

we remember and reflect on the history and contributions African Americans have made.

Our American identity is tied to the music of outstanding artists like Sarah Vaughan and Duke Ellington, the literary work of authors like Maya Angelou and Langston Hughes, the groundbreaking accomplishments of athletes like Jackie Robinson and Jackie Joyner-Kersey, and the discoveries and inspiration of scientists like Benjamin Banneker and Mae Jemison. Thanks to the inventions of African Americans, we now ride on elevators, preserve food in refrigerators and travel safely on the road with traffic lights.

The contributions of these and millions more Black Americans are part of the very fabric of our Nation.

It is in the spirit of these brave citizens, and in recognition that their remarkable accomplishments are that much more remarkable for having overcome a history of racial discrimination, that we must continue to forge ahead on the path of justice and equality. We have come a long way in Oregon and in America—but there is far more to be done.

As the Urban League of Portland recently pointed out in their commissioned “State of Black Oregon” report: 30 percent of Black Oregonians are living in poverty—5 percent higher than the national average; only 34 percent of Black Oregonians own their own homes—12 percent lower than the national average; and the unemployment rate of Black Oregonians is nearly double the State unemployment rate.

These statistics are troubling and are another reminder that we must do much more to ensure that every citizen has the opportunity to lead a thriving, productive life free of institutional barriers and policies that prevent success. We must continue to remember the struggle so many have endured to push equity, fairness and justice forward. And we must ensure that our education system is the best in the world, and that our families have access to workforce and training opportunities that lead to living-wage jobs.

Today, we honor the brave citizens who have made my State, our country and our world better. Today, we celebrate and reflect—but tomorrow, we must get back to work to truly reach equity.

RECOGNIZING U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND TEAM IN HAITI

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my gratitude to GEN Douglas M. Fraser, Commander, and the men and women serving within the U.S. Southern Command, SOUTHCOM, for what was a true act of heroism. Certainly, all the members of America’s great military exemplify a “can do” spirit and selfless service to our Nation each and every day. And, as we all know full well, our military has ever-changing missions; yet the men and women of our armed serv-

ices demonstrate time and again their ability to adapt and perform, as is the case with America’s most recent humanitarian mission in Haiti.

Recently, staff from Creighton University in my home State of Nebraska sought emergency assistance for some critical patients in Jimani, Haiti. The Creighton medical team on the ground there needed a rapid response for these Haitian patients, but they were unable to connect with any support agencies in the region to get the immediate attention this situation required.

The team at SOUTHCOM quickly saved the day, airlifting these critically injured patients from Jimani to Milot, Haiti, where they could be properly treated. The entire American and international teams in Haiti have saved an untold and incalculable number of lives since the devastating earthquake, but I would be remiss if I did not highlight the incredible effort by the men and women of SOUTHCOM. The servicemembers under General Fraser’s command managed to evacuate 37 patients and their families over the course of January 31 and February 1, 2010; and these individuals will be forever grateful to the men and women of America’s military for saving their lives.

All Americans should recognize this valiant effort by the members of SOUTHCOM. General Fraser showed great leadership in overseeing this mission, and the courageous service of the men and women at SOUTHCOM has the gratitude of not only the medical team and others from Creighton University, but the people of Haiti as well. You are all a credit to our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING CHICK-FIL-A

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate a great Georgia company, Chick-fil-A, Inc., and a great Georgian, its founder S. Truett Cathy.

Last May, at age 88, Truett Cathy, founder and active CEO of Chick-fil-A, celebrated 63 years in the restaurant business. In 1946, he opened his first restaurant, The Dwarf Grill, in Hapeville, GA. In December, Chick-fil-A, which Mr. Cathy founded in 1967, reached the \$3 billion mark in system-wide sales and posted its 42nd-consecutive annual sales increase since the company’s inception.

While our economy was facing difficult times, the Cathy family and president and COO, Dan T. Cathy, was prepared and committed to carrying on a family tradition. The Chick-fil-A model of slow and steady growth that has proven so successful in the past has paid off during these tough economic times.

The chain maintained its pace for new restaurant openings by opening 83 new restaurants across the country in 2009, creating approximately 4,200 new

jobs. In addition, Chick-fil-A continued its reinvestment in its existing restaurant infrastructure by remodeling or expanding 60 restaurants across the chain. Despite the uncertain economy, Chick-fil-A continues to be on track to honor the commitment Truett Cathy and his family made at the end of 2006 to eliminate all company debt by 2012.

I am also proud to say that this Georgia-based company also continues its strong commitment to education. In August 2009, Truett Cathy awarded the 25,000th Chick-fil-A Leadership Scholarship since creating the program in 1973. To date, the leadership scholarship program has awarded more than \$25 million in financial assistance to more than 25,000 Chick-fil-A restaurant team members who have attended 2,300-plus educational institutions throughout the country. In 2009 alone, Chick-fil-A awarded \$1.4 million in scholarships to 1,425 Chick-fil-A team members across the country.

Congratulations, Chick-fil-A, and best wishes to Truett Cathy and the entire Cathy family for their ongoing success in Georgia and throughout the country.●

RECOGNIZING CHAPEL HILL FLORAL

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, this Sunday, we celebrate Valentine’s Day, when couples across the world take a moment to slow down and show each other their appreciation and love. Along with “Be My Valentine” cards and boxes of chocolate, one of the symbols most connected with this special day is a beautiful bouquet of red roses. With that in mind, I wish to recognize a small florist in my home State of Maine that continually provides customers with quality flowers and gifts—and at this time of year, makes Valentine’s Day a sweet event.

Chapel Hill Floral, a small flower shop in Bangor, opened its doors on the corner of West Broadway and Hammond Street in October of 2000. The full service florist sells a wide variety of floral arrangements for all occasions, from weddings to birthdays to everyday moments. Additionally, Chapel Hill stocks a number of plants, as well as baskets and hangers for them. The store also sells a vast array of gifts to complement any floral selection, including Boyd’s bears, local wines from nearby Winterport Winery, and delicious staples from Maine-based Stonewall Kitchen.

A name synonymous with quality in the Bangor region, Chapel Hill has three Maine master floral designers on staff. This designation was established in 2003 for those passing a wide-ranging course in floral mechanics and techniques offered by the Maine State Florists’ and Growers’ Association. Indeed, Chapel Hill’s dedication to excellence and its employees’ sense of pride in their work has led to a truly satisfied clientele.

Additionally, to build a bond with the local community, Chapel Hill Floral offers a series of timely and entertaining classes on how to design beautiful floral arrangements. Most recently, in preparation for Valentine's Day, Chapel Hill offered the "Prelude to a Kiss" class, where students turned a half-dozen red roses into a beautiful display with several accoutrements, such as babies' breath and Calyx leaves. Other classes in the near future include the hopeful and aptly named "Tropical Getaway" and "Spring in a Basket." Additionally, for anyone who places an order prior to Valentine's Day, their name will be automatically placed in a drawing for an overnight weekend stay at the Lucerne Inn, one of Maine's most quaint and historic hotels. The package includes dinner for two, Sunday brunch, and a dozen beautiful red roses, making it the perfect romantic getaway!

Finally, Chapel Hill's superb work has been recognized by Market Surveys of America as the "Best Flower Shop" in the Greater Bangor area 3 years in a row, from 2007 to 2009. Additionally, Mark Pellon, who is one of Chapel Hill's Maine master floral designers was named the Maine State Florists' and Growers' Association's Designer of the Year for 2008, a distinct and well-deserved honor.

Clearly, Chapel Hill Floral has made a lasting impression on its customers in the Bangor area, and the company's unique marketing efforts are truly noteworthy. My sincerest thanks to owners Barbara and Rick Frye and everyone at Chapel Hill Floral for all of their excellent work, and my best wishes for a pleasant Valentine's season and a successful year. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:03 a.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4061. An act to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical standards, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4532. An act to provide for permanent extension of the attorney fee withholding procedures under title II of the Social Security Act to title XVI of such act, and to provide for permanent extension of such procedures under titles II and XVI of such Act to qualified non-attorney representatives.

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

H. Con. Res. 235. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses.

The message further announced that the House passed the act (S. 2950) to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks, without amendment.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4061. An act to advance cybersecurity research, development, and technical stand-

ards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3006. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow multi-employer plans to amortize losses from certain fraudulent investment schemes over a 40-year period; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. Res. 411. A resolution recognizing the importance and sustainability of the United States hardwoods industry and urging that United States hardwoods and the products derived from United States hardwoods be given full consideration in any program to promote construction of environmentally preferable commercial, public, or private buildings; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. Res. 412. A resolution designating September 2010 as "National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOPE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 413. A resolution relative to the death of Representative John P. Murtha, of Pennsylvania; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. Res. 414. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the recovery, rehabili-

tation, and rebuilding of Haiti following the humanitarian crisis caused by the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 148

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to restore the rule that agreements between manufacturers and retailers, distributors, or wholesalers to set the minimum price below which the manufacturer's product or service cannot be sold violates the Sherman Act.

S. 210

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 210, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the credit for employers establishing workplace child care facilities, to increase the child care credit to encourage greater use of quality child care services, to provide incentives for students to earn child care—related degrees and to work in child care facilities, and to increase the exclusion for employer—provided dependent care assistance.

S. 332

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to establish a comprehensive interagency response to reduce lung cancer mortality in a timely manner.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand tax-free distributions from individual retirement accounts for charitable purposes.

S. 1400

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the depreciation classification of motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 1500

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit schools that participate in the Federal school meal programs from serving foods that contain trans fats derived from partially hydrogenated oils.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1606, a bill to require foreign manufacturers of products imported into the United States