

woman for pursuits out of the house began with a simple call.

A century later in Congress and across our Nation we celebrate this wonderful organization that has built a significant and undeniable legacy of empowerment. The Girl Scouts of the USA is one of the largest educational organizations for girls in the world and seeks to foster self-reliance and resourcefulness through outdoors activities and volunteerism. The leadership skills and sense of civic awareness nurtured through an array of Girl Scouting activities has touched many lives, helping to mold strong, confident women.

I am a proud cosponsor of S. Res. 310 that designates 2012 as the "Year of the Girl" and congratulates the Girl Scouts of the USA on its 100th anniversary. In addition, I supported legislation authorizing the minting of a commemorative silver dollar coin in 2013 recognizing this centennial celebration. These honors are richly deserved and a fitting tribute to the Girl Scouts. In Michigan, where more than 53,000 active Girl Scouts reside, there are a number of celebrations planned.

Since its inception, more than 50 million women have taken part in Girl Scout activities. These young women have made a difference in the lives of others and in communities across the nation. From a group of 18 in 1912 to an organization of 3.7 million today, the Girl Scouts has consistently sought to shape the lives of young women through fun and diverse scouting activities. The Girls Scouts of the USA has stayed true to its mission to "build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place." And we don't have to look very far to see results. Impressively, near 60 percent of women in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives are former Girl Scouts. Indeed, successful women from all walks of life can surely point to their Girl Scout experience as a valuable part of their formative years.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the USA, I am delighted to offer my sincerest gratitude for the difference the Girl Scouts has made in the lives of young women. From their humble beginnings in Savannah, GA, to the impressive service organization we honor today, the Girl Scouts has had a positive impact on our nation. I look forward to the next 100 years of this remarkable organization and its members.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP TIMOTHY CLARKE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Bishop Timothy Clarke of Columbus, OH for his 30 years of dedicated leadership and service to First Church of God. This past Sunday, March 11, 2012, marked both Bishop Clarke's 30th year as Pastor and First Church of God's 75th Anniversary.

Bishop Clarke began his work in January 1974, serving as Associate Minister at First Church of God in his hometown of Far Rockaway, NY. In

November 1977, Bishop Clarke began his pastorate at York Avenue Church of God in Warren, OH, where he served for 4 years.

In February, 1982, he became the Senior Pastorate of First Church of God in Columbus, OH. He was later consecrated to the office of Bishop in September 2001.

Bishop Clarke is a respected community leader in central Ohio and is the recipient of many honors and degrees for his service. He has served on the boards of various community organizations, and he has authored seven books.

Having worshipped with him and his congregation, I can attest to his significant impact on the community, and I am honored to call him a friend.

Mr. President, I would like to recognize Bishop Clarke for his dedicated service as he and his congregation celebrate this joyous occasion of his 30th year as Pastor and the First Church of God's 75th anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, in 1912, the Arkansas Children's Home Society provided a safe haven for orphaned, neglected and abused children and opened the door to what is known today as the Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Children's welfare has always been the focus but over the decades, its approach evolved. What first started as an orphanage transformed into a hospital with the mission to help children most in need.

The facility has grown and thrived. The vision of the early hospital administrators has been realized and the dreams continue to get even bigger.

Today the Arkansas Children's Hospital is a destination for children from all over the country to receive the best medical care available. Just as important, it is a place that Arkansas children can go, in State and close to home, for treatment for their illnesses.

This is a state of the art facility that is using the newest technology and developing cutting edge treatments and cures for diseases affecting children. The scientists and doctors are advancing the world of medicine to help children lead a healthy and happy life.

Arkansas Children's Hospital consistently ranks as one of the leading employers in Arkansas. It is the only pediatric Level I trauma center in the State, and it is the sixth largest in the United States. Thousands of Americans have experienced the renowned care offered by the staff and facilities at ACH—many owe their lives to these world-class doctors and nurses that work here.

This hospital is something the people of Arkansas can be proud of, both its history and its vision for the future. I wish to congratulate Dr. Jonathan

Bates, president and CEO, as well as the administration, physicians, residents, and support staff on the 100th anniversary of Arkansas Children's Hospital and I hope for its continued success for another 100 years.●

REMEMBERING CASEY RIBICOFF

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, last year we were all saddened to learn of the passing of Casey Ribicoff, a remarkable woman and the wife of former Connecticut Senator Abe Ribicoff. In honor of Mrs. Ribicoff, I would like to have printed in the RECORD the moving tributes that were given at her funeral by some of those who knew her best.

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

SENATOR CHRIS DODD—CASEY RIBICOFF
EULOGY

(Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011)

Thirteen years ago, I stood in this same spot to say goodbye and pay tribute to my friend and political mentor, Senator Abe Ribicoff.

Peter, I am deeply honored that you asked me to share some brief comments this morning to celebrate the life of one of the smartest, most generous, elegant, funny, and downright fascinating people any of us ever met—Abe's beloved partner, Casey.

I first met Casey Ribicoff in 1974, during my first run for Congress in Connecticut.

Senator Abe Ribicoff was himself up for reelection that year and he invited me to campaign with him in New London. I was excited. The former Judge, Congressman, Governor, Cabinet Member, and Senator, was a larger-than-life figure in Connecticut, and had been an influential force in American politics for the previous 30 years.

My parents, who were deceased by 1974, had been friends and colleagues of Abe Ribicoff's for many, many years, and I had been in his presence on numerous occasions.

Now, there were many appropriate adjectives to describe the Senator—able, thoughtful, perceptive, conscientious, courageous, and eloquent, to name a few. Funny, fun-loving, joyous—how shall I say this—were not exactly the words that jumped out to you when you thought of the Senator. Abe Ribicoff was a very serious guy.

So, on that fall day in 1974 when I first met Casey, right away, I knew this woman was different—a vibrant, vital force in any room. But on that day in 1974, something else was different—Abe Ribicoff was different. Different than I had ever seen him before. On that day, so many years ago, it was wonderful to see the effect this striking vivacious woman had on Abe Ribicoff.

I remember how much he laughed that day. In all the years I had known him, I had never seen Abe Ribicoff have as much fun as he was having with his lively Casey. What a difference she made in his life.

That year, 1974, Abe Ribicoff was running for what he and Casey knew would be his last term in the United States Senate. I would wager that those last six years were among the most enjoyable in their lives together. Casey and Abe traveled widely, while deepening friendships with people Casey brought into Abe's life and people with whom Abe had developed a strong relationship in his public life.

When that last term was up in 1980, Abe was so gracious to give the nominating speech for me to succeed him in the United States Senate.

Standing there with Casey, in the Bushnell Auditorium in Hartford, Connecticut, listening to Abe's speech, I felt her warm hand reach down to hold mine. Without uttering a word, Casey instinctively knew how much I missed my own parents on that very special day.

Now, as touching and sensitive as Casey was, she also had a glorious sense of humor.

Several weeks after that nominating convention, I was with the Senator and Casey. I remember the Senator saying to me, "Chris, I'll do anything I can to help you win election to the Senate."

Excitedly, I replied, "Well, Senator, Monday morning at 6 am, I'm shaking hands at the Greenwich railroad station—would you care to join me greeting commuters?"

To which Casey, in a nanosecond, interjected, "If Abe was willing to do that, young man, he would have run again himself." Abe roared with laughter. More than thirty years later, I still start smiling when I recall that moment.

And, by the way, having just recently retired from electoral politics, I now fully understand her comment.

But that was Casey: warm, funny and feisty.

After Abe retired, as so many of you gathered here this morning will recall, he and Casey lived in Manhattan and their cherished retreat in Cornwall Bridge, where they enjoyed so many wonderful friends and times.

But they weren't strangers to Washington either. Abe and Casey would come down every now and then—not to lobby, but to see old friends.

Abe never once walked onto the Senate floor after he retired in 1980.

Instead, he and Casey would have lunch in the Senate dining room, where a stream of his former colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, would gather to reminisce, and spend time.

Casey Ribicoff was as loyal and supportive a friend as you could ever have. And if you were her friend, as so many of you were, everything about your life was "the best." Every new job you got was "the best." Every accomplishment you achieved was "the best." There is nothing quite like having such an enthusiastic friend.

Now, I don't want to say that Casey was a gossip. So I'll just say that Casey Ribicoff liked to know what was going on—never in a cruel way, but always with a sense of fun and curiosity.

She knew someone in every room, and always found a moment to sidle up and say, in that low, melodious voice of hers, "Sooooooo?"

For those few here who may not have known Casey, let me translate that word: "tell me everything that's going on."

For those of us who have faith in life beyond this one, I can easily imagine her deeply engaged in conversation, not just with the bright lights of her own time, but with the great personalities of centuries past. I keep imagining Casey and Oscar Wilde getting along famously.

I called Casey a week or two before she passed away. I wanted to speak with her in my new capacity as chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America to get some advice.

I had this idea. With this year being the 100th anniversary of Ronald Reagan's birth, there were political tributes to his life and career, but it struck me that more than half of the President's adult life was spent in the movie business, at Warner Brothers—and the Motion Picture business might want to recognize the President's years in the movies.

I wanted to write Mrs. Reagan to see how she'd feel about such an event to be held at

the Motion Picture Association offices in Washington. But I was smart enough to call Casey first.

I knew that Casey and Nancy Reagan had developed a great friendship due to the fact that both of their husbands had suffered from Alzheimer's. I knew that if Casey thought that such an event honoring President Reagan was a good idea, she would share that with Mrs. Reagan.

And Casey, in that unforgettable voice, immediately and enthusiastically said, "I'll talk to Nancy." And she did. On November 14th, we are going to have an evening of recognition for President Reagan, and how I wish that Casey Ribicoff were going to be there.

Allow me to conclude these remarks on this note: it is a common refrain these days that we don't have enough leaders like Abe Ribicoff in Washington. I think part of the reason for that is that we don't have enough people like Casey Ribicoff in Washington these days either.

Our politics has lost a lot of its civility, because our political community has lost so much of its humanity. Casey Ribicoff had an abundance of both.

She brought intelligence, laughter, warmth and enthusiasm, not just to Abe's life, but to his and her world. And she did it with a natural grace and timeless elegance.

To her sister June and nephew, son Peter, her daughter-in-law, Angela, and her grandchildren—my former Senate Page Andrew, Jake, and Jessica—I offer my deepest condolences and my deepest appreciation for the many gifts Casey Ribicoff gave to so many others in her life.

REMARKS BY PETER MATHES

Every son likes to think of his mother as special . . . but in my case, as you all know, it's absolutely true. She was one of a kind, and as everyone has said, trying to capture who she was and what she meant to us is simply impossible.

But if you were lucky enough to have known her . . . to be someone that she loved, you know just how special that was and how it can never be replaced.

You all know she had a strong sense of what was right . . . and what was wrong. She seemed to always do just the right thing and she had a perfect sense of style that defined her life. . . . You can only imagine how stress free it was to be her son!

I've heard some of you say that she could be "tough" on you if she thought you were doing something she thought was wrong . . . really? Welcome to MY world!

But she was only tough on the ones she loved, and her love for me was unconditional . . . but she was always clear about what she thought . . . from the color of a tie to what I should do in any situation. She had strong opinions . . . and the most annoying thing of all, and something that I would probably never admit to her, was that she was usually right!

But It was this sense of ethics . . . integrity, character and honesty that she instilled in me from an early age that I am most grateful for.

As many of you know, my mother was a great listener . . . she had the ability to understand and simplify everything.

How many times did you tell her a long, complex story only to hear her say: "listen, the bottom line is . . ."? And in two sentences she was able to cut to the heart of the matter.

As I look out at all of you I see friends from every part of her life. From Chicago to Miami Beach . . . Connecticut, Washington and New York.

The fact that you have been in each other's lives for so long is a testament to the kind

of person she was . . . In order to have friends like this, you have to know how to be a friend . . . and no one knew that more than Mom.

She was loyal and devoted, and seemed to have an endless capacity to love . . . and she cherished each friendship. . . .

One of the great gifts that I received from my mother is each one of you sitting here today . . . You became her family you became my family . . . you became our family.

There was a recent piece in the Sunday Times about how the word "authentic" is suddenly back in fashion. As I read it, I thought about my mother and how, perhaps, this is the word that actually best describes her.

But perhaps the biggest miracle that happened for my mother, and for me, was when Abe came into our lives.

They had a love for each other that is rarely seen, and my mother kept the memory of Abe and that love alive until the day she died.

She never traveled without a photo of her Abe on the nightstand . . . in fact she continued to celebrate their anniversary even after he died.

And this year was no different. Even though she was so sick she told us all about the day they married and we celebrated together with a bottle of champagne just as they always did.

Abe was the love of her life and a second father to me . . . And of all the things I learned from them, nothing was more important than how they loved each other and how they cherished and protected that love.

She showed me that when you are with the right person it brings out the best in you, which is why she was so happy when I married Angela. She saw in us that rare love that she'd found with Abe and she talked about how this is the greatest gift of all.

I'll never forget when I first told my mother about Angela. Of course one of the first questions she asked was: "What does she do?" I told her she was the head of ABC Daytime, so she immediately hung up on me and hit speed dial for Barbara Walters to check her out.

Barbara simply said: "Yes, I do know her. She's my boss." So you know how happy THAT made her. Over the years she and Angela were more like mother and daughter . . . in fact I tell everyone that Angela became the daughter and I became the son-in-law she always wanted! But the truth is seeing how much they loved each other was a gift to me.

Like you, when I think of my mother I think of her spirit and how she lived life to the fullest. . . .

The very first thing she said to the doctor when she was diagnosed was: "I've had almost 90 great years. . . . NO ONE has had a better life than I". . . . She was in control of her life from the very beginning until the very end.

I've always been impressed with the way she lived her life, but nothing was more impressive than watching the way she chose to leave it.

Never once did she feel sorry for herself or question "why me". She took the news as part of life . . . she couldn't fix it so she simply dealt with it and moved on.

She spoke or emailed with many of you until the end, but in the last months and especially in the last weeks, Angela and I got to see this unbelievable strength of character first hand.

She never complained . . . she wanted her life to be as normal as possible. She continued to read 3 or 4 newspapers a day and still had strong opinions on what was happening in the world and what was happening in the world of fashion!

Angela and I were with her in her final hours. . . . Each tightly holding her hand, telling her how loved and how special she was until she took her last breath. It was an indescribable gift for each of us.

My mother was the first person I saw when I came into this world and I was the last person she saw when she left it.

And have no doubt . . . she was Casey until the very end!

She still looked beautiful and was as intellectually curious as ever. . . .

And of course, she still wanted to hear the gossip from all of you!

We gave her an iPad for Mother's Day and in many ways it became her life line. She was emailing and reading on it until the end. . . . But . . . her confessed addiction on it was playing solitaire!

In fact, when I opened her iPad after she'd gone, the first screen that popped up was the score from her last game of solitaire. She'd had a high score . . . and it read: "YOU WON! Congratulations you aced the game!"

And that you did Mom . . . you aced the game of life and made us all better because of it. I miss you and I love you.

REMARKS OF ANGELA MATHES

First of all Jessye, I have to say thank you. I remember when Casey spoke with Rabbi Sobel and told him that she thought it would be "Divine" if you were to sing "a little Duke Ellington" . . . and I have to say that you took divine to a whole new level!

Chris, Barbara . . . I can't tell you what it feels like listening to you talk about Casey.

And now, what it feels like standing here and seeing how many people have come to celebrate my mother-in-law's incredible life . . . Thinking of how many lives she's touched.

But as many of her close friends will understand, the first thing I thought of was calling her to tell her what she missed . . .

Although I'm sure, as usual, she already knows all about it!

And if there's anyone here who doubts that she still has that power, I'd like to remind you that she's been sending small signs that prove you're wrong: like the earthquake in New York the day after she died . . . and the hurricane 3 days after her burial!

As I was preparing for this tribute, I struggled trying to find the words that best describe Casey . . . I had the same problems I do when I try to describe her to people she's never met.

One problem is trying to use ordinary words to describe an extraordinary person.

Although for me, the biggest problem is that the first word anyone hears is: "mother-in-law". . . . And it immediately sends a chill down their spine. . . .

It's like hearing the words: "teenage daughter" . . .

Honestly, you can't imagine wanting to spend a lot of time with either one of them!

But as many of you know, that wasn't the case with us . . . Casey and I were very close . . . We spoke 3 or 4 times a day for years.

I never felt like a "daughter-in-law" . . . Peter and I were just "the kids", and as I used to tell her: "you can't get any better than that."

We often talked about our mothers. About how much we loved them and how much we missed them . . . and I remember asking her one day to tell me what her mom was like.

She just smiled and said: "she was DEE-lish!" . . .

That when she walked into a room, everything seemed to change . . . she made everyone in the room smile.

And I told Casey that THAT was actually the perfect description of HER! Because it wasn't only about who she was, but it was

more about how knowing her enhanced YOUR life!

She was generous with her love to a lot of people, but with me, she was generous in every way. And over the years she's given me many very special gifts. . . .

Most of them came with a story, of how Abe had found it for her, and now she wanted to share it with me.

She told me just how he gave her the gift . . . where she wore it . . . why she loved it. Each thing represented part of her life's story and for me it was a remarkable experience!

But of course, this was Casey. . . . So each thing also came with a set of explicit "suggestions": "I always wear these 2 things together . . . of course, YOU can choose to wear it anyway you wish, it's up to you, but they do look best together."

Now for those of you who don't speak "Casey", let me assure you, that it was NEVER EVER "up to me"!

She taught me more, about the things in life I thought I already knew all about, like the importance of friendship, loyalty, and discretion. . . .

And she also taught me some very important things that I never knew, like: Never wear a watch to a formal affair; always wear your pins high not low; and never put moisturizer on your nose . . . it clogs the pores.

Over the past 10 years, and especially over the last 5 months, she shared a lot of stories with Peter and me . . .

She said that over her many years, she "collected" a lot of things, but what she treasured most was her collection of wonderful friends.

You know how much she loved you . . . you were her family, and I know that she'd be angry with me if I didn't remind you of that.

But you also need to know that the way you supported her, and supported Peter and me over these last difficult months, has meant more to us than we will ever be able to tell you.

I'm sure that everyone here has some GREAT Casey stories . . . and so you can imagine how hard it was to try to narrow it down to just one or two.

She was beautiful on the inside and the outside . . . had that great sense of humor, was so smart, so confident . . . she didn't suffer fools, and you can only imagine that, coming from an Italian Mother, how in awe I was at something I'd never experienced before: someone with no-guilt and no regrets!

Casey taught by example.

She showed us all how to live, and in the end, she showed us how to leave this world with that same grace, dignity, sense of humor and style.

And make no mistake . . . she NEVER stopped living life on her terms.

One minute she was telling Rabbi Sobel exactly what she wanted done at her memorial service . . . dictating her death notice to Peter, and the next, she and I were in Akris buying a few little jackets for her to wear in the summer!

One day about a month or so after she was diagnosed, she called me at home about 9:00 in the morning to tell me she had an idea . . . she was thinking of selling a few things on eBay . . . eBay?!

She was 89 years old with lung cancer . . . ONLY Casey!

But Casey told Peter and me 2 things to remember for this memorial:

First: try to hold it together.

And second: keep it short. Two things, might I mention, she knew would be impossible for me to do!

She'd say: "it's called: get real!"

So, for her, I'll try my best to "get real" and tell her what's on my mind:

My Dear Casey,

Thank you . . . thank you for taking me into your life, and into your heart. . . .

For always listening and giving me the best advice in difficult times, and being there to make the good times even better. . . .

For confiding in me, and sharing with me all the wonderful moments of your life.

And for encouraging me, and showing me how to enjoy every moment of mine.

I love you.

And I will think of you, and miss you every day for the rest of my life.

Peter and I will always be your "kids" . . . and we will keep you alive in our hearts forever.

REMARKS OF BARBARA WALTERS

I am Barbara Walters and I am here to represent all of you, her dear friends. She was something else, wasn't she? All the things most people strive to be, she just was. Can't you see her? Elegant. Smart. (She took computer lessons at 80). Fun. Stunning: Black hair, red lips, big smile. Mmm, maybe too thin, but that was part of her look . . . Tom Brokaw described her as "a great dame."

She was the most loving mother to son, Peter and Angela, the daughter-in-law whom she considered to be her daughter. And grandmother to Andrew whom she called the perfect grandson and also so proud of Angela's daughter, Jessica. And then there was Abe . . . the love of her life.

On her tombstone Casey has asked to have engraved, "She was his wife." Of her own life she said, "I loved every bit of it." When Abe was alive, he and Casey were probably the most popular and delightful couple in New York. Casey herself was very active. She was on the board of the Kennedy Center and PBS/WNET. She entertained, enjoyed the theatre-dinner parties and people. She was a great friend to women. How I miss our morning phone calls. She brightened my day and she would love to have heard about this morning. And who came—and who didn't come!

But I want to talk now not of Casey's manner of living but of her manner of death. It was last March when on one of our frequent phone calls I asked routinely, "What's new"? And Casey answered, "I'm pregnant." At age 88, that was a good trick. I laughed and said, "name the baby after me, please." Then she went on, in the same tone, "No I have lung cancer." For a second, I thought she was still kidding. But then, I realized, she wasn't. Said so matter of factly, "I have lung cancer." I couldn't believe it. There were no tears in her voice. No "why me? Just that . . . I have lung cancer." It had not been diagnosed until recently. It was inoperable. She was not going to have any treatment.

"Just please" she said, "continue to call. Send the emails. Let me know what's going on with all the pals." And pals she had. She was the best friend when you were well and a tireless miracle worker when you were not. Doctor's appointments . . . she was there for you. She went with Bill Blass for his every doctor's appointment. She was counselor, friend and comfort to Jerry Zipkin, Glenn Birnbaum and Nick Dunn. Thanksgiving: she took a table every year for all the single guys who might be alone. The dinners became tradition. She was their Auntie Mame. Now those four words, "I have lung cancer."

Peter and Angela began to come in from California almost every week. They wanted to share as many of Casey's good days, as well as the bad that were to come. At first, she could go out a bit . . . maybe to lunch. Then she might allow a friend to pop over. That soon got to be too much for her. But the phone calls were fine . . . she took them all . . . until they also became too much. Exhaustion took over.

Still the emails back and forth continued . . . Less than a week before she died, she was answering emails. "How are you?" she would ask. "How was the party?" "What do you think of Michele Bachmann?" From March to her death on August I never once heard her sob. I never once heard her complain. Or question her fate. When her son, asked in a moment of intimacy, if she was afraid, she said "no" and repeated what a wonderful life she'd had. Peter and Angela were with her until the end. Thank heaven, she was never in pain. As she lay in bed, looking frail but beautiful, Peter held one of her hands, Angela the other. She knew they were with her.

I am telling you all this because Casey not only taught us how to live. She taught us how to die.

After her death, they found a secret stash of cigarettes. Those damn cigarettes.

Oh my darling Casey, there isn't one of us in this sacred room whose life you haven't touched, not one who didn't love you. How could we not?●

TRIBUTE TO NORA WALSH HUSSEY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I would like to take this opportunity to honor Nora Walsh Hussey of Sturgis, SD.

Nora has spent countless hours serving her community through a variety of organizations and activities. Nora has been an active participant in Promoting Educational Opportunities, PEO, an organization where women celebrate advancement through achievements in educational opportunities. She has also spent a significant amount of time volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, CASA, which supports abused and neglected children. While Nora spends the majority of her time volunteering for various organizations in the community, she also enjoys participating in bridge clubs, golfing, and cruising.

Nora's achievements are not limited to her work on behalf of South Dakotans. In 1981, Nora was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become the first non-Coloradan to supervise the Denver Mint. While supervising the mint, Nora was acknowledged by many employees for her exemplary service.

I want to join Nora's family and friends in recognizing her more than 50 years of community service and celebrating her 97th birthday on March 26, 2012. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Nora for all she has done for her fellow South Dakotans and wish her continued success in years to come.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2186. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to prohibit the Attorney General from administering or enforcing certain accessibility regulations relating to pools at public accommodations or provided by public entities.

H.R. 3606. An act to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

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-5318. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense taking essential steps to award multiyear contracts for nine Virginia Class submarines (VCS) in fiscal years 2014 through 2018, no later than December 31, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5319. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense taking essential steps to award a multiyear contract for 155 CH-47F aircraft, in fiscal years 2013 through 2017, not later than January 31, 2013; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5320. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense taking essential steps to award a Joint Service multiyear contract for 98 V-22 aircraft (91 MV-22 aircraft for the United States Marine Corps and 7 CV-22 aircraft for the United States Air Force) in fiscal years 2013 through 2017, no later than December 31, 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5321. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the annual report on the plan for the nuclear weapons stockpile, complex, delivery systems, and command and control systems; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5322. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Commercial Determination Approval" ((RIN0750-AH61) (DFARS Case 2011-D041)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5323. A communication from the Surgeon General and Commanding General, US Arm Medical Command, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Regional Medical Command Inspectors General report relative to assessing access of recovering service members to adequate outpatient residential facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5324. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Residential Clothes Washers" (RIN1904-AC108) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5325. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Recovery of Threatened and Endangered Species Fiscal Years 2009-2010"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5326. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of an item not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5327. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a performance report relative to the Animal Drug User Fee Act for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5328. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a performance report relative to the Animal Drug User Fee Act for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5329. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and a Member of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report on the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Program for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5330. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Evaluation of the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5331. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval Tests and Standards for Closed Circuit Escape Respirators" (RIN0920-AA10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 7, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5332. A communication from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disparate Impact and Reasonable Factors Other Than Age Under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act" (RIN3046-AA76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5333. A communication from the Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Buy American Act Report for fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5334. A communication from the President of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's annual report for the year ending September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2188. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2189. A bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 and other laws to clarify appropriate standards for Federal antidiscrimination and antiretaliation claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, and Ms. LANDRIEU):