

Sadly, in 2007 Gerry was a victim of a home invasion as he was getting ready for work one morning. He suffered a near fatal assault and the mailman found him 3 hours later on his neighbor's steps where he had gone for help.

Gerry spent 5 weeks in the hospital relearning basic skills, not certain he would ever walk again. While in the hospital, he met Special Olympics founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver. He describes her as "marvelous" during his time of need.

With an abundance of emotional and medical support, Gerry was able to overcome this significant challenge and return to Capitol Hill as an elevator operator. I know I am not alone when I say that this is one of the best hires to date. Gerry's welcoming demeanor and caring and protective character have been appreciated by all Senators. He will certainly be missed.

Gerry's story is one of strength and determination. While his positions on Capitol Hill may have varied, he always strives to be the best at what he does and never lets circumstances bring him down. Having woven his way into all of our hearts, Gerry is an integral piece of the social fabric of Capitol Hill. We will remember him always.

I wish Gerry Counihan nothing but the best as he moves on to his next endeavor at the Department of Health and Human Services. I hope that he knows he is an inspiration to many and will forever be a part of the Senate community and the Senate family.

TRIBUTE TO CATHRYN HILKER

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about Cathryn Hilker on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Cathryn is a resident of Cincinnati, OH, who has done incredible work over the last 30 years to help save the world's cheetah population. On Monday, June 20, 2011, the Cincinnati Zoo will be celebrating her 80th birthday and honoring her commitments to cheetah conservation.

Cathryn's work with cheetahs began in 1980, when she brought home a young cheetah cub named Angel. Over the next 12 years, Cathryn and Angel toured the country, giving live presentations to more than 1 million people and appearing on hundreds of television news programs all around the world. Through the Cincinnati Zoo's Cat Ambassador Program, which Cathryn Hilker founded, she and her team of trainers continue to take cheetahs and other endangered cats to schools to teach students about how we can help protect endangered species. Today, because of Cathryn Hilker's commitment and the support of her Angel Fund foundation, the African cheetah has a future in the wild.

Mr. President, for her commitment to cheetah conservation and her numerous contributions to the Cincinnati Zoo and the community of Cincinnati, I would like to thank Cathryn Hilker and wish her a happy 80th birthday.

RECOGNIZING TREMCO INCORPORATED

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Tremco, Inc., for its energy efficiency efforts. Tremco, located on Green Road in Beachwood, OH, recently completed a multimillion-dollar renovation of their 40-year-old headquarters to transform it into an energy-efficient example for sustainable design. The unveiling and dedication of the facility, which will be attended by our Governor, Members of Congress, and local officials, will take place tomorrow.

The renovation will allow Tremco to lower its carbon footprint, reduce gas usage by 84 percent, reduce electric usage by 43 percent, save hundreds of thousands of gallons of potable water, and reduce materials sent to landfills by 90 percent. In addition, they are hoping to receive the prestigious U.S. Green Building Council's LEED-Gold certification for their energy-efficient improvements.

In today's world of rising energy prices and instability in the Middle East, I would like to commend the management and employees of Tremco, Inc., for their leadership in sustainability and congratulate them as they celebrate their newly renovated headquarters in a "Building Green on Green" dedication that will take place on Friday, June 17, 2011.

REMEMBERING KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Kathryn Tucker Windham, who passed away in her home on Sunday, June 12, 2011, at the age of 93. Kathryn was a renowned storyteller for whom I had deep respect. She enjoyed an accomplished career as an author, playwright, photographer and journalist. Kathryn also demonstrated a fierce dedication to her community. I mourn her passing.

Born on June 2, 1918, Kathryn spent the majority of her childhood in Thomasville, AL, where she also began her career in writing and photography. She graduated from Huntingdon College in Montgomery and remained supportive of her alma mater for the duration of her long and successful career.

Kathryn's trailblazing accomplishments include publishing many well-loved ghost stories and autobiographical memories as well as three cookbooks. She was also recognized as the first woman journalist in the South to cover a police beat at a major daily newspaper, and she had stints at the Alabama Journal, the Birmingham News, the Selma Times-Journal, the Area Agency on Aging and WUAL radio. Kathryn also wrote several plays, including a one-woman show that she, herself, performed. She was also a contributor to NPR's "All Things Considered" and a regular at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Always giv-

ing back to her community, Kathryn founded the Alabama Tale-Tellin' Festival, which takes place each year in Selma.

Kathryn's achievements garnered recognition, both in the State of Alabama and nationally. She received the Alabama Humanities Foundation's Alabama Humanities Award, the University of Alabama's Society of Fine Arts' Alabama Arts Award, the National Storytelling Association's Circle of Excellence Award and Lifetime Achievement Award as well as numerous other distinguished awards and honors throughout her lifetime. Additionally, the Alabama Southern Community College in Thomasville opened the Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum in her honor.

I am honored to have known Kathryn and to have enjoyed her great works of literature and journalism. She was truly an inspiration to her community, the literary world, and the nation. Her legacy will forever be preserved through her timeless stories. My thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family, especially her children, Dilcy Hilley and Ben Windham, as they mourn the loss of this gracious and wonderful woman.

Kathryn cleared a path for women writers and journalists to follow after her and should be revered for her bravery, stamina and grace. Her life's contributions to the State of Alabama will forever be remembered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL LECLERC

• Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today I honor Dr. Paul LeClerc, president and chief executive officer of the New York Public Library, NYPL, on the occasion of his retirement. On June 30 of this year, Dr. LeClerc will leave his post at the NYPL, having served as its leader since December 1, 1993. Dr. LeClerc is a true scholar and leader and the New York Public Library and the city of New York will deeply miss his leadership at this iconic institution.

The New York Public Library is one of the preeminent libraries in the world and under Dr. LeClerc's leadership it has implemented a series of initiatives that have made it a world leader in the field of information collecting and distribution. Just to name a few, these achievements include strategic alliances with the most important collections in Western Europe, South America and Russia; creating for the public's use one of the most advanced IT systems in any library; and creating a new Center for Scholars and Writers at the historic Stephen A. Schwarzman Building at Fifth Avenue.

In addition to being at the forefront of research, the New York Public Library's over 90 locations bring services to every neighborhood of the Bronx, Staten Island, and Manhattan. Last year alone, 15.4 million New Yorkers

visited these neighborhood branch libraries looking for services that they can't receive anywhere else; 2.4 million individuals visited the NYPL's four research libraries, accessing many of the collections and programs I have already described; and 25.4 million people from around the world visit the Library's Web site and online collections each year. Dr. LeClerc has overseen all of these magnificent resources and we are so thankful to him for his passion and dedication.

As Dr. LeClerc retires from the library, leaving his mark on its past and future, I would like to ask my colleagues to join with me today in honoring him for his over 17 years of dedication to the New York Public Library, the city of New York, and pursuers of knowledge worldwide.●

BOWDLE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Bowdle, SD. The town of Bowdle will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Bowdle was founded in 1886 and experienced rapid growth as the rail line running through the town continued to expand westward. Located in Edmunds County, it has now become an agricultural center in the region. It also has a strong local business community and excellent healthcare and educational facilities.

Bowdle has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Bowdle on this landmark occasion and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

BRYANT, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Bryant, SD. The town of Bryant will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year. Bryant was named after an official of the railroad, as the town came into being when the railroad came through the southwest corner of Hamlin County. Bryant is also home to the Kant Hotel which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Bryant has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Bryant on this important occasion and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

CONDE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Conde, SD. The town of Conde will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Located in Spink County, Conde was founded in 1886 when W.W. Rounds,

Conde's first settler, sold his farm to the Western Town Lot Company. The town was named by the French-born wife of a local railroad executive, who chose to name the town after the fortress of Conde in France.

Today Conde is known for its excellent pheasant and deer hunting, and friendly atmosphere. Conde has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Conde on this landmark occasion and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

HECLA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Hecla, SD. The town of Hecla will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Located in Brown County, Hecla was founded in 1886 and was named after a volcano in Iceland. Today Hecla is known for its excellent hunting, abundant bird watching opportunities, and friendly atmosphere.

Hecla has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Hecla on this landmark occasion and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

LANGFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Langford, SD. The town of Langford will celebrate its 125th anniversary this year.

Langford was founded in 1886 and named after Sam Langford, the owner of the land where the town was built. Located in Marshall County, it is known for its talented high school band and community pride in their high school athletes.

Langford has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Langford on this landmark date and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams 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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:36 p.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. 1934. An act to improve certain administrative operations of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2112. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following joint resolutions, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Shirley Ann Jackson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 9. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Robert P. Kogod as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1934. An act to improve certain administrative operations of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

H.R. 2112. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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-2144. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-946-2 IR; FV11-946-2 IR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2145. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Blueberry Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Section 610 Review" (Docket No. AMS-FV-10-0006) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 10, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.