

TOPGUN, where he served as the operations and executive officer. Many may not know that Admiral Willard was the aerial coordinator for the 1986 movie *Top Gun* and also appeared in it as a flight instructor. Admiral Willard later commanded the famous Screaming Eagles Fighter Squadron operating off of the USS *Carl Vinson*.

In 1992, following his successful completion of nuclear power training, Admiral Willard rejoined the USS *Carl Vinson* as its executive officer. He went on to command the amphibious flagship USS *Tripoli* and the aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln*. As a flag officer, Admiral Willard twice served on the Joint Staff, was deputy and chief of staff for U.S. Pacific Fleet, commanded Carrier Group Five embarked upon the USS *Kitty Hawk*, and commanded Seventh Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan. In March 2005, Admiral Willard became the 34th Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and in May 2007, he became Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet.

On October 19, 2009, Admiral Willard was appointed as Commander, U.S. Pacific Command. He assumed command when much of our focus was still on the Middle East and North Africa, and rightly so. Conflicts there, however, in no way diminished the importance of the Asia-Pacific, where strategically important events unfolded during Admiral Willard's command. As the United States rebalances its national security strategy and realigns its forces with a greater focus on the Asia-Pacific, Admiral Willard's leadership over the last 2 years has laid a critical foundation for our security and that of our allies, now and in years to come.

Pacific Command is personally resonant with me. Between 1968 and 1972, my father held the position, then known as Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Command, that Admiral Willard has just relinquished. The running joke between Admiral Willard and me has been that he was living in my father's old house. And so, of all the praise and accolades I could bestow on Admiral Willard for his service to our Nation, the best and most appropriate would be: the command undertaken by my father and other great men has been admirably served by the leadership of Admiral Willard.

Admiral Willard has always paid tribute to his spouse of 38 years Donna, who has been a tireless advocate for the men and women of the commands in which she and her husband have served, and a wonderful ambassador for the United States and the Navy. And so I extend a grateful Nation's thanks to the Willards and their children Jennifer, Bryan, and Mark for their exceptional service, best wishes for the next chapter in their life, and fair winds and following seas.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, for 50 years, the United States Senate Youth Program, USSYP, has selected 2 remarkable high school students from each State, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity program to visit our Nation's capital for an inspiring week-long immersion in the workings of the Federal government and a mirror into public service. The students that participate in the USSYP have gone on to dedicate their lives to our country, including Senator SUSAN COLLINS, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and former presidential advisor Karl Rove.

Started in 1962 through the adoption of S. Res. 324, this program is as crucial now as it was when it was first created. The USSYP acknowledges our country's need to encourage inspired and proactive youth. It takes a stand against complacency and apathy when it comes to learning, gives students a chance to see firsthand the hard work and dedication of appointed and elected officials, and sustains and heightens their passion for helping others after the program is finished. It also aims to instill a true understanding of the democratic process "and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world" (S. Res. 324), creating a cadre of young ambassadors who promote representative government in their own communities.

I wish to recognize the partners of the USSYP, most especially the Hearst Foundations, and my Senate colleagues who participated in Washington Week a few weeks ago. I thank the Hearst Foundations for their generous offer to fund this program as long as the Senate keeps it alive. Also, I express my gratitude for nonprofit organizations that are innovatively addressing the deficit of civic knowledge and public responsibility in our Nation's students. For example, iCivics, a project started by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, aims to use video games and other web-based tools to engage students and teach them about our government on all levels, including the importance of participation as a citizen, the power of a vote, the checks and balances of our three branches, and our founding documents. We must continue to remain invested in the knowledge and ideals our future generations bring forth.

The USSYP understands the importance of fostering the genuine interest in public service held by our Nation's youth, and only selects high schoolers to participate who have demonstrated a commitment to their student government or local civic organizations. I hope the USSYP's strong 50 years can serve as a model for similar programs—especially to reach those who may not have the support or resources to define or act on their passion for public service. The USSYP has created an alumni fund to assist delegates, who are enter-

ing college or the work force in a low-paying, public service capacity, by providing scholarships. This great first step provides support to our young constituents who are striving to realize their dreams, but are worried about the costs involved.

I enjoyed meeting with the Connecticut delegates during the annual Senate reception during Washington Week and appreciated our thoughtful dialogue. Their visit has left me inspired and hopeful about our country's future.

I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing the importance of the United States Senate Youth program for the next 50 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

JACKSON'S SUGAR HOUSE AND VEGETABLE STAND

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, each year as winter makes way for spring, across my home state of Maine you will see maple trees lined with metal buckets poised to collect delectable maple syrup. Maine is the third largest producer of maple syrup in America, and last year experienced a 14 percent increase, generating a remarkable 360,000 gallons. As maple sugar season commences and Maine looks forward to celebrating the time-honored Maple Sugar Sunday, I rise to commend Jackson's Sugar House & Vegetable Stand located in Oxford, ME.

Often times a small request sparks a marvelous business enterprise. For Roger Jackson, owner of Jackson's Sugar House & Vegetable Stand, his passion for maple syrup was reignited a few years ago when his granddaughter sought help for a school project on how to make the sweet liquid. Although Roger had been producing maple syrup on and off since he was 6 years old, his granddaughter's question renewed his love for this New England staple. And the results have been incredibly sweet.

As a veteran in maple syrup production, Roger is familiar with the trials and tribulations that go along with this endeavor. While it is often hard to turn a profit as a small producer, the smiles on his customers' faces truly make it all worthwhile. Further, compared to when Roger was a child, improvements in technology have certainly enhanced and eased the process of turning sap into maple sugar. For example, today Jackson's Sugar House uses a stainless steel evaporator—equipment that enables them to easily remove water and ensure better control over the quality of their product. This evaporation process is a vast improvement over Roger's childhood maple making experiences involving boiling sap over an open flame.

Roger's expertise in maple syrup has certainly not gone unnoticed. He was recently appointed by the Maine Department of Agriculture Commissioner, Walter Whitcomb, to the Maine

Maple Task Force Study Group to represent producers of maple sugar products with 1,000 or fewer taps. This Task Force was created in May of 2011, as part of the State's legislation "To Study the Promotion and Expansion of the Maine Maple Sugar Industry." Roger's participation on the task force has been instrumental in ensuring that the needs of small producers and mom and pop sugarhouse operations are vigorously advocated.

Maple syrup and all maple sugar products are certainly among the sweetest commodities produced in Maine. Thanks to the proficiency and resolve of individuals such as Roger Jackson, Maine continues to produce the highest quality maple products. I am proud to extend my congratulations to Roger Jackson and everyone at Jackson's Sugar House & Vegetable Stand for their dedication to excellence, and offer my best wishes for their continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL BRISTOL

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize someone who has spent the last 30 years in the front ranks of the fight against hunger in my State.

Rachel Bristol, president and CEO of the Oregon Food Bank, has devoted her life to making sure that Oregonians in need are able to put nutritious food on the table. She has spent every minute of every day of her career doing everything in her power to eliminate hunger.

As Rachel retires, she leaves behind a legacy of determination and hard work that has guided the Oregon Food Bank and seen it expand into a professional organization that reflects her vision of what a community should do to help those in need.

Last year alone, the Oregon Food Bank Network distributed more than 81 million pounds of food. I am proud to say that I have stood beside the food bank's employees and volunteers and packaged my share of pancake mix or other food. So, I know firsthand how dedicated they are in making sure that no one goes to bed hungry.

Whether we call it hunger, food insecurity or something else, what we are really talking about is the tragedy of having hungry families in the richest country in the world.

Rachel saw that inequity and spent her life doing something about it. Because of that fewer people in Oregon went hungry because she gave them a place to go—a place to look to—for basic nutritious food to put on their table.

Because of Rachel Bristol, the food bank is a better organization and Oregon is a better community.

While she may be retiring, something tells me that the fight against hunger will always be a part of who she is.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:42 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 665. An act to establish a pilot program for the expedited disposal of Federal real property.

H.R. 2087. An act to remove restrictions from a parcel of land situated in the Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 35, 112th Congress, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: Mr. BOEHNER of Ohio, Mr. CANTOR of Virginia, and Ms. PELOSI of California.

At 4:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 108. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 886) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 665. An act to establish a pilot program for the expedited disposal of Federal real property; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2087. An act to remove restrictions from a parcel of land situated in the Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The following bill was read, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 306. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 306. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement to provide for management of the free-roaming wild horses in and around the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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-5401. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2010 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges and Transit: Conditions and Performance"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5402. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Western Pacific Fisheries; 2012 Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures" (RIN0648-XA674) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5403. A communication from the Acting Division Chief, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Overflight Regulations for the Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries" (RIN0648-AX79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5404. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod By Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA988) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5405. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA992) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5406. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in