

the Upper Ohio Valley. Colonel Crall's performance of duty reflects great credit upon himself, the Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Army. We honor his service and wish him well in his future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING BENJAMIN GORDON POWELL, JR.

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I come to the Senate floor today to reflect upon the passing of Benny Powell, Jr., an esteemed jazz trombonist from Louisiana. Louisiana and the Nation lost a musical icon on June 26 when Benny passed away, but he lives on in our memories and in the music that he created.

Born March 1, 1930, in New Orleans, LA, Benjamin Gordon Powell, Jr. first set his sights on the parade drum. At the time, his mother was working as a maid in the French Quarter and she played the piano. Thankfully, his mother quickly realized his enthusiasm for music and encouraged Benny to play the trombone. By the time he was 14, Benny had landed his first professional band gig. He was tremendously musically gifted, even from such a young age.

Benny has said of the trombone that he loved most how expressive the instrument was. In an interview with the *Times-Picayune* in 2001, he was quoted as saying that, "It's like a voice. It can go from a whisper to a roar."

Benny has performed from coast to coast with a variety of musical figures. In 1961, he played at President Kennedy's inauguration. He has recorded or performed with Frank Sinatra, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Lionel Hampton, pianist Randy Weston, in Broadway pit bands, and for many years in the house band on "The Merv Griffin Show." However, he is probably best known for playing with Count Basie from the early 1950s through the early 1960s. Since 1944, he taught at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, passing along his gift to aspiring young musicians. I know younger generations were encouraged and inspired by his talents, strength and wisdom.

There is a deep rooted musical tradition in New Orleans that Benny's music exemplified by his clear passion and rich sound. We will miss his inspiring gift. As we reflect on his life and his contributions, our prayers are with his daughter, Demitra Powell Clay, his sister, Elizabeth Powell McCrowey, and his grandchildren, Faith and Kyle Swetnam. May we all find some solace in the part of Benny that continues to live on in his music.●

RECOGNIZING GIRLS INC.

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Girls Inc. of Fort Smith, first place winners in the National Park Foundation's inaugural First Bloom program, in which fourth to

sixth graders plan and grow native plants that help educate visitors in national parks across the U.S.

For more than a year, Girls Inc. has tended the "officers' garden" at the Fort Smith Historic Site, a part of the National Park Service. To blend in with the history and heritage of the site, the girls wear 1860s attire, complete with a dress, apron, and bonnet. The girls cultivate, plant, water and grow the garden in the way women and girls of that era would have, using plants and seeds that were available in the Civil War-era in Fort Smith. Because of the girls' dedicated efforts, the garden has expanded to twice its original size.

The officers' garden at the Fort Smith site was started 2½ years ago by park interpreter Keri Powers, who would explain to visitors the significance of having a garden for officers' wives, which not only provided food and medicine, but also was a social space for family and friends to gather.

Girls Inc. competed against students with projects in some of our Nation's most best-known national parks, such as Bryce Canyon in Utah and Glacier Bay in Alaska. Their hard work and perseverance paid off, and I know all Arkansans share my pride in their accomplishments.

As a part of their first place prize, the girls received an all-expenses paid trip to Washington. I was honored to meet with these young girls today, to hear more about their project and their experiences. While in Washington, the girls plan to meet with other members of Arkansas's congressional delegation, tour the National Mall, and visit the White House.

Girls Inc. of Fort Smith represents the best of Arkansas. Along with all Arkansans, I congratulate them for this tremendous achievement.●

RECOGNIZING HARVEST OF HOPE

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President this week "Harvest of Hope," a community organization in my home State of Arkansas, will send 40,000 pounds of rice to the Arkansas Rice Depot, marking a milestone in their donation efforts. The contribution will contain the millionth pound of rice the group has donated, which equals thousands of Arkansans who have received the vital sustenance and nutrition they need.

Harvest of Hope is comprised of community leaders from DeWitt, Batesville, and Malvern who cook and sell smoked meats and use the proceeds to buy rice for the Arkansas Rice Depot. Times are tough for many Arkansans, and I commend these communities for their dedication to helping those in need.

Each community hosts a "Harvest of Hope" event annually. DeWitt's Harvest of Hope occurred over the Fourth of July holiday. Batesville and Malvern will hold their Harvest of Hope events this Labor Day.

Hunger is an epidemic in Arkansas and across our Nation. In fact, Arkan-

sas has the highest incidence of childhood hunger in the country. In my role as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, I have fought to make strong improvements to our child nutrition programs that will put us on a path toward ending childhood hunger.

I commend the communities of DeWitt, Batesville, and Malvern for doing their part to help end hunger in our State. Along with my fellow Arkansans, I will continue my fight to ensure that Arkansans have access to the food and nutrition they need.●

CONGRATULATING MISS ARKANSAS PAGEANT CONTESTANTS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, this week a time-honored tradition takes place in my home State of Arkansas.

For more than five decades, young women from across the State have gathered each year in Hot Springs to compete in the Miss Arkansas Pageant, the preliminary to the Miss America Pageant. These women represent the best of our State, and I am proud to see them work toward their personal and professional goals as they compete in this event.

Since 1938, the Miss Arkansas Pageant has sent a representative to the Miss America Pageant. In the early days, the Miss Arkansas Pageant was held in various cities across the State, including in my hometown of Helena. In 1957, the pageant moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas's "Spa City," where it has taken place ever since.

This year, 44 contestants seek the title of Miss Arkansas, which will be determined Saturday evening. I wish them all the best as they strive to achieve their goals. I also congratulate Miss Arkansas 2009 Sarah Slocum for the work she has done over the past year representing our state and our Arkansas values. These young women speak well for the future of our state, and I am proud to call them fellow Arkansans.●

TRIBUTE TO JEFF THEERMAN

● Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, today I congratulate Mr. Jeff Theerman, executive director of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, MSD, on his election as the new president of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA.

Mr. Theerman is an accomplished leader and committed environmental steward. He has dedicated his career to the improvement of the environment and public health in Missouri, and throughout the Nation. Without a doubt, he is ideally suited for this national leadership position with NACWA.

Mr. Theerman has served Missouri through his work at MSD for over 25 years. In October of 2003 he was named MSD's executive director, willingly and ably accepting accountability for all aspects of the utility's operations.

As MSD's executive director, Mr. Theerman leads one of the Nation's largest wastewater and stormwater management utilities, providing services to approximately 1.4 million people in the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County. Under his leadership, the MSD currently operates seven wastewater treatment facilities, treating an average of 330 million gallons of water per day and maintaining 9,649 miles of sewers.

Since joining others in founding NACWA 40 years ago, the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District has benefitted from its active engagement with the organization. A member of NACWA's board of directors since 2004, Mr. Theerman has served as the organization's secretary, treasurer, and vice president. It is fitting that his election as president coincides with the 40th anniversary of NACWA's advocacy on behalf of the Nation's clean water agencies—and the environment we all value so much.

Mr. Theerman is a great example of accountable and responsible leadership in my State. Under his able leadership, NACWA looks forward to proactively and effectively addressing the complex 21st century water quality challenges we face as a Nation.

On behalf of myself and the people of Missouri, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate Jeff Theerman on his election as president of NACWA. I am certain his actions will ensure continued water quality progress for St. Louis, MO, and the Nation.●

RECOGNIZING MATHEWS BROTHERS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I recognize one of the oldest continually operating businesses in my home State of Maine that has been truly successful at adapting to the changing times. Mathews Brothers has been manufacturing high quality windows and doors in the coastal town of Belfast for over 156 years, showing that resilience, innovation, and hard work can overcome even the worst economic downturns in American history. Currently employing more than 120 individuals, Mathews Brothers provides a prime example of how small businesses can weather economic downturns to emerge stronger time after time.

Mathews Brothers was founded in 1854 as a sawmill and millworks company by brothers Noah Merrill Mathews and Spencer Walcott Mathews. Throughout the years, the firm has set out to add a variety of different products to its repertoire, from blinds and shutters, to coffins and spiral staircases. Today, the company uses state-of-the-art equipment and materials to produce traditional wood, vinyl and contemporary composite windows and doors out of its three manufacturing plants in Belfast, Rockland, and Bangor.

As continual innovators, Mathews Brothers launched Dream Kitchen Stu-

dio in 2008 as a separate division providing windows, doors, and kitchens to businesses, homeowners, and contractors throughout the Midcoast region of Maine. Indeed, the company has been breaking barriers and achieving a host of accomplishments from its inception, including being the largest woman-owned business in Maine at the start of the 20th century, as well as building the *Jennie Flood Kreger*, the largest and only 5-masted schooner ever built in Belfast.

In recent years, Mathews Brothers has sought to improve its business model by cutting costs while maintaining quality. Toward this end, they recently completed a two month train-the-trainer lean manufacturing initiative with the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership that instructed 116 employees and helped save the company at least \$75,000. In addition to this critical project, the company has sought to expand into overseas markets to sell its products, including participation in trade missions to Brazil, Korea, and Japan in the past several years.

Furthermore, Mathews Brothers maintains a strong commitment to our environment, as it recycles 100 percent of its scrap glass, vinyl, metal, paper, and cardboard from the manufacturing process. The company also uses a recycling glass washer, helping it save 67,000 gallons per month in water consumption. Leftover sawdust is sent to local farms for use as stall bedding, while scrap wood is sold off as kindling or firewood. The firm takes its role as steward of the land seriously through its membership in the Maine Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council and the Maine Forest Products Council.

Mathews Brothers has also shown a continued commitment to its local community and actively encourages their employees to engage in community service activities. This commitment originated over a century ago in 1904 with then-President Orlando Frost's commitment to help start up the Waldo County General Hospital. Their employees still volunteer in the oncology department and eagerly participate in the hospital's annual fall oncology walk. Mathews Brothers' commitment to community service was on display again in 2007 when the company raised over \$7,000 to purchase phone cards for soldiers from Maine deployed in Iraq.

Not surprisingly, Mathews Brothers has earned numerous awards for manufacturing and customer service excellence. The firm was recently awarded the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership's Manufacturing Excellence Award in June 2010. The award recognizes the company's success in achieving world-class manufacturing status and implementation of best manufacturing practices to stay ahead of the competition, all while maintaining a commitment to loyally serving its customers and assisting the community at large. The company has also

received the Governor's Award for Business Excellence in 1994, and was chosen as the Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce's Business of the Year in 2007, among other distinctions.

While rising to the top of its field over the past century and a half, Mathews Brothers has never forgotten the community that helped it get there. Its consistent and enthusiastic endeavors to serve the community and its customers have not gone unnoticed, and I praise them for their efforts to modernize in the face of globalization, a process which has not been kind to American manufacturers. I thank everyone at Mathews Brothers for their philanthropic efforts and tremendous perseverance, and offer my best wishes for another 150 years of success.●

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 withdrawal 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 10:03 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3923. An act to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3967. An act to amend the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2004 to authorize appropriations through fiscal year 2015.

H.R. 3989. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, in the State of Wyoming, as a unit of the National Park System.

H.R. 4438. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expand the boundary of the Park, to conduct a study of potential land acquisitions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4514. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Colonel Charles Young Home in Xenia, Ohio as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4686. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a unit of the National Park System.