.

Dumas is a community with a great spirit of volunteerism and caring. Mr. President, we should all embrace the spirit of service and volunteerism on display by these deserving individuals. I send my heartfelt congratulations to both Curtis and Peggy.●

TRIBUTE TO THE JASON SMITH FAMILY

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Jason Smith family for being named the Desha County Farm Family of the Year for 2009.

I have felt a long kinship with Desha County, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made there.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly \$15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

Our farm families are critical to our Nation's economic stability. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families such as the Smith family are able to maintain their livelihoods and continue to help provide the safe, abundant, and affordable food supply that feeds our own country and the world and that is essential to our own economic stability.

I salute the Smiths and all Arkansas farm families for their hard work and dedication.●

RECOGNIZING MONTICELLO'S EDUCATORS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize Monticello's Educators of the Year: Dr. Juan Serna, assistant professor of physics at the University of Arkansas at Monticello; Cindy Flemister, a second grade teacher at Drew Central Elementary School; and Wanda Jackson, a third grade teacher at Monticello Elementary School.

These educators represent the best of our Arkansas educational system, and I am pleased to see them receive these recognitions.

The University of Arkansas at Monticello selected Dr. Juan Serna, an assistant professor of physics, as its educator teacher of the year. Serna, who is responsible for the pre-engineering program at UAM, completed his Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas in 2005. His research interests are in mathematical physics and quantum optics.

The Drew Central Educator of the Year is Cindy Flemister, a second grade teacher at Drew Central Elementary School. According to her coworkers, Cindy was chosen for her "extraordinary kindness, open-mindedness, tolerance, and patience as she works with students or visits with parents."

The Monticello School District's Educator of the Year is Wanda Jackson, a third grade teacher at Monticello Elementary School. According to her fellow teachers, Wanda believes that all students are capable of learning and achieving. They say her dedication to student success is evident from the moment you enter her classroom, where she provides lessons and activities tailored to meet the specific needs of her students.

As a mother of twin boys and as an aunt with many nieces and nephews, I know firsthand that no child is alike. They each have unique personality traits and different abilities. They also have their own learning habits and interests. I have heard from many Arkansas teachers, administrators, parents, and students who have expressed the same view.

There is no issue more intricately connected to the future prosperity of our Nation than the quality of our schools. I am proud to see our Arkansas educators, especially those in Monticello, offer every child the chance to achieve his or her full potential.●

RECOGNIZING HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the town of Hot Springs in my home State of Arkansas. Hot Springs was recently voted the "Best Attraction in Arkansas" by the readers of Southern Living magazine, one of the largest lifestyle magazines in the country.

I have always felt a close connection to the community of Hot Springs. I have many fond memories of the trips to Hot Springs that my parents took me and my siblings on when we were young. Exploring the downtown shops, restaurants, and National Park bathhouses was always exciting. We also spent untold hours on the area lakes boating, swimming, and fishing. I am pleased that I am able to continue experiencing those wonderful memories with my own children, who I know will someday look back on their childhood days spent in Hot Springs, as I have, as some of the most happy times of their lives.

In 1832, Congress set aside the natural hot springs site as a Federal reservation, making Hot Springs National Park America's "first resort." Hot Springs provides opportunities for camping, fishing, hiking, and boating on its lakes and in its forests. Hot Springs is also known for its vibrant arts community, with a variety of art galleries and antique shops, along with the nationally recognized Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival and Hot

Spring Music Festival. Hot Springs is also home to Oaklawn Park, which offers thoroughbred racing each, spring and simulcast racing throughout the year.

I salute the residents of Hot Springs for their efforts to maintain the heritage, beauty, and history of their community. I join all Arkansans to express my pride in this jewel of Arkansas.●

RECOGNIZING MAINE MANUFACTURING LLC

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, manufacturers across the country have been hit hard in this current downturn. In fact, the manufacturing sector has lost 2.1 million jobs since the beginning of the recession in December 2007—roughly 15 percent of its total employment. That is why it is heartening to see that a small manufacturing company in my home State of Maine is hiring new employees and seeking to grow its product line. Today I recognize this firm, Maine Manufacturing LLC in Sanford, for the tremendous work it is doing to hasten an economic recovery in the region by putting people back to work.

Maine Manufacturing, which specializes in the production of several disposable laboratory supplies like filters and centrifuge tubes frequently used in research and university labs as well as pharmaceutical and biotech companies, was founded in 2008 by Craig Cunningham, who formerly served as the director of engineering for Whatman Inc.'s Sanford plant. Whatman, a British laboratory equipment maker that is now part of GE Healthcare, announced in September 2008 that it would be shutting its Sanford plant over the course of the next year, leaving over 200 employees without work. Seeking to mitigate the negative effects in the local community, Mr. Cunningham and his colleague, William Emhiser, requested that GE Healthcare operate the plant until early 2010 and keep roughly 70 employees until that time, allowing Maine Manufacturing to fully take over the facility. GE Healthcare agreed, and on January 4, 2010 Maine Manufacturing took over six product lines from the company.

Mr. Cunningham's company started very small, with three full-time employees and four part-time workers just a year ago. To grow his business, Mr. Cunningham applied for and received a \$100,000 community development block grant, which provided working capital to the company and afforded his business the opportunity to purchase critical new equipment. The grant also allowed Maine Manufacturing to create 12 new jobs. To further increase its workforce, the company recently offered jobs to 66 employees who previously worked at GE Healthcare. While creating quality jobs for Mainers, Maine Manufacturing is simultaneously becoming a major supplier to GE Healthcare, producing filters and other parts the company uses

to manufacture larger products. Additionally, the company hopes to expand even more in the coming years to become a recognized leader in its industry.

Because the recession has hit small businesses the hardest, it is all the more impressive that Maine Manufacturing has made such tremendous strides in growing, expanding, and hiring over the past year. These firms employ just over half of all employees in the private sector, and Maine Manufacturing has provided them with a model for successful job growth in coming years, which will be essential to the revitalization of the American economy. I am grateful for the actions of Craig Cunningham and William Emhiser to create necessary jobs for Maine workers, and I look forward to hearing future good news about their impressive company.●

RECOGNIZING THE UNDERWATER OPERATIONS INDUSTRY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the underwater operations industry, especially the Marine Technology Society and the Association of Diving Contractors International.

The Marine Technology Society was founded in 1963. Throughout its 40-plus years of existence, it has stayed true to its guiding purpose: "to promote awareness, understanding, advancement and application of marine technology." Founded in 1968 the Association of Diving Contractors played an essential role in creating the first safety standards for commercial divers. The association today has member companies hailing from 41 different nations all pledging to abide by the ADCI Consensus Standards for Commercial Diving Operations.

The commercial underwater industry encompasses the support of deep sea divers, ROV operators, technical support, retail dealers, the shipping industry, the energy industry, universities, research facilities, equipment manufacturers, families, and a support system that extends to all avenues of the labor market. This diverse community and unique segment of industry work tirelessly toward maintaining and supporting safe underwater operations throughout the world. The commercial underwater industry affects the development of dams, bridges, oil platforms, pipelines, underwater, geological research, outer space, and even the entertainment industry.

The industry is especially vital to Louisiana. From our seafood industry to one of the Nation's largest provider of offshore energy, our waterways and shorelines are of great importance to our economy. Underwater operations allow these industries to run smoothly.

Underwater operations conducted from the deepest seas to inland waterways throughout the world are a vital component in ongoing industrial development globally. It is important that

Federal and State government and citizens worldwide recognize the value of the underwater operations industry to the continued progress of humanity.

Thus, today, I am proud to applaud such an important industry, and thank them for their contributions to the State of Louisiana, our Nation, and the rest of the world.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.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, in which it requests a concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2843. An act to provide for the joint appointment of the Architect of the Capitol by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives and Senate, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4495. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the "Jim Kolbe Post Office".

At 4:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 45) increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 5:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 730. An act to strengthen efforts in the Department of Homeland Security to develop nuclear forensics capabilities to permit attribution of the source of nuclear material, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 45. Joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.