

later, after marrying her husband Randolph and relocating to Kentucky, Ruth immediately immersed herself in the local community. She spent her time working side by side with her husband helping to run both a dry goods store and a small-town retail store to support their young family while simultaneously volunteering and supporting many community organizations. She has been chosen for many leadership roles, including president of the local chamber of commerce and delegate to the Republican National Convention.

About 15 years ago, Ruth was widowed when Randolph passed unexpectedly. Ruth was burdened with the task of liquidating the family business and finding a job. Not long after, Ruth began a new career which lasted for over 17 years when the Lake Cumberland District Health Department hired Ruth to work with teen mothers through the Clinton, McCreary and Cumberland County Health Departments in the HANDS Program. Ruth mentored countless young women into becoming responsible mothers, employees and citizens while loving and nurturing their children into feeling special at the same time.

Throughout this unintended second career, Ruth continuously found herself in situations where the needs were clear but the means to achieve them were not always so. Yet, with her determination as her guide, she always found a way to meet these daily demands, oftentimes reaching into her own pockets when resources were not available, and never complaining.

Last summer, Ruth took a road trip to Pennsylvania with her daughter-in-law to visit her family and friends. A day or so later, news spread back in Kentucky that she had fallen ill, and at her age some feared the worst. But it turned out it was not Ruth that had fallen ill but her daughter-in-law—and the ever-resourceful Ruth Smith quite possibly saved the younger woman's life by calling an ambulance and administering CPR until help arrived.

Ruth truly loves people, especially those of her community, and they respond in kind. For example, when she decided to retire in July of last year at the age of 85, people from all over came to her retirement celebration to honor her—the impact that she had on those who were fortunate enough to know and work with her over the years was evident and immeasurable.

My dear friend, Ms. Ruth Smith, is an honorable Kentuckian whose selflessness and service to her fellow citizens deserves the utmost respect. She dedicated her life to helping her community and improving the lives of her fellow Kentuckians. She leaves behind her a legacy of inspiration and hope to all those she touched, and her achievements will not soon be forgotten.

I would ask that my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Ruth Smith in receiving the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging Founda-

tion's Senior Star Award. She is most deserving of this honor, and I commend her for all that she has done for our great Commonwealth.

H.R. 2112 CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate voted on the conference report to H.R. 2112. Unfortunately, I was not able to cast my vote in support of the conference report because it increased spending. By increasing spending, Congress is ignoring the fact that our country is facing a \$15 trillion debt and \$1.3 trillion budget deficit. By Congress refusing to cut Federal spending, we are telling the American public that we are not serious about restoring fiscal responsibility in government and will continue with business as usual.

In addition, the bill contains language that would increase the FHA loan limits from \$625,500 to \$729,750, further putting the American taxpayer at risk. Taxpayers are already on the hook for \$170 billion in bailouts to mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac because of irresponsible lending practices. And just last week Fannie and Freddie asked for an additional \$13.8 billion in Federal funding from the pockets of hardworking Americans, many of whom are underwater on their mortgages. With over 50 percent of homeowners in Arizona underwater on their mortgages, I cannot support this increase in loan limits that could potentially worsen the disastrous housing market our country is currently facing.

While I appreciate the fact that Congress is doing its job by moving appropriations bills, I could not in good conscience have voted in support of this conference report knowing we are bankrupting our country. We must make sacrifices now to ensure that our children and grandchildren have the same opportunities that all of us have had instead of handing them a future filled with unsustainable debt and lost opportunities.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELE WYMER

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Michele Wymer for her outstanding service to her country in her role on the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee. Before Michele and her family leave for greener pastures, I wanted to express my appreciation and thanks for her service to the Senate.

For the past five years, Michele has diligently worked on issues important to America's national security, including those mitigating the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS globally, providing security and stability through development assistance, and addressing the needs of refugees. She performed her duties in a professional manner, including conducting oversight on the ground in conflict areas such as Chad, Iraq, Af-

ghanistan, Pakistan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I know I speak for the subcommittee staff in saying that Michele will be missed not only for her good work and professionalism, but also for her good humor and compassion.

I ask that the Senate join me in recognizing Michele's outstanding service and wishing her family a safe journey and an exciting new chapter in their lives.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTER OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I am proud to honor the 50th anniversary of the Center of Latin American Studies at the University of Kansas. The Center was founded in 1961 to equip KU students to face the political, economic, sociological and geographical realities of our world and, 50 years later, that vision continues. KU's strong ties to the University of Costa Rica have continued, and the Center's connections have expanded in Mexico, the Caribbean and South America. The Center provides students with advanced language and area studies training, including opportunities for study and research abroad. The Center provides the education and experience Kansans need in order to pursue successful, satisfying careers as teachers, scholars, and business and government professionals in the 21st century.

I want to congratulate the Center of Latin American Studies for its 50 years of commitment to building strong international relations with Latin America for the benefit of Kansas and the nation.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge November as National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day on Nov. 19, 2011. With over 107,000 children waiting to be adopted from the U.S. foster care system, I think it is crucial to celebrate the parents, social workers, judges, lawyers, teachers, doctors, nurses, police officers, and other dedicated advocates who help children find safe, permanent and loving homes.

It seems quite appropriate that as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, we also celebrate the ways in which families grow through adoption. My own family has been personally touched by adoption, and I can't express enough the positive impact that adoption can have on children and families.

Together, National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day aim to raise awareness of the 408,000 children living in the nation's foster care system and encourage individuals to consider opening their homes and hearts through adoption. Each year more than 20,000 children age out of the foster care system without finding a permanent family to call their own. The majority of these children struggle to

meet the demands of adult life on their own. Only 50 percent earn a high school diploma, barely 3 percent go on to obtain a college degree, and one out of four will experience homelessness at some point in their lives. While we generally recognize adult independence at age 18, children rarely stop needing the stability, support and guidance that families provide. The benefits of being adopted into a loving home extend well into adulthood.

Each year I recognize one South Dakota family as Angels in Adoption in order to highlight the many ways in which exemplary individuals and families across the State have made a positive impact in the lives of children through adoption. I recently had the opportunity to honor Nora and Randy Boesem of Newell, SD, as Angels in Adoption. Nora and Randy have adopted nine children, all of whom are affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and face a range of physical and mental birth defects that occur as a result of alcohol use during pregnancy. In addition to their adopted children, the Boesems have opened their home to nearly 70 children in foster care over the last 10 years.

As a founding member of the bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption, which sponsors Angels in Adoption, I am committed to assisting children in the United States to find stable, loving and permanent homes. Additionally, I support the goals of National Adoption Day, which encourage others to adopt children from foster care, build stronger ties between local adoption agencies, courts and adoption advocacy organizations, and learn more about children waiting to be adopted and the families looking to grow through adoption.

I was proud to support the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 and the recent passage of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, which made some of the most important improvements to the foster care and adoption system we have seen in the last 10 years. I am also proud that Members of the Senate continue to support ways to make adoption easier and more affordable. Since the cost of adoption can be very high, we ought to do what we can to minimize this initial burden for the exceptional people who provide caring homes for children. Adoption proceedings and legal fees for some domestic adoptions can cost more than \$40,000. If we ask individuals to care for and adopt children, we must provide some relief from the financial burdens associated with that care. The adoption tax credit is an effective way to help lessen the financial burden families face when adopting a child and I support making the adoption tax credit permanent.

The commitment of adoptive parents in South Dakota and throughout our country to provide children with safe, permanent, and loving homes will, of course, have a positive impact on their

lives. As we celebrate National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day on November 19, 2011, I call on my colleagues to continue finding ways to support the children, parents, and other important players involved in the child welfare system and to work to ensure all children have stable, permanent and loving families.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Neiman, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment numbered 1 of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 394) to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, and for other purposes, and that the House agreed to the amendment numbered 2 of the Senate, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

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

S. 1637. An act to clarify appeal time limits in civil actions to which United States officers or employees are parties.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:49 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1637. An act to clarify appeal time limits in civil actions to which United States officers or employees are parties.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 18, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1637. An act to clarify appeal time limits in civil actions to which United States officers employees are parties.

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-4016. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Position Limits for Futures and Swaps" (RIN3038-AD17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4017. 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: Management of Manufacturing Risk in Major Defense Acquisition Programs" ((RIN0750-AH30)(DFARS Case 2011-AH30)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4018. 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: Notification Requirements for Awards of Single-Source Task- or Delivery-Order Contracts" ((RIN0750-AG66)(DFARS Case 2009-D036)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4019. 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: Extension of Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Pilot Program" ((RIN0750-AH44)(DFARS Case 2011-D050)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4020. 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: Transition to the System for Award Management" ((RIN0750-AH46)(DFARS Case 2011-D053)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4021. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Loren M. Reno, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4022. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUD Debt Collection: Revisions and Update to the Procedures for the Collection of Claims" (RIN2501-AD36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4023. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67)(Docket No.