

accomplished when people come together. The new, state-of-the-art wing is truly impressive.

I was honored to see it firsthand when I attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and applauded the many people who poured their hearts into the project. The nearly 50,000 additional square feet; four cutting-edge operating suites; and patient rooms with maximum comfort and connectivity are remarkable, to say the least.

The heart and soul of healthcare in Nebraska is a hospital like the Phelps Memorial Health Center, providing high-quality and compassionate care close to home. Today I celebrate their success in turning an aging institution into a state-of-the-art facility and highlight it as a shining example of what can be accomplished with determination and commitment.●

TRIBUTE TO COAST GUARD HEROES

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I mourn the loss of one of our brave Coast Guard airmen who gave his life in the line of duty when a Coast Guard MH-65C helicopter crashed during a training flight in the vicinity of Mobile Bay, AL, on Tuesday evening with four crewmembers aboard. Three other crewmembers remain missing, and the Coast Guard is continuing to search for them in cooperation with State and local authorities from Alabama and Florida.

The cause of the incident is still under investigation, but it serves as a tragic reminder of the heroic sacrifices that the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard make on a regular basis to protect the people of this country from terrorist threats, natural disasters, environmental hazards, and criminal activity. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the airmen onboard the Coast Guard helo that went down Tuesday night, and I would like to take this opportunity to honor their service, and the exploits of many Coastguardsmen before them, who demonstrated extreme valor in the face of danger and epitomized the virtues of bravery and sacrifice in service of their country.

Scores of grateful Americans will gather this evening at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans to honor 14 extraordinary Coast Guard heroes, and their family members will be in attendance to commemorate their legacy. Tomorrow morning, Bollinger Shipyards in Lockport, LA, will dedicate its fleet of fast response cutters and deliver the very first in class to the U.S. Coast Guard, the Bernard C. Webber. This will be the first class of ships in the history of the U.S. military that bears the names of enlisted personnel, as opposed to U.S. Presidents and flag officers. I would like to take a few minutes to share some of their stories.

PO Bernie Webber led a crew of four volunteers from Chatham Station in

Massachusetts in February 1952 to respond to the tanker Pendleton, which was in distress. They braved 60-foot seas, hurricane-force winds, and blizzard conditions on a cold and rainy night off the coast of New England. Wind and waves smashed their windshield and compass along the way, but they managed to save the lives of 33 men in what many historians consider the most difficult small boat rescue in Coast Guard history. To this day, cadets at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, have never been able to fit so many men into a boat the size that Webber commanded.

William Ray Flores was 19 years old and less than 1 year out of boot camp when he gave his life to save his fellow shipmates. On January 28, 1980, the 180-foot Coast Guard buoy tender Blackthorn collided with a 605-foot oil tanker near the entrance to Tampa Bay. The Coast Guard vessel quickly began to capsize after impact, and crewmembers leapt from the deck to escape the sinking ship. Flores, however, decided to strap himself to the lifejacket locker door so he could float lifejackets up to the surface as the ship went down. Twenty-two of Flores's shipmates tragically perished that day, but 27 others survived thanks to his heroic sacrifice. SA Billy Flores was posthumously awarded the Coast Guard Medal for his actions that day, the service's highest award for heroism during peacetime.

Margaret Norvell served for 41 years in the U.S. Lighthouse Service, beginning her career watching over the southern entrance to the Mississippi River at the Head of Passes and later taking over as keeper of the Port Pontchartrain Light and West End Light on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans. In 1903, a storm destroyed every building in her small Louisiana community of Buras except Norvell's lighthouse. She immediately responded by taking in the entire community and providing shelter and comfort to more than 200 of her fellow citizens who had been rendered homeless. Later in her career in the year 1926, Norvell received a report that a naval airplane had crashed into Lake Pontchartrain. She immediately set out in her small rowboat and battled a merciless squall for 2 hours before she finally arrived at the scene of the crash, rescued the downed aviator, and brought him safely back to shore.

Stewards-Mate First Class Charles Walter David was a cook aboard the Coast Guard cutter Comanche when the Army transport ship Dorchester was attacked by a German U-Boat off the coast of Greenland on the night of February 3, 1942. David dove into the frigid seas of the North Atlantic and helped to save the lives of 93 soldiers and many of his own crew including the ship's executive officer, who had accidentally fallen overboard. David did not return to his ship until every last soul had been rescued from the water. He contracted pneumonia several days later and died as a result of

his efforts that night, for which he was posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for bravery.

Others, such as Isaac Mayo and Joseph Napier, returned to shore multiple times to reembark on new boats after previous attempts caused them to capsize and several of their fellow crewmen to perish in the punishing waves. Both men eventually completed their rescue missions successfully.

These are just a handful of the 58 Coast Guardians who will serve as namesakes for the service's newest class of patrol boats, and their extraordinary acts of valor will continue to inspire future generations of heroes for centuries to come. We salute these brave Americans who risked and gave their lives to save others. We commend the Coast Guard for honoring their memory through the dedication of the fast response cutter fleet, and we thank the dedicated Cajun shipbuilders of Bollinger Shipyards in south Louisiana for providing the Coast Guard with the fastest, most durable patrol boats available to carry out its military, law enforcement, and maritime safety missions.

Our Nation will continue to pray for the airmen onboard the Coast Guard helicopter that went down in Mobile Bay earlier this week, as well as their loved ones. We owe them all a debt of extreme gratitude for their service to this country.●

TRIBUTE TO MELVA E. RADCLIFFE

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Melva E. Radcliffe on her 111th birthday this past Saturday, March 3. A lifelong native of New Jersey, Mrs. Radcliffe is the oldest recorded resident of my State. Her father, the late Wilmer A. Cadmus, served as mayor of my hometown of Paterson. Mrs. Radcliffe attended the Paterson Normal School, now William Paterson University, and taught art and music to elementary school students in Paterson until 1968. Her family tells us she has proudly voted in every election since 1921, and greatly enjoyed traveling after she retired. I wish Mrs. Radcliffe all the best, and congratulate her on this amazing milestone in her life.●

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 PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 1837. An act to address certain water-related concerns on the San Joaquin River, 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. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COBURN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BURR, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2153. A bill to apply the countervailing duty provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 to nonmarket economy countries, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2154. A bill to provide for research, monitoring, and observation of the Arctic Ocean and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. 2155. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to promote biobased manufacturing; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 344

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to amend title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, in the case of airline pilots who are required by regulation to retire at age 60, to compute the actuarial value of monthly benefits in the form of a life annuity commencing at age 60.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1301

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 through 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to expand the research, prevention, and awareness activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health with respect to pulmonary fibrosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1461

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1461, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 1497

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1497, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend for 3 years reasonable cost contracts under Medicare.

S. 1591

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1845

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1845, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an energy investment credit for energy storage property connected to the grid, and for other purposes.

S. 1884

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to provide States with incentives to require elementary schools and secondary schools to maintain, and permit school personnel to administer, epinephrine at schools.

S. 1900

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1900, a bill to amend title

XVIII of the Social Security Act to preserve access to urban Medicare-dependent hospitals.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 1925, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1933

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1933, a bill to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

S. 1990

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1990, a bill to require the Transportation Security Administration to comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

S. 2041

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2041, a bill to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project and provide for environmental protection and government oversight.

S. 2075

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2075, a bill to close unjustified corporate tax loopholes, and for other purposes.

S. 2134

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2134, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, care, and recognition of military working dogs, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 380

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 380, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

AMENDMENT NO. 1537

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1537 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1724

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska