

National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which our Nation has commemorated annually for the last 30 years, renews our commitment to those impacted by crime and the ways we can help them move forward. It is a time for remembrance and reflection, a moment to pause and honor victims, advocates, professionals, and volunteers.

This year's theme is ambitious but critical: "Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim." This calls on each of us to make sure that all victims get the help they need. Too many victims are still unable to receive the protections and services they deserve. Our efforts toward better safety and security now are integral to ensuring the safety and security of future generations.

On April 8, 1981, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first Crime Victims' Rights Week. As a former prosecutor myself, I remember when the concept of victims' rights was practically unknown as few mechanisms for victim assistance and support even existed. With this first proclamation, President Reagan fulfilled an important and long-awaited call to put the concerns and rights of crime victims on the national agenda.

As President Reagan said in the first proclamation in 1981:

We need a renewed emphasis on and an enhanced sensitivity to the rights of victims. These rights should be a central concern of those who participate in the criminal justice system, and it is time all of us paid greater heed to the plight of victims.

This pioneering vision of President Reagan is one we continue to embrace today.

We are blessed to live in a nation of Good Samaritans, and we have achieved impressive strides toward helping crime victims get the services they need. But the task of preventing crime and healing its harmful effects remains a constant battle. Technology, globalization, and new types of criminal behavior have made the challenge before us more complex than ever before.

Our fight against crime in the 21st century will take strategic partnerships at the local, State, and national levels. It will rely on supportive, vigilant, and compassionate communities and individuals. Serving these individuals is more than an act of kindness; it helps make all of our homes, neighborhoods, and communities safer and stronger.

The resolution I have submitted with Senators LEAHY, SCHUMER, and GRASSLEY and which I expect to be passed today supports the mission and goals of this year's National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge my colleagues to continue supporting those who have suffered crimes' effects and a renewed commitment toward reducing crime during this week, which this year will be observed the week of April 22.

In closing, we have come a long way since the days when crime victims had few rights and services. Yet it is also true that too many crimes are still

committed and too few are reported and that many victims struggle to overcome the lasting effects of crime. I am pleased that National Crime Victims' Rights Week offers us the opportunity each year to highlight the needs of crime survivors, recognize those who help them, and engage the public in the fight for victims' rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING K-I LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a thriving and successful business in Kentucky, the K-I Lumber & Building Materials company, headquartered in Louisville. K-I Lumber was founded in Louisville in 1932 by Mr. Walter M. Freeman, Sr., who was working as a lumber salesman for another company in the 1920s. As the Great Depression hit, the company he worked for began to decline, and this enterprising American decided that was the time to strike out on his own.

Mr. Freeman opened K-I Lumber's first headquarters in the Starks Building in downtown Louisville, and began selling carloads and truckloads of lumber to customers in Kentucky, Indiana, and surrounding States. By the early 1950s, he had purchased property for a distribution center and lumberyard. Walt's son, Walt Freeman, Jr., joined the business and began to expand it into Kentucky and Indiana's largest lumber company.

Walt, Jr. grew K-I Lumber until it had nine locations in three States and employed approximately 500 people, turning it into one of the largest independent lumber and building materials companies in the industry and earning it the Home Builders Association of Louisville Associate of the Year award until his passing in 2011.

Now led by the company's chairman, Sharon Freeman, and its president, Bob DeFarraro, K-I Lumber continues to serve as an example of the success Kentucky businesses can achieve with hard work, good leadership, and a passionate spirit. K-I Lumber recently

celebrated its current employees for their combined total of 2,074 years of service to the company and to its customers in Kentucky and the region.

Speaking of the company's custom millwork division, Walt Freeman, Jr. was fond of saying "If you can dream it, we can craft it." Whether it is custom millwork for one very special customer, or lumber needs for the largest distributors, K-I Lumber & Building Materials has survived and thrived over the past 80 years by crafting the desires of its customers, employees, and managers into reality. I know my colleagues join me in wishing many more years of success to this proud and locally owned Kentucky business.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, amendment No. 1574 modifying the Congressional authorization for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, SHEP, is clearly supported in the Constitution. Article I of the Constitution grants Congress the power to authorize and appropriate funds and Article I, Section 8, specifically grants Congress the power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with Indian Tribes." The power of Congress to fund the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project is unquestionably granted by the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has also expressly stated that "Commerce with foreign nations means commerce between citizens of the United States and citizens or subjects of foreign governments. It means trade, and it means intercourse. It means commercial intercourse between nations, and parts of nations, in all its branches. It includes navigation, as the principal means by which foreign intercourse is affected."

The power to regulate, authorize, and appropriate funding for the ports comes from the authority to regulate navigation, arising from the Commerce Clause. The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, and by extension all harbor deepening projects, involves the general welfare of the United States. The Port of Savannah is a turnstile for cargo that impacts the United States as a whole. Congress is permitted to contribute to the project because it would improve the ability of the United States to receive larger ships entering through the Panama Canal. The Project will make national trade more competitive, while greatly impacting the State and the region. Trades, and its relations (ports), are fundamental extensions of the congressional power to regulate commerce. The Savannah Harbor Expansion Project is a permissible exercise of Congress's authority to regulate commerce and contributes to the general welfare of the United States. The constitutional ability of Congress to provide funding for the program is unquestionable.

The Port of Savannah is the second largest container port on the East

Coast and the fourth largest in the country. The Georgia Department of Economic Development recently announced that Georgia exported more than \$28.7 billion in goods last year, a 20.8 percent increase from 2009 and our imports experienced a 27 percent increase last year compared to 2009. That's well over the overall national increase of 22.6 percent. Exports accounted for more than 54 percent of the 2.8 million containers Georgia Ports moved last year. Savannah handles more than 17 percent of all container cargo on the East Coast and is an essential element for the creation of new jobs, and the preservation of existing jobs, in America. The Panama Canal Authority has undertaken a 7 year \$5.25 billion project to widen the canal to double its capacity by allowing larger ships to transit it. After this expansion, the Panama Canal will be able to handle vessels of cargo capacity up to 13,000 twenty-foot equivalent units or TEUs, which is the measure of cargo capacity often used to describe the capacity of a container ship. As a result of the canal's expansion and widening, shipping vessels are modernizing their fleet and purchasing a much larger class of vessel. These "Post Panamax" and "New Panamax" fleets will be comprised of vessels much larger than anything on the ocean today.

In order to accommodate these vessels, improvements must be made to our Nation's existing infrastructure. The Georgia Ports Authority and the State of Georgia are undertaking a project to deepen the port's channel from 42 feet to 48 feet in order to accommodate this larger class of vessels. Doing so will protect existing jobs at the port while also creating new jobs as these larger vessels call in the Port of Savannah. It is critically important that we expand not only Savannah Harbor but all harbors to ensure they continue to act as gateways for business to not only Georgia and the Southeast United States, but the entire Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING WILBUR'S OF MAINE CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONS

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today millions of Americans across the country will be reminded of the wonders of love and romance. Some may receive a traditional Valentines Day card, others a perfect bouquet of fragrant flowers, and several lucky individuals will receive delectable chocolates, perhaps enclosed in a magnificent red heart shaped box. While today is Valentines Day, the entire month of February is National Chocolate Lover's month, and with these two festive occasions in mind, I rise to commend Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections located in Freeport, ME.

Tom Wilbur and Catherine Carty-Wilbur opened this small chocolatier in

1983, with the goal of providing the highest quality chocolate products to their customers. One of the highlights of Wilbur's is their scrumptious Needham candy, which is a unique delicacy of Maine offering a luxurious blend of chocolate and potato. Wilbur's uses only Maine-farmed potatoes which are among the best in the world in making this delightful treat.

Over the years, the store's charm and rich chocolate selection warranted an expansion and Tom and Catherine sought to move from their original Freeport location to a larger space where they could produce more candy. While garnering funds for expansion, the Wilburs consulted with the Maine Small Business and Technology Development Center regarding a seed grant from the Maine Technology Institute, which they were successfully awarded in 2008. This grant allowed Wilbur's to finish research and development on two pieces of equipment, which were integral in enhancing their company's candy production. Today, this small business has three retail store locations, two in Freeport and one in Brunswick. Inquisitive customers can even tour one of their Freeport locations which doubles as Wilbur's factory!

Wilbur's also understands the importance of giving back to their local community. Recipients of their generous donations include the Central Maine Medical Center as well as Day One in south Portland—a non-profit whose mission is to reduce youth substance abuse. Additionally, to spread the joy of chocolate making, this small business frequently holds events to instruct individuals in this unique craft, including a summer program to turn children into junior chocolatiers. Earlier this month, Wilbur's even held a fun "love bug" event at their Freeport store where individuals could create a special Valentines treat for their loved ones, and demonstrated Needham-making for the Freeport Historical Society.

In light of their delicious product and valued contributions to the State, it is no surprise that this small company has received several accolades. In both 2010 and 2011, they were honored with the Readers' Choice Award for Candy Shops by Downeast Maine Magazine. Furthermore, earlier this year Tom and Catherine received the Gowell Award, which is the highest honor bestowed by the New England Retail Confectioner Association and is only given out once every three years—a truly astounding achievement indeed.

Throughout the month of February, but especially today, we celebrate our love of all things chocolate. Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections is a shining example of why everyone's heart truly lights up at the thought of consuming delectable chocolate goods. This company not only produces a superior product, but continually provides valuable contributions as active and engaged members of the community. I am proud to extend my con-

gratulations to everyone at Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections for their dedication to excellence, and offer my best wishes for their continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2105. A bill to enhance the security and resiliency of the cyber and communications infrastructure of the United States.

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-4960. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indoxacarb; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9336-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4961. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Salaries and Expenses account for fiscal years 2010 and 2011; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4962. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Salaries and Expenses account in fiscal year 2010 and in the over two decades prior; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4963. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-002, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4964. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Clearing and Risk, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Cleared Swaps Customer Contracts and Collateral; Conforming Amendments to the