

Nine decades ago, my mother left Slovenia—a Slovenia that was impoverished, ruled by autocrats, and dominated by foreign powers; a nation that sent forth immigrants desperate to find a better life. Today, a free, prosperous, and democratic Slovenia sends forth global leaders and humanitarians who are helping to build a better world.

This is a magnificent achievement—a testament to the vision, courage, and talents of the Slovenian people. On this proud anniversary, I join with all of my colleagues here in the Senate in saluting our friend and ally, the Republic of Slovenia.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OHIO RIVER WAY PADDLEFEST

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Ohio River Way, a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization working to promote, protect and celebrate the natural beauty and recreational benefits of the Ohio River.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Annual Ohio River Way Paddlefest, the largest paddling event in the country. Each year, Paddlefest attracts more than 2,000 paddlers to Cincinnati to canoe and kayak down the Ohio River and enjoy the gorgeous natural resources in Southwest Ohio. I have been a regular participant in the canoe races as part of Paddlefest and plan to participate again this year.

Due in no small part to the efforts of the Ohio River Way and the widespread popularity of Paddlefest, Greater Cincinnati has been designated as the Paddling Capital of The United States. Cincinnati enjoys a great selection of paddling-friendly waterways including the Ohio, Great Miami, Little Miami, Whitewater and Licking Rivers as well as the Four Mile, Caesar, Stonelick, O'Bannon, Indian and White Oak Creeks. Additionally, Cincinnati is home to the largest number of paddling-access points with more than 25 places to launch canoes and kayaks.

I congratulate the Ohio River Way on the 10th anniversary of Paddlefest and thank Paddlefest chair Brewster Rhodes and the hardworking volunteers of the Ohio River Way for the tireless work they do each year to ensure that Paddlefest is an enjoyable experience for all participants.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HAWKINS

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I would like to honor a leader from my home State of Minnesota, William A. Hawkins. Bill, who is retiring with distinction as the chairman and CEO of Medtronic, has achieved great professional success through his dedication to and advancement of life-saving innovations. Approximately every 4 seconds, the life of someone somewhere in the world is improved by a Medtronic product or therapy.

Medical technology is an important solution to our Nation's health care challenges. Under Bill's leadership,

Medtronic has helped to maintain Minnesota's world leadership in medical innovation.

Bill has nearly 35 years of career experience in the medical device industry, serving in leadership positions at Novoste Corporation, American Home Products, Johnson and Johnson, Guidant Corporation, and Eli Lilly. He began his medical technology career with Carolina Medical Electronics in 1977. While reflecting on his career at Medtronic, he recently said, "I have seen many product launches—from the ear thermometer to the automatic external defibrillator."

He joined Medtronic in 2002 as senior vice president and president of the company's vascular business before serving as corporate president and chief operating officer. Bill Hawkins was named chief executive officer of Medtronic in 2007 and assumed the additional role of chairman in 2008.

Under his guidance, Medtronic's capacity to serve patients extended further to provide an array of diagnostic, preventive, and chronic disease management solutions. With a breadth and depth of expertise across more than 30 major chronic conditions, he recognized the unique position to play a larger role in the health care industry.

In March of 2010, Bill received the Biomedical Engineering Society's Distinguished Achievement Award. This award is given to recognize those that have made great contributions to the field of biomedical engineering and bioengineering.

Mr. Hawkins serves on the Board of Visitors for the Duke University School of Engineering and the Board of Directors for the Guthrie Theater and the University of Minnesota Foundation.

I ask my colleagues to join me, his friends, family, and colleagues in commending Bill Hawkins on his numerous achievements and wishing him well as he begins a new journey.

Congratulations, Bill.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARC MILANI

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Marc Milani, a spring intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Marc is a graduate of Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, FL. Currently, he is a sophomore pursuing a major in philosophy at Dartmouth College. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Marc for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO OLIVIA VOLSLOW

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Olivia Voslow, a spring intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Olivia is a graduate of the Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, MD. Currently, Olivia is preparing to enter into her freshman year at Middlebury College. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Olivia for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:21 a.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 711. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the "Schertz Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 1632. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5014 Gary Avenue in Lubbock, Texas, as the "Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office".

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

S. 349. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4865 Tallmadge Road in Rootstown, Ohio, as the "Marine Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray Post Office".

S. 655. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the "Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office".

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 771. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the "Schertz Veterans Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1632. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5014 Gary Avenue in Lubbock, Texas, as the "Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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-2231. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Competitive and Non-competitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs—Specific Administrative Provisions for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program" (RIN0524-AA59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2232. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Competitive and Non-competitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs—Administrative Provisions for Biomass Research and Development Initiative" (RIN0524-AA61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2233. 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 "Final Rule Amending CFR Part 588; Final Rule Removing Parts 585-587 from 31 CFR Chapter V" (31 CFR Parts 588, 585-587) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2234. 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 "Alphabetical Listing of Blocked Persons, Blocked Vessels, Specially Designated Nationals, Specially Designated Terrorists, Specially Designated Global Terrorists, Foreign Terrorist Organizations..." (31 CFR Chapter V) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2235. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13348 relative to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2236. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (163); Amdt. No. 3428" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2237. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the review of all complaints received by air carriers alleging discrimination on the basis of disability; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2238. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Draft Safety Evaluation for Westinghouse Electric Company..." received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 20, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2239. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea for the manufacture, assembly, test, support, repair, overhaul, and sale of T-62T-46LC-2A auxiliary power units for T-50 aircraft in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2240. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2011-0090-2011-0102); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2241. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maintenance of Incombustible Content of Rock Dust in Underground Coal Mines" (RIN1219-AB76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 21, 2010; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2242. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2243. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Contract Support Costs of Self-Determination Awards to Congress; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 618. A bill to promote the strengthening of the private sector in Egypt and Tunisia (Rept. No. 112-25).

By Mr. LEVIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 1253. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-26).

S. 1254. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

S. 1255. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 1256. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

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. INOUE (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. REID, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1244. A bill to provide for preferential duty treatment to certain apparel articles of the Philippines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1245. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1246. A bill to reduce the number of non-essential new vehicles purchased and leased by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1247. A bill to develop and recruit new, high-value jobs to the United States, to encourage the repatriation of jobs that have been off-shored to other countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BURR, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. KYL, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1248. A bill to prohibit the consideration of any bill by Congress unless the authority provided by the Constitution of the United States for the legislation can be determined and is clearly specified; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1249. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. KIRK, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1250. A bill to create and expand innovative teacher and principal preparation programs known as teacher and principal preparation academies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. ENZI, Mr. CORKER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1251. A bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1252. A bill to promote the economic self-sufficiency of low-income women through their increased participation in high-wage, high-demand occupations where they currently represent 25 percent or less of the workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.