

Cometh." Over the next half century, he embarked on a career that included Broadway, television, and movies. He received two Academy Award nominations for best supporting actor for roles in "Murder, Inc." and "Pocketful of Miracles." In 1962, he won the first of five Emmys for a role in "The Dick Powell Show."

Mr. Falk became a household name in 1971 for his title role in the detective series, "Columbo." His portrayal of the iconoclastic Los Angeles Police Department homicide detective made the character one of the most memorable and beloved in television history. Columbo placed 7th in TV Guide's 1999 ranking of "TV's Fifty Greatest Characters Ever."

Mr. Falk's legendary career and his many successes on stage, the small screen and the silver screen highlighted his talents as an actor. A consummate professional, his love for performance and acting brought joy to generations of fans across the world. He will be missed.

I send my deepest sympathies to his family, especially to his wife Shera, and daughters Catherine and Jackie.●

REMEMBERING VIRGINIA WAGNER

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, our State of Mississippi lost one of its finest citizens when Virginia Wagner of Bay St. Louis died last week.

I ask that the article entitled "Virginia Wagner Left Legacy of Generosity" which was posted by the Sun Herald in Gulfport, MS, be printed in the RECORD.

The article is an excellent tribute to the life and legacy of one of our State's finest citizens.

She and her family are in our thoughts and prayers.

The information follows.

VIRGINIA WAGNER LEFT LEGACY OF GENEROSITY

(By Michael Newsom)

Bay St. Louis resident Virginia Wagner—member of a prominent Hancock County family known for good deeds—died Monday. Friends said she left her own legacy of generosity.

Wagner was the daughter of Leo W. Seal Sr. and Rebecca Baxter Seal, and also the younger sister of the late Leo W. Seal Jr., a well known Coast philanthropist, businessman and community leader. Wagner, 81, died Monday morning, a few days after a fall at her home. Her husband, Fred Wagner, said his "extraordinary" wife spent her life helping others.

"She was from a distinguished family who valued public service and helping other people and looking for opportunities to be responsible citizens," he said. "There was a heritage of that in her family. Her brother was very much that way and her mother and father were very much that way. She constantly was interested in and concerned about others. You don't see that kind of philosophy often. A great part of it was her spiritual heritage and her faith. She was a committed Christian."

Fred and Virginia met in the early 1950s when they both lived in New Orleans. A mutual friend introduced them and 57 years after their marriage, Fred Wagner remem-

bered his wife Monday when speaking to the Sun Herald as "absolutely the most wonderful wife any man could ask for" and "a wonderful mother to our children."

Her daughter, Lisa Yearwood, said that even into her 80s, Virginia Wagner kept a social calendar that would rival most people 60 years younger. She kept recent letters from her mother that laid out her entire week's plans that involved meetings, charity work and other engagements. The writings serve as a testament to her tirelessness.

"She was not a typical 81-year-old lady," Yearwood said.

Yearwood said she would remember her mother for the way she treated others—something she tries to mimic.

"She was amazingly welcoming and hospitable," Yearwood said. "That was across the board. Whether that was with a waiter in a restaurant or people in Washington, it didn't matter. She was incredibly loving and welcoming and I hope I picked that up from her."

She kept a busy schedule. In May, Wagner worked a booth at the Bay Bridge Fest selling T-shirts, despite the sweltering temperatures. She was a member of Gulf Coast Blessings, a women's Bible study group. Years ago, Wagner and others began teaching children how to swim and that evolved into a swim team that competed in events across the state. She was also an avid tennis player in the 1950s and 1960s—at a time when her husband said there weren't many others on the Coast playing the sport. She worked as a chaperone for the Miss USA pageant when it was held on the Coast for several years in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Virginia Wagner also organized a Mardi Gras marching club known as "The Marching Fools From Istanbul" and she carried a silver whistle that helped her keep the group in line.

"She was a fun person and she was always in charge," Fred Wagner said.

Friend Carrie Rester said she will remember Virginia Wagner's generosity and "giving heart."

"She loved people and wanted to share that love whether it was with a birthday card, inviting people into her home, delivering a treat she made or checking in by phone or email," Rester said. "She was always thinking about others, going the extra mile for her friends and family."●

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 READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1326. A bill to implement the President's request to increase the statutory limit on the public debt.

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 Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1324. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1325. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 1326. A bill to implement the President's request to increase the statutory limit on the public debt; read the first time.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1327. A bill to amend the Act of March 1, 1933, to transfer certain authority and resources to the Utah Dineh Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 44

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 44, a bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries.

S. 148

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress.

S. 274

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to medication therapy management services under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 556

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration, and for other purposes.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 829

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 829, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to prevent online threats to economic creativity and theft of intellectual property, and for other purposes.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to prohibit theft of medical products, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1058

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1058, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure transparency and proper operation of pharmacy benefit managers.

S. 1171

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1171, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible dependent beneficiaries of employees.

S. 1197

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1197, a bill to provide for a feasibility study before carrying out any Federal action relating to the Chicago Area Water System.

S. 1235

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1235, a bill to recognize the memorial at the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national memorial of Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1283, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to permit leave to care for a same-sex spouse, domestic partner, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, grandchild, or grandparent who has a serious health condition.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to make funds available to reimburse certain fishermen for legal fees and costs incurred in connection with improper fines and for other purposes.

S. 1312

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1312, a bill to strengthen and improve monitoring in the fisheries across the United States and for other purposes.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to allow individuals to choose to opt out of the Medicare part A benefit.

S. 1323

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1323, a bill to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit.

S. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 80, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 132

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 132, a resolution recognizing and honoring the zoos and aquariums of the United States.

S. RES. 175

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCHE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 175, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to ongoing violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and the importance of a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict within Georgia's internationally recognized borders.

S. RES. 180

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 180, a resolution expressing support for peaceful demonstrations and universal freedoms in Syria and condemning the human rights violations by the Assad regime.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1325. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in the Lower Mississippi River Area in the State of Louisiana as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation entitled the Lower Mississippi River National Historic Site Study Act. This bill will direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating sites in Plaquemines Parish along the Lower Mississippi River Area as units of the National Park System. This area in Southeastern Louisiana has contributed much to our Nation's history and there are many stories that have yet to be preserved for future generations. Unless Congress acts to preserve these historical assets, they will be lost forever. That is why I am again, for the third time, introducing this legislation. It is important that this legislation become law and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact it.

In order to be designated as a unit in the National Park System, the Department of Interior must first conduct a special resources study to determine whether an area possesses nationally significant natural, cultural or recreational resources to be eligible for favorable consideration. This is exactly what my bill does. It asks the Department of Interior to take the first step in determining what I already know, that the Lower Mississippi River Area would be a suitable and feasible asset to the National Park Service.

As many from Louisiana are already aware, this area has vast historical significance and is rich with cultural history. In the 1500s, Spanish explorers traveled along the banks of the river. In 1682, Robert de LaSalle claimed all the land drained by the area. In 1699, the area became the site of the first fortification on the Lower Mississippi