

deep appreciation for his brave service and sacrifice.

Arick is survived by his fiancée, Stefani Greco; his parents, Richard and Jennifer; and his two brothers, Tanner and Wyatt, all of Litchfield, NH. He also leaves behind a caring extended family. This young hero will be missed by all.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to please join me in honoring the bright life and brave service of PFC Arick Tarr.

INTENT TO OBJECT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Norm Eisen to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic at the Department of State for the following reasons.

I object to the proceeding to the nomination because of Mr. Eisen's role in the firing of the inspector general of the Corporation for National and Community Service, CNCS, and his lack of candor about that matter when questioned by congressional investigators. The details of Mr. Eisen's role in the firing and his misrepresentations about that matter are detailed in the Joint Minority Staff Report of the House Committee on Government Reform and the Senate Finance Committee, dated November 20, 2009. I would also ask unanimous consent that a letter of January 12, 2011, sent by myself and Congressman ISSA to Mr. Bauer, then counsel to the President, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2011.

Hon. ROBERT F. BAUER,
Counsel to the President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BAUER: We write to express our objection to the President's use of a recess appointment to install Norman L. Eisen as U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. As you know, we objected to Mr. Eisen's nomination on the grounds that he attempted to constructively remove the Inspector General (IG) of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) without the prior notice required by law and that he misled Congressional investigators.

It is our concern that the President's decision to force through such a nominee without the advice and consent of the Senate signals a departure from his recent pledge to work cooperatively with Congress.

The President announced Mr. Eisen's nomination on June 28, 2010. On September 27, 2010, Senator Grassley provided public notice of his intention to object to the nomination. Senator Grassley referred to "Mr. Eisen's role in the firing of the Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service and his lack of candor about that matter when questioned by Congressional investigators."

During that investigation, a bicameral group of investigators learned Mr. Eisen personally delivered an ultimatum to former CNCS IG Gerald Walpin demanding that he resign or be terminated within one hour. At the time he delivered the ultimatum, no notice had been provided to Congress as is leg-

ally required by the Inspector General Reform Act (IG Act). As you know, the IG Act requires the President to communicate in writing the reasons for removal of an IG to Congress not later than 30 days prior to taking action.

During an interview on June 17, 2009, Mr. Eisen refused to answer at least 12 direct questions. He did, however, assert on that date that the CNCS Board of Directors unanimously supported the removal of IG Walpin. He also asserted that the White House conducted "an extensive review" in response to concerns raised by the Board about IG Walpin's fitness following a May 20, 2009 CNCS Board meeting. According to Mr. Eisen, his "extensive review" substantiated the Board's concerns and informed the decision to remove IG Walpin.

Our investigation found that, contrary to Mr. Eisen's assertions, the Board had not unanimously expressed a desire to have Mr. Walpin removed prior to the decision. Moreover, we could find no evidence that Mr. Eisen's "extensive review" consisted of anything more than simply asking the CNCS General Counsel to document the Chairman of the Board's concerns about Mr. Walpin. Mr. Eisen did not interview the CNCS Directors. He did not provide Mr. Walpin or anyone else in the Office of Inspector General an opportunity to be heard. He took action based on incomplete information provided only by individuals who had adversarial relationships with the IG.

Mr. Eisen has had several opportunities to address our concerns and has yet to do so. He failed to be forthcoming and responsive during his initial meeting with our staff on June 17, 2009. He again demonstrated a lack of candor in response to Questions for the Record following his nomination hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 22, 2010.

In the interest of allowing Mr. Eisen to address our concerns, we scheduled a meeting with our staff for December 16, 2010 at 11:30 A.M. At approximately 11:15 A.M., the White House postponed the meeting until 2:15 P.M. At approximately 2:00 P.M., the meeting was canceled by the White House Office of Legislative Affairs without further explanation. By calling off a face-to-face meeting in favor of a recess appointment, the White House sent the message that the President is not interested in hearing the concerns of Republican Members of Congress.

In short, Mr. Eisen took action on behalf of the President that ran afoul of the IG Act and subsequently misled Congressional investigators in lieu of conducting a fair, thorough, and responsible investigation. Senate confirmation, under the advice and consent clause, is one of the strongest checks on executive power. Recess appointments are meant to fill vacancies that arise during a long recess, not to bypass the confirmation process. We are troubled by the Administration's circumvention of that process, especially in this instance. The vacancy arose on January 20, 2009, and yet the President waited eighteen months before making an appointment. Given that there had already been considerable public controversy over Mr. Eisen's actions in this matter at the time of his appointment, issues with his confirmation should have been easily anticipated. For these reasons, we believe that a recess appointment of Mr. Eisen to serve as a United States Ambassador is particularly inappropriate.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with the White House toward our mutual goal of identifying and deploying qualified individuals of the highest integrity to serve American interests abroad.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,

Chairman, U.S. House
Committee on Over-
sight and Govern-
ment Reform.

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
United States Senator.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise to join my fellow Coloradans, my colleagues in the U.S. Congress, and others across the country to celebrate and acknowledge the many accomplishments and contributions of the Hispanic community in the United States and especially in Colorado. I have come to the floor on several occasions to highlight the long history of Latinos in Colorado. The community's presence in our State precedes its statehood and Hispanic heritage continues as a vibrant part of Colorado's cultural and social landscape every month of the year. Today, I would like to specifically highlight the contributions Colorado's Hispanic community have made and continue to make to Colorado's economy and to our current economic recovery.

More than 150 years ago, a gentleman by the name of Dario Gallegos established Colorado's longest running general store in San Luis, CO. The store has served Colorado's oldest town consistently for well over a century and today continues not just as an important fixture in the San Luis Valley, but also as a part of Colorado's cultural heritage. The efforts of entrepreneurs such as Mr. Gallegos and those who followed, serve as an example of the entrepreneurial spirit that drives Colorado's Hispanic community to provide valuable services to their communities that enhance all Coloradan's quality of life. Today, Hispanic-owned businesses of all sizes and type dot the Colorado landscape in every part of our state, whether rural or urban. I am proud of the success these businesses have been able to find in Colorado and equally proud that the Latino community continues to be a vibrant part of Colorado's cultural and social landscape.

Hispanic businesses are a driving force in both urban and rural economic growth. Minority-owned businesses in the United States have increased twice as fast as all other U.S. businesses, and in Colorado, the number of Hispanic-owned firms increased by 40 percent from 2002 to 2007. This increase in Hispanic-owned businesses in Colorado has continued since 2007 and has helped sustain our State economy as well as stimulate job growth across the entire State's population. Minority-owned businesses are especially important to Coloradans because they provide jobs to Coloradans as well as valuable services that meet the needs of Hispanic and non-Hispanic communities alike.

I was pleased that the Minority Business Development Agency and the U.S. Department of Commerce worked to establish the Denver Minority Business Center earlier this summer. This center shows the increased commitment to

support minority-owned businesses in Colorado. The new Denver Minority Business Center will further promote the growth of minority-owned businesses in Colorado by ensuring they have the technical skills to access contracting and financing opportunities they need to succeed.

Despite the tremendous potential and growth among minority firms, they still face the challenges that all businesses are facing in a capital constrained market. Also troubling is that research has shown that these challenges can be heightened for minority-owned firms. For instance, minority-owned firms are less likely to receive loans than nonminority-owned firms, making it more difficult for minority-owned firms to secure the capital they need to establish themselves. This is why the Denver Minority Business Center will be a valuable asset to our entire State.

To help business owners start or grow their business, I introduced a credit union lending bill that would responsibly lift the cap that limits the amount of money credit unions can lend to small businesses. By doing so, new loans can help open the doors to new businesses and thereby create more than 100,000 new jobs across the Nation in the first year. This is another example of how we can support Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses alike to continue to prosper. I understand that there remains much to be accomplished and I am glad that Colorado's Hispanic-owned businesses and workers are willing and ready to be part of the solution.

I am proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. As we celebrate the many contributions of Colorado's Hispanic community to our State, I hope that we can draw attention to the need to cooperate so that we can find shared solutions to create a stronger environment for all businesses to thrive.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KOTA RADIO OF SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize a broadcasting pioneer in my home state of South Dakota. KOTA Radio is celebrating its 75th anniversary this November and I would like to commend the great work of the Duhamel family in building KOTA into a well-respected and recognized broadcasting entity in western South Dakota and parts of Wyoming, Nebraska, and Montana.

On November 26, 1936, Black Hills Broadcasting began radio operations as KOBH—Kall of the Black Hills—and began broadcasting from the penthouse of the Alex Johnson Hotel. The station became known as KOTA in 1945. Helen Duhamel purchased a minority interest in Black Hills Broadcasting in 1943, expanded her holdings in 1948, and by 1954 she had purchased all remaining common stock and Duhamel Enterprises

was formed. She helped pave the way for women in South Dakota business and was one of the first women in the Nation to have such an integral role in the broadcasting business.

Over the years, many members of the Duhamel family were intimately involved in the day-to-day operations of KOTA and Duhamel Enterprises. Helen continued to serve as president and general manager of the station until 1976, when her son William F. Duhamel took over both positions. Bill Duhamel has served amiably and with the highest degree of professionalism and dedication for the past 35 years and shows no signs of slowing down. Bill grew up at his mother's side around the station learning the broadcasting and journalism professions, and he passed on that passion to his daughter Helene, who serves as a television anchor at the station, and other family members over the years who have been integrally involved in the family businesses.

As part of their celebration this year, Duhamel Enterprises has broadcast a daily reflection, going back to the same day in 1936 and providing listeners with recollections of local, state and national news items from that year. They are transferred in time and are reminded of local businesses, some that have long since shuttered while others remain vibrant and strong to this day. They are reminded of the cost of a gallon of milk or loaf of bread. The stories have rekindled great memories for listeners of all ages.

KOTA and Duhamel Broadcasting has won numerous awards for their broadcasting and journalistic excellence over the years. The Duhamel family and their family of employees have been very involved as well in community activities, most notably the KOTA Care and Share Food Drive, which has been organizing massive food and monetary donation drives to help feed the area's hungry for the past 27 years.

Over the years, Duhamel Enterprises has expanded broadcasting coverage to include the eastern half of Wyoming and the northwestern portion of Nebraska. The radio and broadcasting professionals at KOTA have been well-recognized and awarded for their excellence and many of the KOTA broadcasters were journalistic pioneers who helped foster and produce styles of news gathering and presentation styles envied by many young broadcasters.

I congratulate KOTA Radio and Duhamel Enterprises as well as Bill Duhamel, members of the Duhamel family and their broadcasting family on the occasion of the station's 75th anniversary, as well as their numerous contributions to the Rapid City and Black Hills communities through journalistic and broadcasting excellence as well as their community presence.●

RAPID CITY HARNEY LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize

and congratulate the Rapid City Harney All-Star Little League for their impressive teamwork and sportsmanship.

In the past 4 years, 2 other South Dakotan teams have earned their way into the Little League World Series. Like the teams that have gone before them, I believe the Harney All-Stars stand as strong examples of the very best this sport has to offer. These dedicated young athletes worked together as a team and exhibited the kind of sportsmanship that can serve as a model for every American, including professional athletes playing in the major leagues, to emulate. There is no doubt in my mind these young athletes played to the best of their abilities and truly had both the hearts and their heads in the game.

I offer my sincere appreciation to all of this year's exceptional team members: Tristan Deming, Justin Kraemer, Riley McSherry, Seth Brewer, Zach Solano, Cameron Fees, Madden Pikula, Erik Petry, Timmy Paris, Kyle Maguire, Hayden McGriff and Brett Beyer. I would also like to acknowledge Coach Kasey McGriff, who helped lead the Harney team to the Little League World Series.

These young people represented Rapid City and the State of South Dakota in an extraordinary fashion. While the final outcome of the Little League World Series was not what these young athletes had hoped for, their hard work and sportsmanship well represent the very best of South Dakota's values.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT RAVEN S. TAYLOR

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I speak today in honor of one of our Nation's finest, a member of the U.S. Air Force. I am pleased to announce that Raven S. Taylor was selected as one of 12 airmen who earned the award of Outstanding Airman of the Year, and I am proud to note that Raven earned this distinction while serving in the rank of senior airman at Eielson Air Force Base, AK. She has since been promoted to staff sergeant. This is an auspicious occasion and no small feat considering the 12 airmen were selected from an eligible pool of over 288,000 for their superior leadership, job performance, and personal achievement.

Raven is a native of Waycross, GA. She graduated with honors from Prince County High School and enlisted in the Air Force in 2007. After basic training and technical school as a aerospace medical technician, Alaska welcomed her to Eielson as her first duty assignment. Like many others who come to our State, Raven felt right at home, thriving in her job at the hospital and making meaningful contributions to the community. She oversaw some 650 preventive health assessments and supervised the infection control program, which achieved a flawless record of zero infections reported over 18,000 patient visits. Raven assisted with 20