

spirit." He is remembered fondly as a happy and generous individual, and I know his loss will be felt very keenly by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers will be with his family at this time, including his wife Winifred, his father David, and his mother Shirley as well as his brother and sisters.

By all accounts, Specialist Muhr liked being in the Army and loved serving his country. He had previously served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as well as in South Korea and was serving his first tour in Afghanistan. What would we do without individuals like Shawn Muhr? Those young people who gladly serve their country, knowing the sacrifices they will be asked to make and the tremendous risk they take, are the ultimate bulwark in defense of our freedom. Shawn Muhr truly lived and died by the motto of the great State of Iowa, "Our Liberties We Prize, Our Rights We Will Maintain."

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, SRBC, in honor of their 40th anniversary. The Susquehanna River Basin Compact, which went into effect on January 23, 1971, brought together the Federal Government and the States of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland to form the SRBC, one of only two such Federal-interstate compact agencies in the Nation. The mission of SRBC is to manage the water resources of the Susquehanna basin under comprehensive planning principles, and to protect the Chesapeake Bay, one of the world's most productive ecosystems. The Susquehanna is America's largest eastern river and supplies over half the fresh water entering the Chesapeake Bay.

This unique partnership has resulted in numerous benefits for the people of the basin, including the establishment of a basin-wide flood forecasting and warning system in one of America's most flood prone river systems; the storage and release of water during low flow periods from federally operated reservoirs; the management of large scale withdrawals and consumptive uses of water; and the monitoring of basin water quality. Furthermore, SRBC's involvement in hydroelectric relicensing has restored migratory fish runs, minimum flows, and improved recreational facilities.

The Susquehanna Flood Forecast and Warning System, administered by the National Weather Service, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and the SRBC, provides timely warnings to residents of the Susquehanna River basin to reduce loss of life and property damage during flood events. The funding I've helped to secure over the years supports the flood warning infrastructure—a network of gauges, radar and computer technology—to

provide advanced flood warning information to communities along the river.

The Susquehanna System is about saving lives and saving communities. I have seen firsthand not only what the warning system accomplishes, but also its ongoing and compelling needs. This system has been critical in protecting families and businesses during flooding that has devastated communities along the east coast.

I extend my congratulations to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for its 40 years of water resources management excellence, and I will continue to work closely with the Commission on important water resource issues in the future.

REMEMBERING PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle today to mark the 100th birthday of former President Ronald Reagan.

It is fitting that this is a bipartisan tribute. After all, Reagan had been a Democrat, then a Republican, in his political career, and he transformed the political landscape for both parties by appealing to a broad cross-section of Americans.

Much has been written about President Reagan's life. His story is well-known, and is a classic tale of the American dream—a boy from the Nation's heartland makes good.

And Ronald Reagan was a surprising man, a man of paradoxes: An actor affectionately remembered by a generation of Americans for his authenticity, a former union leader who fired striking union members, and the oldest president who was most popular among young Americans, many of whom are in leadership positions today, and some of whom are in this very Chamber.

But what I would like to focus on in my time here today is the part of Reagan that is still with us today: his legacy.

One of the most frequently cited achievements of Ronald Reagan is ending the Cold War.

Behind his eloquence and warmth was a steeliness that sent a clear message to Moscow: You cannot hope to compete with us. We will beat you.

And so we did. Thanks to Reagan's steadfastness and the rise of a Soviet leader who recognized America's toughness under Reagan's leadership, the Iron Curtain ultimately clanged into a pile of rubble.

Reagan also gave birth to the Republican Party that those of us on this side of the aisle belong to today.

Thanks to Reagan's efforts to broaden the tent of the Republican Party, for the first time in many years, scores of religious, socially conservative Americans finally found a political home.

His became a party of pro-military, pro-business, pro-small-government, anti-tax, anti-Communist Americans.

And while communism worldwide has been largely designated to oblivion, Reagan's legacy of tax-cutting, smaller government, personal responsibility and fewer onerous regulations from Washington have stood the test of time and approval from the American people.

Reagan's most lasting legacy, however, may be his innate optimism.

When he took office, America had suffered the indignity of Watergate, high gas prices and long lines at the pumps, a 21-percent inflation rate and the taking of 52 of our citizens from America's own embassy in Tehran, Iran. We were a deflated Nation.

But Reagan, in many ways through the sheer force of his personality, gave Americans hope, gave us the urge to dare to dream, and the confidence to be great again. When he told us it was morning again in America, we believed him. And it was.

When Reagan was born on February 6, 1911, the airplane had only been invented 8 years earlier. The horrors of World War I, the Great War that helped spawn the modern Soviet Union, were still several years away and Teddy Roosevelt had been out of the White House for just 2 years.

How fitting that Reagan's lifetime and legacy would book-end such advances in technology, foreign policy and even his own Republican Party.

That includes the space flight that helped America surpass its Soviet rivals and his words of consolation to a grieving Nation when the Space Shuttle *Challenger* disintegrated. And outlasting the Soviet Union after a lifetime of opposition. And becoming a worthy successor to Roosevelt as an optimistic Republican leader who left a lasting imprint on a changing Nation.

As usual, Reagan put it best when he told us, "America's best days lie ahead. You ain't seen nothing yet."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, to commemorate February 2011 as Black History Month, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of African Americans to the cultural, technological, and social evolution of our Nation and American democracy.

Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History sponsors Black History Month in February because two great men of historical significance were born in this month: Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, and Frederick Douglass, a noted Black social reformer and abolitionist. Their actions greatly forwarded the cause of equality for all African Americans.

Given the association has chosen "African Americans and the Civil War" as their 2011 theme, it seems fitting to briefly contemplate initiatives of these two reformers who are from that era.

President Lincoln is forever linked to the momentous Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 which 3.1 million slaves

living in States that were in rebellion against the Union were declared “forever free” and also allowed to join the military. The year before, Mr. Lincoln abetted the cause of freedom by forbidding Army officers from returning fugitive slaves and signed a law declaring the Federal Government would compensate slave owners who freed their slaves.

Frederick Douglass escaped slavery and became a leader of the abolitionist movement. He was a great orator and writer and after the war he was involved in Reconstruction efforts. His energies were devoted to helping America truly become a place where all citizens enjoyed liberty. Mr. Douglass once said, “I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong.”

In observing Black History month, it would be impossible to author an exhaustive list of all influential African Americans. Yet one such individual in recent history stands out: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In January, we celebrated his achievement of peaceful protest in furthering civil rights for minorities. Dr. King’s accomplishments represent but a fraction of the positive impact African Americans have had on our society.

I also note the United Nations has proclaimed 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent. Their resolution calls for worldwide cooperation to further their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, participation in political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society and promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture.

I agree with these sentiments and urge Americans to continue to fulfill the potential of promise that our Nation offers everyone.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am proud that my home State of Oregon has so many citizen soldiers and even prouder of the way we take care of them. In the world of veterans’ services, one real shining light is Clackamas Community College. I am delighted today to take this opportunity to recognize Clackamas Community College for being selected to receive the Patriotic Employer Award from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, ESGR. Clackamas Community College sets an extraordinary example in its care of our nation’s veterans that I would hope every institution of higher learning could follow. Clackamas Community College doesn’t just stop at educating its students. It serves every member of its community, especially its veterans.

When servicemembers come back from the war zone, it takes some ad-

justing to get back to the routine of life they left behind when they went to serve. As anyone who has gone to college knows, just signing up for classes or applying for student aid can be a confusing experience let alone when you have been out of the university atmosphere for a while, fighting in battle. Clackamas Community College knows that. That is why it created a Veterans Education and Training—VET—Center to serve as a one-stop shop for students who are veterans. The VET Center’s staff knows the ins and outs of veterans’ education benefits, financial aid and every other veterans’ resource and program.

The VET Center is also there for student veterans who have a hard time adjusting to being back in school after they have been deployed. The center serves as a safe haven for the veterans to talk things out and get help with problems only another veteran can understand. A veterans’ club regularly meets at the VET Center to provide support and camaraderie for the folks they see as family—other vets.

Clackamas Community College also pays the VET Center staff to train college staff and faculty about issues that confront student veterans so they are ready when called upon to help. This helps create a tremendously supportive environment campuswide.

Through the VET Center, Clackamas Community College works to eliminate obstacles in the admissions process while making every effort to help veterans earn education credit for their military service and experience.

Clackamas Community College also recently joined with the Army Reserves to open an Army Strong Community Center—ASCC—on campus. This center, which connects military members and their families with support resources in the community, is the first ASCC west of the Mississippi River.

But Clackamas Community College does even more. As a leader in its community, it continues its veterans’ outreach outside the campus boundaries. When nearly 1,500 Oregon National Guard soldiers were deployed to Iraq, the college sponsored two Oregon National Guard family reunions to support the families of deployed 41st Brigade soldiers. The college also hosted two yellow-ribbon reintegration events that touched the lives of more than 3,800 soldiers and their families.

When the college hosted a veterans job fair last year, they went above and beyond the call of duty to host the largest single veterans’ job fair in the State. The college found room for 104 employers that were eager to hire veterans, 106 veterans’ services providers and more than 3,100 veterans. The logistics were incredible, and they handled them with ease, even providing lunch and entertainment for the veterans’ families while the veterans job-hunted.

In recognition of their ongoing efforts, Clackamas Community College

was one of 20 colleges and universities to receive a \$100,000 grant to serve military veterans from the Wal-Mart Foundation and the American Council on Education. Clackamas Community College used the funds to further their efforts to help veterans transition from military service to college.

As an Oregonian and as their Senator, I could not be more proud of Clackamas Community College, its president, Joanne Truesdell, and the heroes they serve. Our citizen soldiers answer the call of our country every day, and Clackamas Community College returns the favor when they come home. It is my honor to thank them for their support of Oregon’s veterans.●

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.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and referred as indicated:

S. 248. A bill to allow an earlier start for State health care coverage innovation waivers under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

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-449. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Sodium and Potassium salts of N-alkyl (C8-C18)-beta-iminodipropionic acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 8861-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-450. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fludioxonil; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions” (FRL No. 8859-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-451. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,