

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING OLD FARM
CHRISTMAS PLACE OF MAINE

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, December in Maine invokes the classic images of Christmas. The wonders of children sledding down snow-covered hills and small towns enveloped in December's darkness while illuminated by the glow of twinkling lights. One of the most memorable parts of any Christmas celebration revolves around the selection and decoration of the perfect tree. Today I rise to commend and recognize the Old Farm Christmas Place of Maine, a small business that allows families throughout the Nation to enjoy the tradition of selecting and cutting down their own Christmas tree.

The Old Farm Christmas Place of Maine, located in the coastal town of Cape Elizabeth, opened in November of 2010. Jay Cox, the owner of Old Farm, purchased the historic Dyer-Hutchinson farmhouse in 2001. Built in 1790, the Old Farm stands as a testament to Maine's rich history and in 1997 was accepted into the National Registry of Historic Places. After substantial renovations to the historic property, Jay planted his first Christmas trees in the spring of 2004 on the 50-acre property. Finally, last year, with roughly 18,000 trees planted and 1,000 trees ready to be sold, Jay opened up his winter wonderland.

This small business provides a unique tree-cutting venture and invites families to experience the joy of selecting the perfect tree. At Old Farm, this is a journey that begins with a wagon ride over the farmland onto the fields where families can explore acres of the beautiful farm until they find their ideal tree. Once this perfect tree is selected, they will assist you in cutting down the tree and loading it into your car or even delivering it to local areas throughout the State. Lastly, as Maine's winters can be frigid, families can finish the experience warming themselves by the fire inside the Old Farm store while sipping delectable cider and rich hot chocolate.

Jay comes from a family of Christmas tree enthusiasts; his parents owned and operated Dun Roamin' Christmas Tree Farm in Cape Elizabeth for 25 years. That farm now makes wreaths which are sold at the Old Farm Christmas Place store. The storefront also carries several locally made Christmas decorations and ornaments to adorn households near and far, adding a new element to the traditional tree farm selection.

As opening a small business is a daunting task, Jay Cox's dedication for nearly a decade to open a Christmas tree farm and storefront reminiscent of old times and tradition is truly inspiring. I am proud to extend my congratulations to everyone at the Old Farm Christmas Place of Maine for their tremendous efforts and offer my best wishes for continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:35 a.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 bills, without amendment:

S. 1541. An act to revise the Federal charter for the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to reflect a change in eligibility requirements for membership.

S. 1639. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Legion under its Federal charter to provide guidance and leadership to the individual departments and posts of the American Legion, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1021. An act to prevent the termination of the temporary office of bankruptcy judges in certain judicial districts.

H.R. 2297. An act to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2405. An act to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act relating to public health preparedness and countermeasure development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2471. An act to amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet.

H.R. 3237. An act to amend the SOAR Act by clarifying the scope of coverage of the Act.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S.J. Res. 22. Joint resolution to grant the consent of Congress to an amendment to the compact between the States of Missouri and Illinois providing that bonds issued by the Bi-State Development Agency may mature in not to exceed 40 years.

At 4:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1540) 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, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoint the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MCKEON, BARTLETT, THORNBERRY, AKIN, FORBES, MILLER of Florida, LOBIONDO, TURNER of Ohio, KLINE, ROGERS of Alabama, SHUSTER, CONAWAY, WITTMAN, HUNTER, ROONEY, SCHILLING, GRIFFIN of Arkansas, WEST,

SMITH of Washington, REYES, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Messrs. MCINTYRE, ANDREWS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Messrs. LANGEVIN, LARSEN of Washington, COOPER, Ms. BORDALLO, Messrs. COURTNEY, LOEBSACK, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of matters within the jurisdiction of that committee under clause 11 of rule X: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. RUPERSBURGER.

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of section 548 and 572 of the House bill, and sections 572 and 573 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. PETRI, HECK, and GEORGE MILLER of California.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of sections 911, 1099A, 2852, and 3114 of the House bill, and section 1089 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to the conference: Messrs. UPTON, WALDEN, and WAXMAN.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of section 645 of the House bill, and section 1245 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. ACKERMAN.

From the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for consideration of sections 1013, 1014, 1055, 1056, 1086, 1092, 1202, 1204, 1205, 1211, 1214, 1216, 1218, 1219, 1226, 1228–1230, 1237, 1301, 1303, 1532, 1533, and 3112 of the House bill, and sections 159, 1012, 1031, 1033, 1046, 1201, 1203, 1204, 1206–1209, 1221–1225, 1228, 1230, 1245, title XIII and section 1609 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BERMAN.

From the Committee on Homeland Security, for consideration of section 1099H of the House bill, and section 1092 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. DANIEL LUNGREN of California, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of sections 531 of subtitle D of title V, 573, 843, and 2804 of the House bill, and section 553 and 848 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SMITH of Texas, COBLE, and CONYERS.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of sections 313, 601, and 1097 of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HASTINGS of Washington, BISHOP of Utah, and MARKEY.

From the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for consideration of sections 598, 662, 803, 813, 844, 847, 849, 937–939, 1081, 1091, 1101–1111, 1116, and 2813 of the House bill, and sections 827, 845, 1044, 1102–1107, and 2812 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. ROSS of Florida, LANKFORD, and CUMMINGS.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sections 911 and 1098 of the House bill, and sections 885, 911, 912, and division E of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HALL, QUAYLE, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

From the Committee on Small Business, for consideration of section 804 of the House bill, and sections 885-887, and division E of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of sections 314, 366, 601, 1098, and 2814 of the House bill, and sections 262, 313, 315, 1045, 1088, and 3301 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MICA, CRAVAACK, and BISHOP of New York.

From the Committee on Veterans Affairs, for consideration of sections 551, 573, 705, 731, and 1099C of the House bill, and sections 631 and 1093 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BUERKLE, and Ms. BROWN of Florida.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of sections 704, 1099A, and 1225 of the House bill, and section 848 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CAMP, HERGER, and LEVIN.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to 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, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

Mr. Rogers of Kentucky, Mr. Young of Florida, Mr. Lewis of California, Mr. Frelinghuysen, Mr. Aderholt, Mrs. Emerson, Ms. Granger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Culberson, Mr. Crenshaw, Mr. Rehberg, Mr. Carter, Mr. Dicks, Mr. Visclosky, Mrs. Lowey, Mr. Serrano, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Moran, Mr. Price of North Carolina, and Mr. Bishop of Georgia.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2297. An act to promote the development of the Southwest waterfront in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2405. An act to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act relating to public health preparedness and countermeasure development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2471. An act to amend section 2710 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that a

video tape service provider may obtain a consumer's informed, written consent on an ongoing basis and that consent may be obtained through the Internet; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-4220. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Pricing Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to 47 C.F.R. Parts 1, 36, 51, 54, 61, 64, and 69 to Comprehensively Reform and Modernize the Universal Service and Inter-carrier Compensation Systems" (FCC 11-161) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4221. A communication from the 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 manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to Japan for the production of the Evolved SeaSparrow Missile (ESSM) in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4222. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program for 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4223. A communication from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitting, a report relative to the Annual 2011 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4224. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Family Educational Rights and Privacy" (RIN1880-AA86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4225. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4226. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General of the Intelligence Community received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2011; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-4227. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Methamphetamine Production Prevention Act of 2008" (RIN1117-AB25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 5, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4228. A communication from the Under Secretary and Director, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Patent Term Adjustment Provisions Relating to Information Disclosure Statements" (RIN0651-AC56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4229. A communication from the Acting Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Arizona Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4230. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual report of the Attorney General relative to Lobbying Disclosure Act enforcement actions taken for the period beginning on July 1, 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4231. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual report of the Attorney General relative to Lobbying Disclosure Act enforcement actions taken for the period beginning on January 1, 2010; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4232. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI) Program Genitourinary (GU) Regulation" (RIN2900-AO20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4233. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to expenditures from the Pershing Hall Revolving Fund; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1430. A bill to authorize certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-99).

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. KERRY:

S. 1949. A bill to provide for safe and humane policies and procedures pertaining to the arrest, detention, and processing of aliens in immigration enforcement operations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 1950. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve commercial motor vehicle safety and reduce commercial motor vehicle-related accidents and fatalities, to authorize the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to