

join me in celebrating National Girls and Women in Sports Day by supporting efforts to expand equality in sports participation and education for women and girls around the country.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK KING

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and Senator BOXER, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives, including Mr. COSTA, Mr. LUNGREN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FARR, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BACA, Mr. HERGER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LEE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CHU, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LINDA SANCHEZ, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. CALVERT, to pay tribute to Mr. Jack King on the occasion of his retirement from the California Farm Bureau Federation. For more than 35 years, Jack King has worked on behalf of our Nation's farmers and ranchers to ensure that they have a voice in our Nation's capital. His passion for agriculture has made him a strong and effective advocate for the American Farm Bureau Federation and the California Farm Bureau Federation.

Growing up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin taught Jack the value of hard work, and the important role agriculture plays in America—specifically when it comes to feeding and clothing our families and supporting our economy. Upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Jack began his career in agriculture with the university's cooperative extension office. Jack then went on to work for the Wisconsin Council of Agricultural Cooperatives and the Wisconsin Council of Agriculture. In 1973, Jack ventured west and joined the California Farm Bureau Federation as assistant manager of the information division.

Jack expanded his work with the Farm Bureau, and in 1985, he became news services director for the American Farm Bureau Federation. Based in Illinois, Jack managed internal and external communications and often worked in conjunction with the Washington, D.C. office to ensure that legislators were connected with farmers and ranchers. In 1994, Jack returned to California to serve as manager of the California Farm Bureau Federation's National Affairs Division. He served as a direct link between farmers, ranchers, and Members of Congress.

Jack's tremendous contributions and dedication can be measured in a number of ways. Notably, Jack made approximately 200 trips to Washington, D.C. His deep commitment was based in his belief that legislators needed to hear directly from farmers and ranchers in order to understand their contributions and the difficulties they face. Specifically, Jack has been dedicated to working on comprehensive immigration reform, natural resource regulations, and renewable energy.

Of course none of these accomplishments would be possible without the

love and support of Jack's wife, Mary Ann; their sons, Carl, David and Bryan; and two grandchildren.

We ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing Jack King's enthusiasm and work ethic. His devotion and loyalty to our Nation's farmers and ranchers make him a source of pride for our community, State and Nation. We thank Jack for his work on behalf of farmers and ranchers in California and all across the country, and wish him well in retirement.●

RECOGNIZING BULL JAGGER BREWING COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have heard time and again how difficult it is to start a business in our current economy. As the new year begins, I find it especially critical to honor those entrepreneurs, who in spite of these challenging times, are surmounting all obstacles to pursue the American dream of starting a small business. With this in mind, today I wish to commend and recognize the most recent addition to the renowned brewing family, the Bull Jagger Brewing Company of Portland, ME.

Bull Jagger opened in the fall of 2011 with two employees and a dream to produce high-quality lager. In a 1,500-square-foot space in Portland's Riverside Industrial Park, the two owners, Tom Bull and Allan Jagger, have begun producing the Portland Lager. In their small facility, they currently produce about eight barrels a week which makes approximately 1,800 bottles of the refreshing beverage. Their lager debuted at the Portland Harvest on the Harbor in October of 2011 to rave reviews.

This success is truly exceptional as only a few years ago, Tom Bull, a Bath native who has worked at local companies such as Gritty McDuff's and the former Stone Coast Brewing, was developing his own homemade beer and dreaming of opening a micro-lager business. Fortunately, after meeting through mutual friends and tasting Tom's homebrew, local businessman Allan Jagger was convinced that Tom's dream was worth pursuing. Together as partners, they decided to turn their aspirations into reality and venture into Maine's micro-brew market.

Across the State, both Tom and Allan found that Maine's micro-brew market lacked one particular beer variety—a micro-brew lager. While larger breweries all produce lagers, most micro-breweries shy away from lagers because of the increased length of brewing time in comparison to ales. Typically, lager has to sit in a cold cellar for several weeks to allow proper fermentation to occur. While this may have deterred other micro-breweries in the past, Bull Jagger believed their lager would be worth the wait, and they were certainly right. In true lager fashion, this small brewery allows their lager to ferment over 6 weeks, which is approximately a month longer

than traditional ales. This may have diminished the speed with which the product leaves the factory, but it certainly has not slowed down the consumption, as sales are continuing to grow.

As a new small business that has already distinguished itself in Maine's prominent micro-brew market, Bull Jagger is looking forward to producing additional varieties, including a Pilsner beer, in the near future. This small firm's attention to detail and initial success demonstrates the remarkable quality of their product. I am proud to extend my congratulations to Tom Bull and Allan Jagger for their tremendous efforts, and offer my best wishes for the continued success of Bull Jagger Brewing Company.●

TRIBUTE TO ERICA MARIE D'AQUIN

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I recognize Ms. Erica Marie d'Aquin, a bright and talented young Louisianian.

Each year since 1743, the carnival celebration known as Mardi Gras, French for Fat Tuesday, has been celebrated by the people of New Orleans. The season officially begins on January 6, the Twelfth Night of Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany. Also recognized in many countries around the world with large Roman Catholic populations, Mardi Gras is the final blow out party prior to the ritual fasting of the Lenten Season, which begins on Ash Wednesday.

Over the many decades that New Orleanians have celebrated Mardi Gras, "krewes", or private Mardi Gras social organizations, have also contributed to the merriment and glee surrounding the festive season. In Greek mythology, Endymion was known for his everlasting youth and beauty. In 1966, the Krewe of Endymion was established and has annually paraded through the streets of New Orleans. Today, Endymion is known for being the largest parade in New Orleans, both for the number of members—2300—and also for the number of floats. This krewe has meant a lot to me since I had one of my first jobs as a high school student painting Endymion's floats—white primer only, as I wasn't trusted with colors.

During this, the Krewe of Endymion's 46th year, Ms. Erica Marie d'Aquin will reign as queen. Ms. d'Aquin is a senior at Archbishop Chapelle High School and is on the distinguished honor roll. She is a member of the National Art Honor Society, is a member of the pro-life club, has a fond love for art, and is very active in the Chapelle Animal Rescue Effort to promote the awareness of issues affecting animals. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daryl d'Aquin and the granddaughter Mr. and Mrs. Edmond J. Muniz, the founder and captain of the Krewe of Endymion.

It is exciting for such an accomplished young person to have this honor and will be something she will cherish for a lifetime. She joins a long line of family members who have also had the honor of serving as queen of Endymion: her mother Mary in 1984, her aunt Michelle in 1986, and her aunt Margie in 1991.

As we celebrate the 2012 Mardi Gras season, it is my pleasure to honor Ms. Erica d'Aquin as the 46th queen of the Krewe of Endymion.●

REMEMBERING GAIL ACHTERMAN

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize someone who may not be familiar to members of the Senate, but in my State is synonymous with what makes Oregon a place that values the environment, its natural resources and its scenery.

Gail Achterman of Portland passed away on January 28 of pancreatic cancer. Gail was a special friend for more than 40 years. When I arrived on the Stanford University campus in the summer of 1969, Gail and I were tour guides together, two Democrats at the conservative Hoover Institution of War, Revolution and Peace. We laughed about it then, and kept sharing jokes and stories for more than 40 years.

Gail leaves behind an impressive legacy of public service and dedication to environmental causes that will endure for years to come. Her professional resume is impressive: Lawyer, director of the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University, chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission, natural resources advisor to a former governor and member of too many State councils, boards and commissions to list here.

Even more impressive, however, was her life-long commitment to those things that make Oregon great. For an example, look no further than the indispensable role she played in creation of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area in 1981. Anyone who has seen the majestic Columbia River Gorge knows it is one of the most beautiful places on earth—a crown jewel in a landscape filled with natural beauty. I was proud to be part of protecting The Gorge and proud of partnering with Gail in making that happen.

I want to extend my condolences to her husband Chuck and to her family and assure them that Oregon is a greater State thanks to my special friend Gail and the ideals she believed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Nieman, 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 and two withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:25 a.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. 658) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, 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:

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. MICA, PETRI, DUNCAN of Tennessee, GRAVES of Missouri, SHUSTER, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Messrs. CRAVAACK, RAHALL, DEFazio, COSTELLO, BOSWELL, and CARNAHAN.

From the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for consideration of sections 102, 105, 201, 202, 204, 208, 209, 212, 220, 321, 324, 326, 812, title X and title XIII of the House bill and sections 102, 103, 106, 216, 301, 302, 309, 320, 327, title VI, and section 732 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. HALL, PALAZZO, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of title XI of the House bill and titles VII and XI of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. CAMP, TIBERI and LEVIN.

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-4825. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Real-Time Public Reporting of Swap Transaction Data" (RIN3038-AD08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4826. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Kiwifruit Grown in California; Change in Reporting Requirements and New Information Collection" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0041; FV11-920-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4827. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Dairy Promotion and Research Program; Amendments to the Order" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0047; FV11-930-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4828. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trichoderma virens strain G-41; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9333-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 30, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4829. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John D. Gardner, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4830. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Robert F. Willard, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4831. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4832. A joint communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the activities of the Center of Excellence in the Mitigation, Treatment, and Rehabilitation of Traumatic Extremity Injuries, and Amputations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4833. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Act Implementation" (RIN2590-AA44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4834. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Implementation" (RIN2590-AA46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4835. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 25, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4836. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management