

water infrastructure improvements through Federal grants and contributions from State matching funds and leveraging.

For the past several years, Jim has also served as an important resource to the Senate Committee on Appropriations on wastewater policy issues. I am particularly grateful for the assistance he provided to implement the critical \$4 billion investment in wastewater projects included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. With Jim's guidance, EPA and the States worked to get an unprecedented 1,870 clean water projects under contract within a year of the law's passage, including ten in my home State. His experience and guidance will be missed.

I congratulate Jim on a job well done. He leaves a proud and enduring legacy of public service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL CHRISTOPHER C. COLVIN

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a friend of Alaska for his extraordinary 34 years of service to the U.S. Coast Guard and our Nation. In Alaska, we know him best for his service as the commander of the Coast Guard 17th District, but he has served valiantly across our Nation throughout his long and distinguished career. On June 1, he will retire as the deputy commander of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area Command in Alameda, CA.

Rear Admiral Colvin is a native of Erie, PA. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1976 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and entered Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in November 1978, earning his commission in March 1979. His 34-year Coast Guard career has included a variety of operational and staff assignments on both coasts. He served aboard eight Coast Guard cutters and commanded three. In 2003 he commanded Coast Guard Cutter DALLAS, WHEC 716, while attached to the USS *Truman*/USS *Roosevelt* battle force conducting combat operations during the first 6 months of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2004, Rear Admiral Colvin served as commander of Coast Guard forces off Haiti and as the maritime component commander to Joint Task Force Haiti, helping prevent a mass migration and preserving order in Port au Prince Harbor following the unexpected departure of former Haitian President Aristide. He is a 1999 graduate of the Naval War College in Newport, RI, earning a master of arts degree in national security and strategic studies. His staff expertise is in cutter management, operations, strategy, and readiness. He has enforced U.S. sovereignty in the maritime arena by interdicting illegal drugs, detaining illegal migrants, seizing foreign fishing vessels, and saving lives.

Rear Admiral Colvin's first flag assignment was as the deputy director of operations for U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, CO. From there he was assigned as the commander of the 17th Coast Guard District in Juneau, AK, from 2009 to 2011, when he was responsible for Coast Guard operations throughout Alaska and the U.S. Arctic. He currently serves as the deputy commander of the Coast Guard's Pacific Area Command in Alameda, CA. His many notable accomplishments from his current assignment include coordinating USCGC HEALY's historic 2011 to 2012 icebreaking mission to mitigate a critical fuel shortage in the city of Nome, AK.

Rear Admiral Colvin married his wife Kristin in 1985, and they have two children. Their son Mark is a high school freshman and their daughter Meagan is a student at the University of Central Florida. Rear Admiral Colvin's parents are Dr. Charles and Evelyn Colvin of Erie, PA.

Mr. President, on behalf of the State of Alaska, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Rear Admiral Colvin's exceptional career. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his commitment to the Coast Guard and to our Nation. We wish him well in his retirement.●

COMMENDING MISSISSIPPI LEVEE BOARDS

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, a year ago my State of Mississippi suffered one of the worst disasters in our history when the Mississippi River and its tributaries were confronted with record flood levels that threatened the well-being of residents and property over much of our State. The 2011 flood put our people and flood control structures to the test. Federal, State, and local entities worked heroically to prevent this disaster from becoming an outright catastrophe. I would like to especially commend the Mississippi Levee Board and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board for their impressive leadership during the flood and for taking the necessary actions to protect our population and to limit flood damage.

The Mississippi Levee Board is responsible for operating and maintaining a roughly 212-mile levee system along the river, as well as 360 miles of interior drainage streams. The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board maintains 98 miles of mainline levees and 18 miles of backwater levees. Each board has worked efficiently and effectively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce the threat of high water and flood damage.

The great flood of 2011 reminded us of the importance of diligence, preparation, and cooperation to ensure that our levees remain strong and that the lives and property in our State are protected.●

EDGELEY, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a thriving community in North Dakota that will soon be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On June 15 through June 17 of this year, the residents of Edgeley will be celebrating their community's history and founding.

Replacing the pioneer settlement of Saint George, the city of Edgeley has had a rich history. Edgeley is named after the birthplace of Englishman Richard Sykes, who was a significant developer and true believer in the potential of Edgeley and the surrounding area. In 1881, Mr. Sykes traveled from England to explore increasing his land holdings in America. Not surprisingly, he settled on the rich soil and beautiful country of Wells, Stutsman, LaMoure, and Morton counties in North Dakota.

Edgeley is home to many bustling small businesses and farmers who grow wheat, corn, soybeans, sunflowers, barley, oats, potatoes, and all manner of small grains, in addition to raising cattle and other types of livestock. North Dakota's first wind farm was built 8 miles west of Edgeley, providing 1.5 megawatts of sustainable electricity to many residents of the State.

Sponsored by the Edgeley Lions Club, the city is celebrating its 125th anniversary this summer. Among the events planned are a pageant, kids games on Main Street, a 5k run-walk, a golf tournament, two parades, and a commemorative gun raffle. Residents are also eagerly awaiting the grand opening of the new swimming pool.

I ask the United States Senate to join me in congratulating Edgeley, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them a warm future.●

BALTA, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a vibrant community in North Dakota that will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary. From June 15 through June 17 of this year, the residents of Balta will commemorate their community's history and founding.

Originally named Egan when the town was founded in 1912, its rail station was an important spot on the Soo Line Railroad. However, when it was discovered that a rail station in South Dakota had already claimed the name of Egan, the small village changed its name to Balta when the post office opened on February 6, 1913. This new name was taken from a town in southern Russia, which is not surprising considering the heritage of the settlers, who were mostly Germans from Russia. Balta enjoys a reputation for some of the best duck and deer hunting in the State, and the community especially enjoys boating, swimming, and fishing at the Balta Dam Recreation Area.

The citizens of Balta are proud of their accomplishments and will celebrate the town's centennial with a

number of activities and hold an all-school reunion. Among the planned festivities are a "Dam Fun Run" at Balta Dam, an alumni basketball game, a parade, car show, street fair, pedal tractor pull, beer garden, and street dance. The activities should prove to be entertaining for all and a celebration of both the past and future of the town.

I ask the United States Senate to join me in congratulating the residents of Balta, ND, on their 100th anniversary and in wishing them a bright future. Growing up in Balta has shaped many generations of North Dakotans and instilled in them the "North Dakota Way," bringing pride not only to North Dakota, but to our great Nation. This fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Balta has a proud past and a bright future.●

RECOGNIZING NEXSTRAPS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, each year on the last Monday in May we, as a nation, remember those who gave their lives while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Memorial Day is a chance to honor those who protect our freedom, giving others the opportunity to pursue the American dream. And it is our veteran entrepreneurs who know the sacrifices and struggles both of military service and of pursuing that dream firsthand. Today I rise to recognize and commend a family and veteran-owned small business that embodies the American entrepreneurial spirit, Nexstraps located in Blue Hill, ME.

For those who have had the pleasure to visit my home State, they know that it is blessed with an abundance of natural beauty. From the rugged wilderness of Mount Katahdin at the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, to the picturesque rivers and expansive forests, to the shores of Acadia National Park, Maine's beauty is derived from the physical splendor of the land. Moreover, Maine's great outdoors delivers a wealth of activities throughout every season. That is why Jeff and Kate Wright, who share a love of nature and believe life should be lived actively, outdoors, founded Nexstraps in 2007 based on those principles. Together with their family, they pursued a business plan and way of life that harmoniously marries their love of nature with creative and practical problem-solving products designed with an active lifestyle in mind.

In starting Nexstraps, necessity truly was the mother of creation. Jeff, a former Reconnaissance Marine and Navy Seal with tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, was confronted with the simple challenge of holding on to his glasses during daily operations. With the goal of remedying this problem, Jeff and Kate endeavored to design and manufacture a solution. Unlike a conventional sports glasses strap that merely connects the two eyewear legs with a band behind the head, the

Nexstrap secures the glasses with a single band which serves as a tether looping from the legs of the frame, around the front of the neck, and meeting at a point behind the head. This unique design ensures that should the glasses become displaced over the head, they will remain leashed around the wearer's neck. The strap can further be looped through a baseball cap, securing the hat as well. Handmade from neoprene, the Nexstrap is designed to withstand whatever challenge the extreme sportsman can throw at it, whether that is rock climbing, snowboarding, or base-jumping. They even float! This problem solving innovation is a perfect example of the ingenuity that is characteristic of Maine entrepreneurs.

I applaud Nexstraps for demonstrating the epitome of Maine innovation and entrepreneurship. The Wrights' creativity and can-do attitude is truly a reflection of the talent and entrepreneurial spirit found in my home State of Maine. As we pay tribute to our servicemembers this coming Memorial Day, I offer my gratitude and congratulations to our Nation's veteran-owned small business and extend my best wishes to Jeff and Kate Wright at Nexstraps for their continued success.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 3220. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 3221. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

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-6205. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohydrojasmon; Amendment of Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9347-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6206. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Natamycin; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9349-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6207. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "1, 2-Ethanediamine, N1-(2-aminoethyl)-, polymer with 2, 4-diisocyanato-1-methylbenzene; Tolerance

Exemption" (FRL No. 9349-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6208. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2,6-Diisopropyl-naphthalene (2,6-DIPN) and its metabolites and degradates; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9350-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6209. 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 and 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-6210. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Richard K. Gallagher, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6211. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2012 Report to Congress on Sustainable Ranges"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6212. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6213. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to the Congress on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6214. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 98th Annual Report of the Federal Reserve Board covering operations for calendar year 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6215. 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 items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6216. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6217. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation in the position of Administrator, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6218. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of