

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK MAY 6-12, 2011

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the contributions of our Nation's nurses and to thank them for their service to patients across this Nation. Nurses are among the largest group of health professionals and are on the front lines of our healthcare delivery system. Each day people with different health needs are served by legions of educated, qualified, and professional nurses.

Our Nation's nurses help to ensure that Americans receive quality health care and that our Nation's public health infrastructure remains strong. I recently had the opportunity to meet with nurses who visited our Nation's capital through the Nurses in Washington Internship Program. This group is made up of a coalition of nursing organizations united to promote a strong voice in advocating for the nursing community.

In closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the nurses in my home State of Ohio and across the country for their service to the American public.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CENTRAL ARKANSAS VETERANS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, CAVHS, of Little Rock, AR. This health care provider is the recipient of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence Award, recognizing VA organizations for the implementation of management practices that produce the highest levels of performance and service to our Nation's veterans.

This well-deserved honor recognizes the outstanding service this facility provides to Arkansas veterans. CAVHS has an outstanding record of success throughout its rich 90-year history. In recent years, CAVHS has earned Robert W. Casey Awards in 2009 and 2010 in addition to 2011.

This health care delivery system includes a 2-campus medical center with 280 operating hospital beds, a 152-bed nursing home care unit, and a 119-bed domiciliary. CAVHS offers a variety of inpatient and outpatient health care amenities, spanning from disease prevention, primary care, extended rehabilitative care, and complex surgical procedures. It serves as an educational facility for more than 1,500 students and residents enrolled in more than 65 educational programs.

I am proud of the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System for its dedication to providing quality care to Arkansas veterans and encourage continued efforts and services to these brave men and women. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating

this facility for the outstanding work it does and will continue to do to ensure the well-being of our veteran community.●

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF THE OZARKS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks, VHOS, in Fayetteville, AR. This health care provider is the recipient of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert W. Carey Trophy Award, the highest recognition for quality achievement and service to our Nation's veterans. Each year, this award is presented to no more than two of the VA's highest performing organizations for quality achievement.

This well-deserved honor recognizes the exemplary quality of service it is providing to Arkansas veterans. The VHOS has an outstanding track record, winning Robert W. Carey Awards in 2010, 2009, and 2008.

Founded in 1935, the VHOS serves veterans in 23 counties in northwest Arkansas, southwest Missouri, and eastern Oklahoma. In addition to the Fayetteville location, six communities in the region have community based outpatient clinics.

Services at the VHOS include primary care, mental health care, specialty care, women's clinic, pharmacy, social work, surgery, and nutrition services. They are a 72-bed level 2 facility and have a large team of caregivers who can assist veterans whether they are hospitalized, living at home, or transitioning between the two. To accomplish the Veterans Affairs goals of integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect, and excellence, the VHOS works to honor veterans with high-quality health care.

I am proud of the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks and its commitment to providing exceptional care to our veterans and encourage continued efforts to improve the health and services offered to these brave men and women. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating this facility for the outstanding work it does to care for our veterans who have sacrificed so much for this Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. JERRY LOLLEY

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I recognize the public service of a veterans service officer from South Dakota who is retiring after nearly 40 years of dedicated military and public service to veterans and their families.

Jerry Lolley has served as Meade County veterans service officer since 1992. Jerry's wife Harriet, known as "Granny," and children Grant and Lara have always supported Jerry while he has provided tireless service to thousands of veterans seeking assistance with benefit claims, medals requests, records searches, payment

issues, and health care issues. He has always been a valuable source of needed information for the families of veterans as well.

Military service and an understanding of the needs and issues of our military service personnel and veterans is deeply rooted with Jerry. After spending 2 years at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968 to 1988 and retired as an E-7, providing dedicated service as an aircraft mechanic. His father served in General Patton's Army in World War II.

But Jerry's service extends also to the numerous issues impacting veterans and their families. He has been a constant advocate for veterans on Federal, State, and local issues of importance. He monitors Federal legislative issues and has shared valuable insight with me and my staff regarding potential impacts of legislation or VA agency decisions. He has always put the veteran first and foremost in his efforts, especially when it comes to improving health care resources, access, and level of care for veterans. He has also provided valuable insight on educational, spousal, dependent, and burial benefits.

During the Persian Gulf war, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Jerry has been diligent in providing returning soldiers with important information about deadlines involving access to health care services, assisting soldiers with applications for various benefits, and providing general information to assist in their return home.

My staff and I have always valued Jerry's advocacy for veterans. He is rarely short on opinions on important matters and is quick to offer well-targeted questions toward agency officials to learn the basis for decisions and actions on various issues and even takes great care to request background information to verify or dispel the occasional rumor or misconception that may surface within the veterans community. His steadfast dedication to veterans has made him a great public servant and his service will be greatly missed.

I wish Jerry and his family all the best in his retirement, and it is my hope that he can find other options to continue serving veterans in the future. I congratulate him on his military service and his great public service career.●

RECOGNIZING CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE

• Mrs. McCASKILL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate St. Louis-based Concordia Publishing House on their 2011 Baldrige Award and overall commitment to excellence.

Founded in 1869, Concordia Publishing House, CPH, serves as the publishing arm of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, LCMS, and provides

members of the LCMS community with resources for Christian worship and education. Throughout its history, CPH has grown both in size and scope while providing the very best products and services to customers around the world.

CPH's successful customer-focused business model distinguishes their business as one of the best in the industry and has earned noteworthy praise. With a near-perfect customer satisfaction score, CPH's customer call center was ranked a center of excellence by a Purdue University study for 3 consecutive years. CPH pairs their outstanding customer care with state-of-the-art products and technology. From being one of the first St. Louis companies to utilize an IBM online data filing system, to delivering eProducts on iPhones and iPads, the company has always embraced the latest technology in service of their clients. CPH's rank as one of the "Best Christian Workplaces in the United States" in 2009, 2010, and 2011, illustrates their focus on employee satisfaction and well-being.

Named after the 26th U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Malcolm Baldrige, the Baldrige Award was established by Congress in 1987 to enhance the competitiveness and performance of U.S. businesses. It is the highest Presidential honor for business performance. Recipients serve as role models not only for their peers in the nonprofit and business sectors but for every American organization that strives for a higher standard of performance and overall excellence.

The 2011 Baldrige Award winners were selected from a field of 69 applicants. Applicants were evaluated based on seven areas defined by the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence: leadership; strategic planning; customer focus; managements, analysis and knowledge management; workforce focus; operations focus; and results.

Mr. President, 142 years after its founding, Concordia Publishing House continues to fulfill their mission to provide the LCMS community with the best possible products and services. Concordia Publishing House is an exemplary model of a customer-focused, quality-driven business that provides important resources to its community. It is my pleasure to recognize Concordia Publishing House for their well-deserved 2011 Baldrige Award.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1633. An act to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which such dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1633. An act to establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter, to limit Federal regulation of nuisance dust in areas in which such dust is regulated under State, tribal, or local law, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 9, 2011, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 535. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease certain lands within Fort Pulaski National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 683. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah.

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-4234. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Saflufenacil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9325-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4235. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Isoxaflutole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8885-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4236. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sudanese Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 538) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 6, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4237. A communication from the Chief of the Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Parts 2 and 97 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate Use by the Amateur Radio Service of the Allocation at 5 MHz" (FCC 11-171) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4238. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's seventh annual report on ethanol market concentration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4239. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System,

Yellowstone National Park" (RIN1024-AD92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 7, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4240. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Redesignation of Lake and Porter Counties to Attainment of the Fine Particulate Matter Standard" (FRL No. 9499-6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4241. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio and Indiana; Redesignation of the Ohio and Indiana Portions Cincinnati-Hamilton Area to Attainment of the 1997 Annual Standard for Fine Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9499-7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4242. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Transportation Conformity Rule: MOVES Regional Grace Period Extension" (FRL No. 9499-1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4243. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal of Two Chemical Substances" (FRL No. 9329-5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4244. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Determination to Defer Sanctions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9499-4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1977. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide that over-the-road bus drivers are covered under the maximum hours requirements; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1978. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for community-based job training grants, to provide Federal assistance for community college modernization, and for other purposes; to the