

brought to the position his experience as a farmer and his sincere dedication to solving challenges facing the agricultural community. Throughout his Senate service, Don has covered thousands of miles and spent countless hours meeting with constituents and ensuring that their concerns and interests are properly addressed. It has been said that anytime two farmers meet in Idaho, Don is there. This illustration, while not too far from the truth, emphasizes Don's deep personal commitment to ensuring sound representation of Idaho agriculture. For example, he has assisted with multiple farm bills, gathering input from Idahoans to craft the best policy possible, contributing throughout the drafting and providing information to farmers and ranchers when the laws were enacted. He sacrificed weeks with his family when he stayed in Washington, DC, to assist with the crafting of the 2002 farm bill. I have always been able to count on Don to literally go the extra mile for constituents.

Don's dedication and exemplary service led to his appointment to serve as the Idaho State executive director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, FSA. While this appointment, unfortunately, led to Don leaving my staff for the first time in 2007, his work on behalf of the agricultural community during his time at FSA and his return to Senate service were welcomed. I feel blessed to have once again benefited from his on-the-ground knowledge of production and agricultural policy for the past 3 years.

His enthusiasm and sincere desire to do all that he can for people are part of what make Don exceptional. His unsurpassed energy, faith, and optimism also set him apart. The humor and get-up-and-go Don brings to any challenge has enabled many accomplishments for Idahoans, and Don is widely respected for his integrity and devotion to achieving results.

Although for many, retirement provides time to slow down and relax, knowing Don, he will likely work as hard in his retirement as he does on the job. "Idle" is not a word in Don's vocabulary. However, I hope that retirement provides Don with more time to spend with his family whom he loves so much: his wonderful wife Georgia; his children Lucinda, "Cindy," Lorin, Paul, and Tobin; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Lucky for me, Don is also one of my neighbors in my hometown of Idaho Falls, so I hope to see him often. We have shared many laughs over the years, and I look forward to sharing many more.

Don, you are model public servant, and I feel very fortunate to have benefited from your wise counsel and hard work for so many years. I wish you the happy retirement you so greatly deserve for your years of dedicated service. Don, thank you for all that you have done on behalf of Idahoans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN OTIS CARROLL

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the public service of Mr. Franklin Otis Carroll, who is retiring from the U.S. Forest Service after 45 years of dedicated service to protecting our Nation's natural resources.

Frank was born on September 18, 1952, to Franklin and Betty Carroll, in Flagstaff, AZ. Blessed with a gift for expressing his opinion, Frank believed early in life that he was destined to pursue a career in the legal profession. But as he worked to pay for school, he took a job with the National Park Service as a firefighter at southern Arizona's Saguaro National Monument. From then on, he sought to follow in his father's footsteps and care for the lands we all enjoy. He has since served in four National Parks and in Forest Service Regions 2, 3, and 4—travelling from Arizona to Idaho to Minnesota before settling in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Frank earned a degree in history and English at the University of New Mexico and a Masters Degree in Public Administration at Boise State. He and Audrey, his wife of nearly 34 years, raised three girls—Jessica, Lauren and Merri—and are looking forward to spending more time with their seven grandchildren.

Over the years, Frank has worked tirelessly to protect our public lands, first working on hand crews, then working his way up the ranks to becoming a top level fire boss. He has been a respected spokesman for forest health and land management practices that keep our lands green as we battle the Mountain Pine Beetle. Proactive in educating the public about our lands, Frank is the first person to pick up the phone to explain what is happening in the forest. During his tenure, Frank has built lifelong friendships with a wide variety of folks that continue to this day.

Rick Cables, a former Regional Forester for Region 2 who has known Frank for 35 years, describes Frank as, "one of the most passionate and dedicated individuals in protecting our public lands that I have ever known. He is a talented communicator whose unique gift for communicating allows him to convey complex forest issues in simple terms so all can understand. When the Black Hills National Forest was looking to establish its new Forest Advisory Board, I could think of no one better to help in the process. I remember telling the supervisor at the time, John Twiss, he's someone that will push you harder to communicate more than you may want."

Frank's life work has been the protection of public lands and he has done so with an intense love of the places where he lives. It is because of the work of people like Frank Carroll that

the forest industry continues to thrive and maintain its crucial role throughout South Dakota.

I am proud to recognize and honor Frank's service to the United States Forest Service and am delighted to join with his family and friends in congratulating him on his retirement. I wish Frank and Audrey all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.●

REMEMBERING VIRGINIA GABRIEL

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Virginia Gabriel of Clarks Summit, PA, who passed away on September 26, 2011, at the age of 93. To those who knew and loved her, she will forever remain an inspiration, a motivator, and a role model.

It is no coincidence that Virginia was born into what has been called the greatest generation. Like so many others of her generation, she and her husband Steven responded when the country called on them during a time of great need. Their commitment to the Nation was visible on the day of their wedding. As they exchanged their vows on the altar, Steven's Navy unit waited outside for the ceremony to end, at which point he joined them and together they departed for their assignment, which ultimately took them to the Pacific theater. Like Steven, Virginia also engendered a sense of social responsibility towards our Nation. Remaining stateside during World War II, Virginia did what she could to help in the war effort. This commitment to help our Nation took her to Bridgeport, CT, where she secretly worked at the Singer sewing machine factory throughout the war manufacturing bomber sights for American aircraft.

Beyond Virginia's devotion to our country in its time of need, she will always be remembered for her abiding commitment to her family and by those who profited from her presence. She made life better for everyone around her by lifting their spirits through her kindness, generosity, laughter, and memorable smile. Her love of family and their awareness of that love was an incalculable source of strength which propelled them forward every day. Evoking the same sentiment that Senator Edward Kennedy had for his brother Robert, Virginia provided strength in time of trouble, wisdom in time of uncertainty, and sharing in time of happiness. The manner in which Virginia lived her life, and expected her family to live theirs, leaves behind a legacy that ensures she will always be by their side.●

RECOGNIZING KAKE, ALASKA

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate 100 years of Kake, AK, as an incorporated first-class city. Kake Day, on January 8, 2012, will acknowledge the community's accomplishments, ranging from

government to education, as well as recognize the village as a Native community rich with history of the Kake Tlingit ways.

The Tlingit people have inhabited the region of Kake for thousands of years, controlling the trade routes around Kuiu and Kupreanof islands, enjoying the territory, raising families, and living off the land. The Tlingit of the Kake region gained a reputation among early explorers as being strong and powerful. Some encounters with early European and American explorers have been documented by historians as resulting in occasional skirmishes.

In the early part of the 20th century, Kake began to physically transform. Stores were built, a government school was installed, and a post office was established in 1904. Kake also became the first Native village to organize under Federal law, resulting in U.S. citizenship for community residents. In 1912, Kake was incorporated as a first-class city government in the territory of Alaska. This event is now known as Kake Day, and it is the 100th anniversary of that event that I wish to commemorate today.

Kake Day is not only a celebration of past accomplishments but also a celebration of the history of the Kake Tlingit ways. Kake has blended Western ways and the rich cultural traditions of its past to make Kake into the city it is today.

Recognized tribes—the Organized Village of Kake and the Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska—are essential components of Kake, alongside entities such as the Inside Passage Electric Cooperative. Important food sources link the old and the new ways of life, including salmon, halibut, shellfish, deer, bear, waterfowl, and berries.

Nearby, standing on a bluff overlooking Kake, is the world's largest totem pole, which serves as a reminder of the city's history and as a guide moving into the future. Standing at 132 feet, this properly sanctioned totem pole was carved by the Chilkats in 1967 for Alaska's centennial.

On the 100 year celebration of Kake Day, Alaskans will enjoy a parade, a protocol workshop, and song and dance featuring Keex' Kwan dancers. I am sure the event will be memorable for all involved.●

TRIBUTE TO LEE OSTERHOLM

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss the life of a great American, a fellow Montanan, and a true patriot who served his country proudly in World War II, Army SGT Lee Osterholm, a native of Butte, MT.

Born on April 24, 1919, Lee served in the Border Patrol in Texas prior to World War II. When our country was thrust into war, Lee answered the call of duty, enlisting in the U.S. Army on March 8, 1943, and was soon on the battlefields of Central Europe fighting for our very freedom.

Between 1943 and 1945 Lee's unwavering commitment to duty and courage under fire was evident as he led men into combat throughout the European

theater and performed superbly in both the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Air Corps. Sadly he never received the recognition he deserved once the war ended and he was discharged on February 9, 1946.

Over 65 years later, his country is finally recognizing Lee's accomplishments by awarding him the Bronze Star posthumously. I ask unanimous consent that the citation to accompany this award be printed in the RECORD.●

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

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to Sergeant Lee Osterholm, United States Army, Service Number 39-616-345: "For exceptionally meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces while assigned as Reconnaissance Sergeant, Company H, 387th Infantry Regiment, 97th Infantry Division, in the Central Europe Campaign, World War II. Sergeant Lee Osterholm's outstanding performance of duty, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to mission accomplishment in ground combat in an active war zone were vital to successful combat operations in the Central Europe Campaign. His contributions and dedication to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself, the 97th Infantry Division, and the United States Army in World War II."

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 and a withdrawal 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 3:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 94. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 3672.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill (H.R. 2055) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

At 4:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in

which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 278. An act to provide for the exchange of certain land located in the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2867) to reauthorize the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

At 5:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 94. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 16, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H. J. Res. 94. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed subsequent to adjournment by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3094. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 16, 2011, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 384. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

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-4354. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to test and evaluation budgets that are not certified by the Director, Test Resource Management Center (TRMC), to be adequate by March 31 of the year preceding the fiscal year for which such budgets are proposed; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4355. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition,