

Korean Service Medal, Japan Service Medal and a 50th anniversary medal for his service.

Many humble men and women who have served in our military are celebrated in communities across Colorado, and I wish to join them to express my appreciation and highlight the contributions of servicemembers of all backgrounds that make up the larger family of veterans who have given so much.

This November 11, I encourage everyone to take the time to thank a veteran and servicemember for his or her involvement in protecting America and the principles for which we stand.

#### TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT THOMAS R. GDOVIN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, on this week of Veteran's Day, I rise today to recognize SGT Thomas R. Gdovin, of Cleveland, OH, for the exceptional bravery he displayed in combat on March 8, 1968, in Vietnam while assigned to the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division. Earlier today I presented the Silver Star, one of our Nation's highest honors for gallantry in military service, to former SGT Thomas Gdovin here in Washington, DC.

SGT Thomas R. Gdovin enlisted into the U.S. Army on July 5, 1966, and served in the 101st Airborne Division. Today, during a ceremony over 40 years in the making, he received the Silver Star for his bravery during the Vietnam war when he risked his own life to save a wounded soldier during combat. I was honored to have Mr. Dan Phillips, the soldier rescued, attend the ceremony alongside Mr. Gdovin's family and friends in celebration of this well deserved honor.

I am honored to read the Silver Star Citation detailing Sergeant Gdovin's brave actions into the RECORD.

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, 9 July 1918, has awarded the Silver Star to: Sergeant Thomas R. Gdovin, 502d Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) For Gallantry: in action on 8 March 1968, while serving as Squad Leader with 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in support of operations in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Gdovin's squad became the company's lead element during an attack on enemy forces when they received intense automatic weapons and rocket fire. The lead Soldier in the formation was severely wounded and was unable to move in an area open to enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin placed the squad into defensive positions and suppressed enemy fire. He then left the defensive position and with complete disregard for his own personal safety and advanced across open terrain toward the wounded soldier, exposing himself to intense enemy fire. Sergeant Gdovin then reached the wounded soldier and under continued fire, brought him back to safety of the squad's position, where we was further evacuated. Sergeant Gdovin's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and the United States Army.

This is truly an exceptional story and I was honored to play a small role in recognizing Sergeant Gdovin. This ceremony was an opportunity to say thank you to all veterans. We can never forget that they gave their time, risked their health, and even placed their lives on the line. This not only means honoring their sacrifices, but also honoring our promises and commitments to them as well. Let us ensure that we honor and remember all our veterans, not just this week but throughout the days and years to come. Their commitment to this Nation is a shining example to all of us.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. PETER STANG

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I wish to formally congratulate Dr. Peter Stang of the University of Utah for being awarded the National Medal of Science, the highest honor bestowed by the United States upon scientists.

Dr. Stang has been a pioneer in his field, developing methods of creating molecular nano-devices that construct themselves from combinations of chemical building blocks. These devices hold the promise of eventually being used in many revolutionary ways, from enabling artificial photosynthesis to delivering medicine directly to specific individual cells in the human body.

In 1957, Dr. Stang's family fled to the United States from Hungary to escape the violent clashes between Hungarians and the Soviet Union. The greatness of the American spirit is reflected in the fact that this young immigrant became one of the nation's top scientists and is now being recognized by the leader of the free world.

I thank Dr. Stang for his tremendous efforts to improve our way of life.●

##### TRANSCONTINENTAL OVERLAND TELEGRAPH LINE

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, on October 24, the Sons of Utah Pioneers celebrated the 150th anniversary of the final connecting of the Transcontinental Overland Telegraph Line in Salt Lake City, establishing the first coast-to-coast electronic communications system in American history.

Much like the Transcontinental Railroad revolutionized transportation in this country, the Transcontinental Telegraph Line revolutionized communication. Sending messages from Washington, DC to California, which had previously taken weeks, took mere seconds after completion of the line.

President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Brigham Young sent the first message to President Abraham Lincoln, which confirmed that Utah was still loyal to the United States and not allied with the Confederacy. The line is credited with helping to ensure that most of the

West sided with the Union in the Civil War.

Congratulations to the citizens of Utah for marking the anniversary of an accomplishment that helped to hold this country together.●

##### ST. GEORGE, UTAH

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, 150 years ago, 309 families founded the city of St. George in southern Utah. It would become the main city in a region known as "Utah's Dixie" because of the cotton farms that were established in response to the cotton shortage of the Civil War. To celebrate this important milestone, several hundred people participated in a reenactment of the 100-mile journey of the original settlers, from the city of Parowan to the eventual location of St. George. The trek featured wagons, livestock, and many other aspects of life in the 19th century.

Today, St. George is a city of over 70,000 people, and is the seat of Washington County. Congratulations to Mayor Dan McArthur and the people of St. George for reaching the 150-year milestone.●

##### TRIBUTE TO EDIE DAHLSTEN

• Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, you have heard me speak many times about the importance of agriculture to my home State. It is a critical industry in Kansas and forms the backbone of our economy. Within the field of agriculture are many dedicated and talented leaders who serve and have served Kansans with distinction. I have had the privilege to know and work with many of them over the years, but there is one in particular I would like to highlight today. Edie Dahlsten currently serves as the vice president of the Kansas Farm Bureau. For nearly a decade, Edie has served in this role with distinction and this November she will retire at the end of her term.

The Farm Bureau is truly a grass-roots organization that begins with a single farmer, who joins together with his neighbors to form an organization that represents their way of life. Edie and Larry Dahlsten have been engaged in every aspect of that organization, beginning with their service on the McPherson County Farm Bureau Board near their home in central Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, for Edie and Larry, farming is more than just a way to make a living it is a way of life. Together they make a great team, and their commitment to the Farm Bureau and the values it represents is widely known. Edie and Larry's leadership and service together began more than 20 years ago when they served on the State Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee. As an Outstanding Young Farm Family, they have represented their fellow producers on numerous committees over the years to advocate on behalf of producers at the local, State, and national level.

Edie's leadership and advocacy began with humble beginnings on the soil of a

rural Kansas farm. In 1976, she was selected as a Farm Bureau leader to represent her district on the State Women's Committee. In 1989, she was elected to the Kansas Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and in 2002 she was elected as vice president of the Kansas Farm Bureau. Edie's career has taken her around the world to convey the importance of agriculture and to share her passion for the special way of life so many Kansans love.

Edie Dahlsten embodies many traits we can all admire—a deep love for the great State of Kansas, gratitude for the many hard-working families who daily provide the food, fuel, and fiber Americans rely on, and the respect of her peers across the nation.

I would now like to ask my colleagues to join us in recognizing Edie for her dedication, passion, and many years of service.●

#### CLOSE UP FOUNDATION

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I recognize the Close Up Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary.

The Close Up Foundation has had a widespread impact on teachers and students around the nation, and I applaud their efforts to educate and inspire young people and provide teachers with valuable resources to take back to their classrooms.

Since 1971, the Close Up Foundation has been committed to promoting responsible and informed participation in our republic through experiential education programs that provide students with the knowledge and skills to be involved in our democratic process.

Close Up's partnerships with government agencies, the media, private businesses, and our capital's historic sites provide interactive classrooms to reinforce the links between our history and our current policy debates, giving students a better understanding of the concepts and institutions of America's constitutional government.

Again, I am proud to honor the Close Up Foundation and congratulate them for their many contributions towards educating America's youth.●

#### 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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 2930. An act to amend the securities laws to provide for registration exemptions for certain crowd-funded securities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2940. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to eliminate the prohibition against general solicitation as a requirement for a certain exemption under Regulation D.

#### 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-3855. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Bromeliad Plants in Growing Media From Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands" ((RIN0579-AD36)(Docket No. APHIS-2010-0005)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3856. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Mitchell H. Stevenson, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3857. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Fire-Resistant Fiber for Production of Military Uniforms" ((RIN0750-AH22)(DFARS Case 2011-D021)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3858. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Simplified Acquisition Threshold for Humanitarian or Peacekeeping Operations" ((RIN0750-AH29)(DFARS Case 2011-D032)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3859. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Representation Relating to Compensation of Former DoD Officials" ((RIN0750-AG99)(DFARS Case 2010-D020)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3860. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Financial Stability, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TARP Conflicts of Interests" (RIN1505-AC05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3861. A communication from the Chief Counsel of the Fiscal Service, Bureau of Pub-

lic Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Offering of United States Savings Bonds, Series EE; Regulations Governing Definitive United States Savings Bonds, Series EE and HH; Offering of United States Savings Bonds, Series I; Regulations Governing Definitive United States Savings Bonds, Series I; Final Rule" (31 CFR Parts 351, 353, 359, and 360) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3862. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tribal Economic Development Bonds—Request for Public Comment on Volume Cap Allocation Process and Optional Extension of Deadline to Issue Bonds" (Announcement 2011-71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3863. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "O'Donnabhain v. Commissioner, 134 T.C. 34 (2010)" (AOD-2011-47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3864. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extending Religious and Family Member FICA and FUTA Exceptions to Disregarded Entities" ((RIN1545-BJ07)(TD 9554)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3865. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Libya and UNSCR 2009" (RIN1400-AC97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3866. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Filing, Retention, and Return of Export Licenses and Filing of Export Information" (RIN1400-AC91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3867. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities, Requirements, and Selection Criteria; Charter Schools Program (CSP) Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools" (RIN1855-ZA08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3868. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Innovation and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promise Neighborhoods Program" (RIN1855-ZA07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3869. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services,