

I yield the floor.

GREAT APE PROTECTION AND COST SAVING ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, consistent with Senate standing orders and my policy of publishing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement whenever I place a hold on legislation, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to and pass S. 810, the Great Ape Protection and Cost Saving Act.

Oregon is home to one of the eight National Institutes of Health, NIH-supported National Primate Research Centers, and it is already subject to strong local and national oversight to ensure the highest quality and ethical care for animals. These Centers provide outstanding research and powerful research tools that are vital to our understanding of human health and disease and hold enormous potential for finding treatments for life-threatening disorders.

While ensuring the highest quality and ethical care for animals is of utmost importance, there is already significant oversight and regulation of these facilities.

In addition to meeting the high standards required by NIH to obtain and retain Federal health research dollars, centers are also already responsible for meeting the lengthy, detailed and often-updated Federal requirements within the Animal Welfare Act. Facilities are subject to thorough, regular, and unannounced inspections by U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services and are subject to regulations from the Public Health Service, PHS, and Food and Drug Administration, FDA. Experiments must also be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, IACUC, at the Institution where the scientist works before research can begin.

While I support protecting animals from unethical and inhumane treatment, the NIH is in the process of reviewing and implementing related recommendations from the Institute of Medicine. At this stage, passing legislation would circumvent this ongoing process. For this reason, I object to the Senate taking up and passing S. 810.

TRIBUTE TO 405TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to welcome home some of our Nation's greatest servicemembers. This weekend, 29 soldiers from the great State of Nevada will be reunited with their families and loved ones after a grueling 9-month tour in Afghanistan. They have served our country with honor, and I am proud to welcome them home to the Silver State.

Nevada is grateful to these soldiers for their unwavering commitment to America. I want to thank them for

fighting bravely for this Nation. I am humbled for their service to our country, and it is a privilege to help welcome them home.

Earlier this year, the North Las Vegas-based Army Reserve Delta Company, 405th Civil Affairs Battalion was deployed to fight the war in Afghanistan. Each and every day of their tour, this company faced dangerous situations in order to our protect freedom and democracy. Participating in missions to some of the most volatile provinces of eastern Afghanistan, they encountered deadly firefights and roadside bombs. This company's courageous acts have been awarded with 5 Purple Heart medals, 18 Army Commendation medals, and 7 Bronze Star medals for meritorious service. These decorated soldiers have made significant sacrifices for our country, and I am so grateful they have the opportunity to return home to their families.

The brave men and women in our Armed Forces have made grave sacrifices on behalf of our Nation and we owe them a debt of gratitude. The families of our troops also deserve our heartfelt appreciation for their unwavering strength and support.

I wish these soldiers a joyful homecoming this weekend and happy holiday season with their loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring this company for their service to our country.

CONGRATULATING TEA IMPORTERS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a father and son team and their family from Westport, CT, whose company, Tea Importers, Inc., was recently recognized by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with the 2012 Award for Corporate Excellence.

Every year, the Secretary of State honors two American owned, global companies, that are both successful and humanitarian. They are companies doing well and doing good. This year, Joseph and Andrew Wertheim of Tea Importers, Inc. were celebrated as international leaders of fair trade standards, democratic principles, and diplomacy in the small-medium sized category. Intel Corporation received this year's award in the large business category.

After escaping from Nazi Germany, Joseph Wertheim settled in Connecticut and began importing tea in 1953. Since then, he has grown his company and forged strong ties with customer tea companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. In 1960, he began working to market and import tea from Rwanda, and developed a particularly strong relationship with the Government of Rwanda, who requested that Mr. Wertheim partner with them in building a tea processing factory. What started as the first facility in a remote area in Kigali, Rwanda, has grown into

the largest single producer of tea in the entire African nation.

This tea factory named Sorwathe has helped the people of Rwanda make remarkable progress. Sorwathe ensures equal working conditions for its 5,242 employees, guided by the principle that every small farmer is a stake holder. In addition, Sorwathe has assisted the Government of Rwanda in building roads, bringing in water, and working with the USAID to start schools and medical clinics. The Wertheims and Tea Importers have worked with Rotary International to teach literacy to at least 15,000 adults, fund the town's public library, and provide high school scholarships. Their efforts have helped to ban child labor and facilitate collective bargaining agreements. Sorwathe has implemented environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, and organic farming, and formed alliances with important organizations in support of these efforts, to include the Rainforest Alliance and Ethical Tea Partnership. These accomplishments give you a sense of the spirit that guides this company that is financially successful, environmental conscious, and socially aware.

This small business of only six domestic employee in Westport has furthered American diplomacy around the world. As Secretary of State Clinton said in her address at last month's awards ceremonies, our businesses operating abroad are "how millions and millions of people find out about our values, what we really stand for, what kind of people we are." I saw firsthand this spirit of inclusivity when I attended this awards ceremony. Video conferencing was set up to include both employees of Sorwathe and members of Intel's office in Vietnam inviting all members of those innovative ventures to be congratulated and acknowledged.

I congratulate Joseph and Andrew Wertheim and all employees of Tea Importers, Inc. and Sorwathe in this well-deserved award, which highlights how a family-owned business can make an enormous impact on a global scale.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO C.W. FLOYD

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I would like to honor C.W. Floyd, Vietnam veteran, skeet-shooting champion, advocate for servicemembers everywhere, friend, and one of my longtime staff. On December 22, 2012, C.W. will retire after more than 30 years of service in and to the military. Although his retirement is much deserved, his absence will leave a void that will be hard to fill. In our extensive search to find a replacement for him, it has become clear that finding an ever-smiling, gun-collecting war veteran who provides the office with doughnuts is no easy task.

Mr. Floyd gave the U.S. Army 22 years of service, including a tour of

duty in the Vietnam war. From 1979 through 1985, he served as a member of the Alaska Army National Guard. Those years with the U.S. Army would have been commendable and worthy of thanks in and of themselves, but it is actually the work that C.W. has done since retiring from the Army that sets him apart and needs to be honored. Since his Army retirement, Mr. Floyd has lived and worked to help Alaska's military members at every level. He was appointed the municipality of Anchorage's first military and veterans liaison and was then hired on as special assistant to the Senator in Veteran and Military Affairs. During his time in the U.S. Senate office, Mr. Floyd helped to pass legislation to gain Federal pension and benefits for members of the Alaska Territorial Guard who served during WWII but were overlooked because Alaska was not yet a state when they were active.

C.W. Floyd not only works professionally for veterans and military members, he also volunteers his own time to support the cause. He spent 15 years on the Alaska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee and works as an organizer and volunteer for Alaska Operation STANDOWN, a program advocating for and supporting homeless veterans. C.W. was named Civilian Volunteer of the Year by the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska and was also honored with the Patrick Henry Award, which provides recognition to local officials and civic leaders who distinguish themselves with outstanding and exceptional service to the Armed Forces of the United States, the National Guard, or the National Guard Association of the United States. The Patrick Henry Award states, "Mr. Floyd is an inspirational role model for selfless service in support of our total Homeland Security Team and the National Guard of the United States."

Besides providing doughnuts for the Senate office and championing for the rights of veterans, C.W. has a full and happy personal life. He has been in love with his wife Elaine for 28 years and plans to turn her into a California snowbird when they are both officially retired. They have raised three wonderful men, Chuck, Travis, and Curtis, and are happily watching as their sons repopulate the Earth with girl babies. I am guessing that the sales of powder pink guns will skyrocket as C.W. welcomes each granddaughter into the world. He is a lifetime NRA, National Skeet Shooting Association, Alaska Gun Collectors Association, and Alaska Veterans Museum member.

C.W. is a shining example of all that our country has to offer and all that we can be. He has a smile and wise words of advice for anyone who walks into our office looking for assistance with veterans or military issues. No problem is too small or too big for C.W. to give attention to. My staff and I have witnessed him helping thousands of servicemembers, and I know that there are

thousands more we did not witness. It should also be mentioned that his personal experiences and his articulate nature provide a voice that can explain veterans issues to those of us who do not know what it is like. In this way, he has educated all those who have ever had the chance to speak to him. His impact on the lives of U.S. veterans is far-reaching and immeasurable.

Let history remember C.W. Floyd as one of our Nation's true heroes.●

TRIBUTE TO DON JACKSON

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Today I wish to commend the career of a man who has devoted his entire life to agriculture. After more than 35 years serving in various leadership capacities in the U.S. poultry and agricultural industries, Dr. Don Jackson, president and chief executive officer of JBS USA, is retiring.

Don's agricultural career arguably began in the early 1950s on his father's ranch in Phoenix, AZ. Don, the fifth out of seven children, was one heck of a high school football athlete—securing a game-clinching interception in the State semifinal game and helping to lead his team to the State championship in his senior year.

Don studied as an undergraduate at Arizona State University and then moved to Colorado State University, where he graduated in 1978 with a master's degree and Ph.D. in animal science.

Don officially began his career in agriculture as a nutritionist in the feed and poultry division of Central Soya. When the company's poultry division was sold to Seaboard, Don remained with the organization, serving in several operational and executive roles. From 1996 to 2000, Don served as Seaboard's chief executive officer.

In 2000, ConAgra acquired Seaboard's poultry division and Don moved to Foster Farms, where he served as president for 8 years. In late 2008, Pilgrim's Pride Corporation called on Don to serve as chief executive officer and lead the company out of bankruptcy.

In December 2009, Don helped successfully negotiate the sale of a controlling interest in Pilgrim's Pride to JBS USA, and a short year later, Don was selected as president and chief executive officer of JBS USA, a leading processor of U.S. beef, pork, poultry, and lamb and Australian beef and lamb.

Don has been married to his high school sweetheart, Teresa, for 41 years, and they are the proud parents of six children who have given them seven beautiful grandchildren. For the past 28 years, Don has called Athens and Atlanta, GA, home, and he passionately roots for the Atlanta Braves and the University of Georgia Bulldogs.

I commend Don for his years of service and congratulate him on an incredibly successful career. American agriculture has benefitted from his passion, energy, wisdom, and humor, and I am

proud to call him a Georgian. We wish Don well as he embarks on his well-deserved retirement.●

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WEEK

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I rise in recognition of Computer Science Education Week, which started on Sunday, December 9, 2012, and continues through Saturday, December 15, 2012. This week long celebration is an opportunity for educators and students to participate in activities that will elevate computer science education at all levels. The date for Computer Science Week honors Grace Murray Hopper, who was born on December 9, 1906, and who pioneered new programming languages and standards for computer systems that laid the foundation for many subsequent advances in computer science. In my home State of Pennsylvania and across the Nation, this annual celebration helps to spark interest in a subject of critical importance to our economy now and in the future.

Computers touch nearly every corner of our economy and mastery of computer science is a valuable skill set for jobseekers. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there will be 9.2 million jobs in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, fields by the year 2020. Half of these jobs, or 4.6 million, will be in computing. That is one in every two STEM jobs.

Unfortunately, not enough high school students are mastering these STEM subjects. According to the College Board, in 2011, 3.4 million advanced placement exams were administered to high school students. Fewer than 1 million of these exams tested a STEM subject. Only about 20,000 of these exams were in the subject of computer science, accounting for 2 percent of the total science exams and 1 percent of all AP exams administered last year. Of even greater concern, only 4,000 females took this AP exam. Our policies, schools, and education systems must respond to the demand for a larger, more diverse computing talent pipeline. Computer Science Education Week brings attention to these issues and builds enthusiasm for potential solutions.

In Pennsylvania, computer science educators and supporters have planned a number of events to observe Computer Science Week. At a high school outside of Philadelphia, ninth graders are converting room numbers to binary representation and relabeling the classrooms in their school. Springfield will further host an event for students, families, and community members to present information about that district's upcoming computer science curriculum, as well as hold an exposition of student projects. For the third consecutive year, students from Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges will present