

honors at Arlington National Cemetery. His was a life spent in service to our great country and its Navy and sailors.

An Atlanta native, Admiral Houser entered the Naval Academy in 1938 at the age of 16, as part of the class of 1942. He was commissioned early with his class in 1941, after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. During World War II, he served for 3 years as a deck officer aboard the USS Nashville, which saw combat in the battle for Guadalcanal, raids on the Marcus and Wake Islands, and operations around Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. In 1945, Admiral Houser entered flight training and was designated a naval aviator the following year. He saw combat in Korea as commanding officer of Fighter Squadron 44 and during the Vietnam War as commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Constellation. Other commands-at-sea included Fighter Squadron 124, the USS Mauna Loa, and Carrier Division TWO as a flag officer.

Ashore, Admiral Houser served on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1960 to 1962 and again from 1967 to 1968 as Director, Strategic Plans Division. He was the Military Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of Defense from 1962 through 1963; a member of the staff of the National Security Council in 1965; and Director of Aviation Plans and Requirements for the U.S. Navy from 1968 through 1970. He was promoted to Vice Admiral in 1972 and served his last tour of duty from 1972 to 1976 as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air Warfare, where he was responsible for all Naval aviation matters. Admiral Houser said that his most satisfying accomplishment as Deputy Chief was saving the F-14 fighter from cancellation.

Admiral Houser received numerous medals and decorations while on Active Duty. They include the Distinguished Service Medal, two awards; the Legion of Merit, four awards; the Bronze Star with Combat V; and the Air Medal, two awards. In retirement, he was also honored to receive the prestigious U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Award in 2003.

After retirement from the Navy, Admiral Houser went on to a successful career in the telecommunications industry, working for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Communications Satellite Corporation, and Com21, among others. But he always remained dedicated to the Navy he so loved. He served as a trustee of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation for 30 years. He served on the International Midway Memorial Foundation and helped establish the annual Navy Midway Dinner. He spearheaded the creation of a Midway Memorial in the yard of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Beyond all his accomplishments, Bill was a great friend. When I returned home from prison in Vietnam, he was instrumental in helping me return to flying status. I remain forever indebted to him for his support and assistance.

Bill passed away on February 5, 2012, and is survived by his wife Jan; his 3 daughters, Cindy, Gayle, and Francie; his 2 stepdaughters, Karla and Louise; 11 grandchildren; and 1 great-granddaughter. President John F. Kennedy once said, "Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, 'I served in the United States Navy.'" By that standard, VADM William D. Houser, USN, Retired, lived a life of immeasurable worth. God bless and Godspeed, old friend.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND FRED LUTER, JR.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rev. Fred Luther, Jr., of New Orleans, LA on being elected to be president of the Southern Baptist Convention and acknowledging Reverend Luther's unique role as the first African-American leader of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Rev. Fred Luther, Jr. preached his first church sermon in 1983 at the Law Street Baptist Church in New Orleans, LA. He then became pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in 1986. Under the leadership of Reverend Luther, the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church community grew from 65 members in 1986 to over 7,000 members in 2005. Thanks to Reverend Luther, the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church grew to be the largest Southern Baptist Church in the State of Louisiana.

In 2005, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church was extensively damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Along with the church, Reverend Luther also lost his home to flooding. Displaced members of the church totaled approximately 2,000 people. Reverend Luther, in cooperation with Rev. David Crosby, found a temporary home for Franklin Avenue Baptist Church during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As well as setting up a temporary church, Reverend Luther continued to minister to his congregation, even holding services in Baton Rouge, LA, and Houston, TX. After tremendous hard work and determination, Reverend Luther reopened the door to Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in April of 2008.

In 2011, Reverend Luther became the first African-American to be elected as first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Southern Baptist Convention is a cooperative of over 45,000 churches they diligently seek to bring about greater racial and ethnic representation at every level of Southern Baptist institutional life.

Reverend Luther was then nominated by Rev. David Crosby to become president of the Southern Baptist Convention. On June 19, 2012, Reverend Luther was elected to be the first African-American president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is with a special measure of commendation and heartfelt congratula-

tions on becoming the first African-American president of the Southern Baptist Convention and for his commitment to ministering to his congregation that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Reverend Luther's family in honoring and celebrating the life of this most extraordinary person.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jewish Family Services, a philanthropic treasure in Connecticut. This year marks a momentous 100th anniversary of community service.

Founded June 1912, Jewish Family Services was built to assist European immigrants coming to this country to seek the American dream and escape persecution. These new residents of Connecticut confronted the challenges of their new lives with hope and determination.

Jewish Family Services has touched all generations, giving unconditionally to all those in need. Following the value of Tikkun Olam—"healing the world"—their mission is truly boundless. Their courageous staff of experienced social workers has helped facilitate new lives for many citizens, empowering their first steps towards change.

Jewish Family Services has recently focused on programs to support new careers and combat long-term unemployment. Through the Jewish Employment Transition Services, JFS has helped ease the desperation of joblessness. These programs complement many others including a food pantry, mental health services, care for the aging, children, and Holocaust survivors, counseling for life transitions such as divorce, and financial tutoring.

To celebrate its 100th anniversary while preparing for the next decades, Jewish Family Services has created three new funds—one dedicated to our children, the Changing Children's Lives Fund, another for those confronting emergency situations or personal crisis, the First Responders Fund, and a third, aptly named the Future Fund.

By giving help and getting help, Jewish Family Services has formed a family for the Greater Hartford area. It embraces community assistance as a given and disperses inspiration and hope. Its one hundred years are a prelude to future accomplishment and contribution.●

FOREST RIVER, NORTH DAKOTA

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that will soon celebrate its 125th anniversary. On July 13, 2012, the residents of Forest River will recognize the community's history and founding.

Named after the river that flows through the area, Forest River was established in 1878 as a stop for both the

Northern Pacific Railroad Company and the Soo Line Railroad. The river's original name was the Big Salt River; however, it was later changed to reflect the thick growth of trees along the banks of the water.

Residents of Forest River will celebrate the town's 125th anniversary with fun activities, including a parade, an ice cream social, a street fair, several street dances, and a museum exhibit chronicling the history and heritage of the town and its residents. These activities reflect the charm and character of Forest River and the town's strong sense of community.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Forest River, ND, and its residents on their 125th anniversary and in wishing them a bright future.●

REGAN, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor a community in North Dakota that will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary. From July 13 through the 15, the residents of Regan will recognize the community's history and founding.

Regan, like many towns in North Dakota, began with the coming of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Regan was named after J. Austin Regan, a businessman from nearby Fessenden and an official of Dakota Land and Townsite, the company which originally mapped the town. The first building in Regan was a cream station named Tolchinsky's, where early settlers sold their cream. In the following years, the town grew quickly with the additions of a post office, a church, many businesses, and a base-ball diamond.

Dubbed "Rockin' Regan" the residents have an extensive list of events for the centennial celebration, including a parade, a raffle, and the Centennial Tractor Trek that will travel along ND-Highway 36.

Today, Regan, although small, is still a prominent farming community. I am reminded of a saying from their 75th celebration: "We are not just a town, but a community, and a community we will remain." This is the true essence of the people of North Dakota; no matter what the future brings, communities will remain. The town of Regan has demonstrated its independence as a strong community and has remained strong since 1912.

I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Regan, ND, and its residents on their 100th anniversary and in wishing them a bright future.●

BRIDAL VEIL POST OFFICE

● Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the one hundred and twenty fifth anniversary of the Bridal Veil Post Office.

Since July 7th, 1887, the Bridal Veil Post Office has delivered letters and packages to the community in a timely and efficient manner. The post office,

all 100 square feet of it, manages to keep up with the thousands of brides that flood to this town every year, seeking the coveted Bridal Veil postmark on their wedding invitations. While the town of Bridal Veil may have decreased in size since its days as a bustling mill-town, the dedication and service of this post office has certainly remained.

The Bridal Veil Post Office also serves as a testament to a time in Oregon's past that is too often forgotten; a time that the Bridal Veil Historical Preservation Society and its supporters have fought to preserve. Even in the face of post office closures and modernizations, this post office has endured. The efforts of those that have fought to maintain this structure, especially the Historical Preservation Society, serve as a testament to its importance not only to this community, but to the state of Oregon as well.

To President and Postmaster Geri Canzler, the citizens of Bridal Veil, and all those that have fought to preserve this historic site: thank you and congratulations on 125 years and counting.●

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO TERMINATE THE DESIGNATIONS OF GIBRALTAR AND THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AS BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM—PM 53

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designations of Gibraltar and the Turks and Caicos Islands as beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that if the President determines that a beneficiary developing country has become a "high income" country, as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (i.e., the World Bank), then the President shall terminate the designation of such country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of GSP, effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate Gibraltar's designation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program, because it has become a high income country as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, Gibraltar's eligibility for

trade benefits under the GSP program will end on January 1, 2014.

In addition, pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate Turks and Caicos Islands' designation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program, because it has become a high income country, as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, Turks and Caicos Islands' eligibility for trade benefits under the GSP program will end on January 1, 2014.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 29, 2012.

NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO ADD THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL TO THE LIST OF LEAST-DEVELOPED BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM—PM 54

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designations of Gibraltar and the Turks and Caicos Islands as beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that if the President determines that a beneficiary developing country has become a "high income" country, as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (i.e., the World Bank), then the President shall terminate the designation of such country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of GSP, effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate Gibraltar's designation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program, because it has become a high income country as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, Gibraltar's eligibility for trade benefits under the GSP program will end on January 1, 2014.

In addition, pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate Turks and Caicos Islands' designation as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program, because it has become a high income country as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, Turks and Caicos Islands' eligibility for trade benefits under the GSP program will end on January 1, 2014.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 29, 2012.