

the well-being of his fellow citizens. He earned his EMT certification and taught CPR and first aid at St. Alexius Medical Center and the Burleigh County sheriff's department. He was also a volunteer firefighter, member of the West Dakota SWAT team and the vice president of the Fraternal Order of Police Missouri Valley Lodge #3 for Bismarck. At the sheriff's department, he organized enforcement events including a blood drive and Christmas shopping event for children. Recognitions include the North Dakota Peace Officers Association Lifesaving Award.

Deputy Sleeper was a hardworking, ambitious and energetic man whose kind heart and engaging personality quickly endeared him to the people he met. An athlete and outdoors enthusiast, Deputy Sleeper was a natural leader and committed family man and friend. He is survived by his wife Lana, children Branden, Jeremy and Heather; and grandson Hunter.

This past week, North Dakotans added the names of Steven Kenner and Bryan Sleeper to the North Dakota Peace Officer Memorial located on the east side of the North Dakota State capitol. This memorial now bears the names of 61 brave men. These North Dakota peace officers, like the other officers from across our country who have been killed in the line of duty, have earned our unyielding gratitude for their service and heroism. These brave men and women keep our communities safe and secure, and it is fitting and right that we should pay tribute to these heroes who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Mikey and I extend our deepest sympathy to the families of all our fallen officers, especially the families of Sergeant Kenner and Deputy Sleeper. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them, and we pray that they will take comfort in knowing that their loved ones served their State and fellow citizens with great honor and pride.

TAIWAN'S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Inauguration Day in Taiwan on May 20, 2012. On January 14, Mr. Ma Ying-jeou was elected to his second term as President of the Republic of China. I offer congratulations to Mr. Ma not only for winning the election but for what his election symbolizes: the continued growth and maturation of democracy in the Republic of China. Taiwan is the first place in the ethnic Chinese world where democracy has taken root, and its democratic transformation has laid the foundation for reduced tensions across the Taiwan Strait and strengthened its ties with the United States as well.

Taiwan's democracy brightens the future of East Asia. Taipei poses no threat to Beijing, and its democratic government has fostered the development of strong cross-strait economic and cultural ties. I hope that, instead

of building up its military forces in fear of a democratic Taiwan, Beijing will learn from Taiwan's example and reform its own political system. Democratization on both sides of the Taiwan Strait will lead to further expansion of the economic and cultural ties that have begun to flourish in recent years as well as improve security for the entire region.

The United States understands that our interests are well served by a free and democratic Taiwan. We want to see Taiwan grow and thrive as an important economic and trade partner, and we recognize that the safety and security of Taiwan is very important to the security of the entire Asia-Pacific region. The partnership between the United States and Taiwan, especially under the terms of the Taiwan Relations Act, has deterred aggressive action in the Taiwan Strait and opened the door for Taiwan to reach its full potential as a strong democracy and an important economic hub. I look forward to strengthening the links between Taiwan and the United States in the future, particularly through the removal of remaining trade barriers and a renewed commitment to addressing the security challenges facing Taiwan.

I hope that the United States and the Republic of China, as two fellow democracies, will continue to support each other and commit themselves to even closer ties in the future. And in that spirit, on the occasion of Taiwan's Inauguration Day, I congratulate the people of Taiwan and join them in celebrating the power and potential of democracy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

350TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 350th anniversary of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Leonardtown, MD. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the centuries of history in marking this anniversary, including the establishment of Catholicism in English America. It was 350 years ago that Leonardtown, which was then known as Newtowne, was founded as the first settlement in the Maryland province after the establishment of St. Mary's City. Its geographic location places it within view of St. Clement's Island where the English colonists first landed in 1634. Prior to its settlement by the colonists, the Piscataway Indians and their forebears had occupied the site for many centuries.

Lord Baltimore founded the Maryland colony with the intention of providing his co-religionists with the civil liberty to exercise their religion freely, but it was not until the restoration of Charles II to the throne in England that the political climate in Maryland allowed for the building of a public

chapel at Newtowne in 1662. The chapel was built by the local Catholics for the community that continues to the present day as Saint Francis Xavier's Parish, a parish within the Archdiocese of Washington.

In 1967, when the Society of Jesus withdrew from Newtowne to work in other areas, St. Francis Xavier Church, Newtowne Manor, and the 7.5 acres surrounding them were conveyed to the Archdiocese of Washington. The Archbishop of Washington at the time, James Cardinal Hickey, realized the religious, historical and archeological significance of these buildings, both of which are on the national Register of Historic Places, and he determined that they must be restored and preserved to maintain a link with the earliest days of the Roman Catholic Church in America.

While the site of the current church, a.d. 1731, and the Newtowne Manor House, a.d. 1789, the graveyard, and the site of the original chapel have been excavated by archaeologists, more work remains to be done to tell the full story of what is believed to be the second public Catholic chapel built in the colonies. The first is thought to be in neighboring Charles County, MD. I join Father Brian P. Sanderfoot and the Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church congregation in encouraging further investigation and exploration of their history. Their work will inform all of us about the colonial history of the Catholic community in Maryland and the early colonial life and freedoms evidenced in the records and archeological findings of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.●

CONGRATULATING ASHLEE SMITH

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a young Nevadan for being recognized as one of America's top 10 youth volunteers of 2012. Ashlee Smith, a seventh grader from Sparks, NV, was awarded the prestigious national Prudential Spirit of Community Award for her efforts to assist child victims of house fires and natural disasters. I am proud to congratulate one of Nevada's own for her leadership, compassion, and selflessness as she sets a fine example for students all across the United States who want to make a difference.

Ashlee's home burned down in a devastating fire in 2005, destroying all that her family owned—including her childhood toys. Ever since this experience, she has dedicated her free time to helping children who are victims of natural disasters recover their lost belongings. At 8 years old, she founded Ashlee's Toy Closet, a nonprofit organization that helps low-income children as well as those who have been affected by natural disasters. Over the past 5 years, she has collected and distributed more than 175,000 toys to children who have been affected by natural disasters. Ashlee's commitment to children in need is inspiring and reinforces the importance of serving our communities.

Having four children of my own, I understand the importance of creating an environment where our kids can give back to their communities. Encouraging our Nation's next generation of leaders to become engaged in community service will help ensure that they are active and positive contributors to their local community. We must encourage our Nation's youth to excel beyond the academic arena, demonstrate strong leadership skills, and show active initiative to support their communities.

I am proud to stand with the citizens of Sparks to congratulate Ashlee on this exceptional accomplishment. As she continues to grow her organization, I hope that she will serve as an example for Nevada's youth and will continue building upon this experience in her professional and personal future. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an ambitious Nevadan who has helped make a difference in the lives of thousands all over the Nation.●

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 and a withdrawal 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. 5652. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013.

MEASURES READ FOR THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3187. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes.

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-6083. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; St. Croix River, Stillwater, MN" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0226)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6084. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Niantic River, Niantic, CT" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0305)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6085. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Lake Washington Ship Canal, Seattle, WA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0362)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6086. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Long Island, New York Inland Waterway from East Rockaway Inlet to Shinnecock Canal, NY" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2011-1132)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6087. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Anacostia River, Washington, DC" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2011-0591)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6088. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Manchester Harbor, Manchester, MA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0344)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6089. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Saginaw River, Bay City, MI" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2011-1013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6090. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Sunken Vessel, Puget Sound, Everett, WA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0282)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6091. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Long Island, New York Inland Waterway from East Rockaway Inlet to Shinnecock Canal,

NY" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0144)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6092. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Lake Washington Ship Canal, Seattle, WA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0280)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6093. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; James River, Hopewell, VA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0292)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6094. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Intracoastal Waterway, Chesapeake, VA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0330)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6095. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Crowley Barge 750-2; Bayou Casotte; Pascagoula, MS" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0190)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6096. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; 2012 Mavericks Invitational, Half Moon Bay, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-1146)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6097. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Patapsco River, Northwest and Inner Harbors, Baltimore, MD" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0101)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6098. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Matlacha Bridge Construction, Matlacha Pass, Matlacha, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2011-1115)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6099. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone for Margate Bridge, Intracoastal Waterway; Margate, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2012-0069)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.