

Congratulations again to teachers, parents, students and the principal at Bruce Randolph School. This is a great honor for all those involved in the turnaround effort and the continued success at Bruce Randolph School.●

WELLS WOOD TURNING & FINISHING, INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have the privilege of hearing countless small business success stories from hard-working entrepreneurs across the country. And these stories are all the more gratifying when they involve companies located in my home State of Maine. Today I recognize the extraordinary achievements of Wells Wood Turning & Finishing, Inc., a small firm which recently celebrated several major milestones in the company's history.

Wells Wood Turning, located in the western Maine town of Buckfield, specializes in turning, finishing, and manufacturing a variety of custom wood products. Wells fashions a number of traditional wooden handles, knobs, and table legs, in addition to all manner of custom craft turnings, like bird houses, salt and pepper shakers, and napkin rings. The company also produces wooden toy parts, and miniature and promotional baseball bats. Wells Wood Turning primarily uses white birch in the construction of its products, but also utilizes other species of wood, such as ash, maple, and hickory.

In December, Wells Wood Turning marked two significant milestones. First was the company's 25th anniversary, which is a major accomplishment in any industry, much less Maine's competitive wood products industry. And December 24 marked the company's 18th year without a lost time accident at its plant, a truly remarkable feat. These milestones are a testament to the company's skilled workforce and their diligent efforts to promote a strong and safe working environment. I congratulate Tom Wallace, the company's president, and everyone at Wells Wood Turning for their dedicated service and impeccable record of quality and safety over the past quarter century.

A member of the Maine Wood Products Association and the Wood Products Manufacturers Association, Wells Wood Turning & Finishing has proven itself to be an exemplary small business. With a commitment to serving the customer by providing striking wood products, designed to the customers' specifications and in a timely manner, Wells Wood Turning has earned a reputation for fine craftsmanship. I again thank Tom Wallace and everyone at Wells Wood Turning for their strong work ethic and extraordinary safety record, and wish them continued success.●

REMEMBERING GENERAL VANG PAO

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, today I commemorate the recent passing of an iconic figure from a bygone era—a man who, with the help of his loyal Hmong people, kept what some estimate to be as many as 70,000 North Vietnamese soldiers from deploying through Laos to kill Americans during the Vietnam war.

General Vang Pao, the military leader of the mountain-dwelling Laotian Hmong during this era, was already at war with Pathet-Lao communist forces in Laos when the United States began working with him. The goal of the U.S. in Laos at the time was to prevent North Vietnamese from using Laos as a supply line for their attacks on South Vietnam along what was known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Unfortunately for the Hmong, who lived in the mountainous jungles between Laos and North Vietnam, their homes were located along this trail.

Vang Pao told the New York Times in 2008 that "There were three missions that were very important that were given to us and to me . . . One was stopping the flow of the North Vietnamese troops through the Ho Chi Minh Trail to go to the south through Laos. Second was to rescue any American pilots during the Vietnam War. Third, to protect the Americans that navigated the B-52s and the jets to bomb North Vietnam."

Bill Lair, Vang Pao's contact with the CIA, recounted Vang Pao saying, "You give us the weapons, and we'll fight the communists." And so began a covert war in Laos in which thousands of Vang Pao's Hmong soldiers gave their lives, always persevering despite very heavy casualties.

To his mountain people and even to some of his CIA contacts, Vang Pao had a larger-than-life status. He shared meager food rations with his troops, commanded from the field instead of his headquarters, and led troops on the frontlines of battles, where he suffered bullet wounds to his arm and chest.

Vang Pao was known to have stated, "If we die, we die together. Nobody will be left behind." These words proved tragic as the Vietnam war came to an end. U.S. forces evacuated Vang Pao and his leadership but were unable to mount an evacuation of the majority of his people. Vang Pao and his top associates were forced to leave Laos as over 20,000 of their compatriots stood on an airstrip in the mountains, waiting to be evacuated by their U.S. supporters as the enemy quickly approached. The evacuation never occurred. Thousands were left behind and killed as communist forces completed their invasion.

Today, many Hmong reside in poverty-stricken resettlement villages in Laos. A few thousand still remain in the mountains, where there are allegations that they have been persecuted in recent years. And many have resettled in the United States. Minnesota, Cali-

fornia, Wisconsin, and Rhode Island are proud to have Hmong call our States their home.

In 1997, the Clinton administration authorized a plaque to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery stating that the valor of General Vang Pao's troops would never be forgotten. As my colleague from Minnesota told Minnesota's Star Tribune, there would be a few thousand more names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial were it not for the efforts of the Hmong. Today, we in the Senate and thousands of Hmong throughout the world remember the bravery and dedication Vang Pao and his troops exercised while fighting to uphold democracy and protect the lives of so many young Americans at War in Southeast Asia.●

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 and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13396 ON FEBRUARY 7, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE—PM 3

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire is to continue in effect beyond February 7, 2011.

The situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire, which has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council

in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, and subsequent resolutions, has resulted in the massacre of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and fatal attacks against international peacekeeping forces. In March 2007, the Ouagadougou Political Agreement was signed by the two primary protagonists in Côte d'Ivoire's conflict. As demonstrated by recent events surrounding the presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire, the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 26, 2011.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, announced that pursuant to section 114(b) of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1103), the Democratic leader appoints the following Member to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term of 6 years: TERRI A. SEWELL of Alabama.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 162. A bill to cut \$500,000,000,000 in spending in fiscal year 2011.

S. 163. A bill to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

H.R. 2. An act to repeal the job-killing health care law and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 25, 2011

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2. An act to repeal the job-killing health care law and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

S. 162. A bill to cut \$500,000,000,000 in spending in fiscal year 2011.

S. 163. A bill to require that the Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 192. A bill to repeal the job-killing health care law and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

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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-123. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-625 "Department of Health Functions Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-124. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-626 "Performance Parking Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-125. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-627 "Extension of Time Temporary Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-126. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-628 "Fiscal Year 2011 Income Tax Secured Revenue Refunding Bond Issuance Temporary Approval Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-127. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-629 "Fiscal Year 2011 Income Tax Secured Revenue Bond and General Obligation Bond Issuance Temporary Approval Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-128. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-630 "Veterans License Plates Authorization Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-129. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-631 "Artist Protection Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-130. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-632 "Samuel J. Simmons NCBA Estates No. 1 Limited Partnership Real Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-131. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-634 "District of Columbia Uniform Law Commission Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-132. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-635 "Saving D.C. Homes from Foreclosure Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-133. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Colum-

bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-636 "Alternative Money Lending and Services Reform Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-134. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-637 "Computation of Gross Income Clarification Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-135. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-638 "Annual Financial Reporting Modernization Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-136. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-639 "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 0441, S.O. 09-8516, Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-137. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-640 "Settlement Payment Integrity Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-138. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-641 "14W and Anthony Bowen YMCA Project Tax Abatement Implementation Clarification Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-139. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-642 "Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-140. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-643 "Capital Access Program Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-141. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-644 "Closing of G Street, S.E., adjacent to Square 1104, S.O. 06-5665, Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-142. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-645 "Processing Sales Tax Clarification Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-143. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-646 "Reverend Donald Robinson Field Designation Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-144. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-647 "District of Columbia Good Time Credits Amendment Act of 2010"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-145. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 18-648 "Miss B's Center, the Bernice Elizabeth Fonteneau Building Designation Act of 2010"; to the Committee on