

RESPONSE BY AMBASSADOR JOSEPH VERNER
 REED UPON RECEIPT OF THE MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2012 THE LINKS CLUB
 NEW YORK CITY

I am greatly honored to receive this "Award for Distinguished Achievement" from the Society.

I love France. I have great admiration and affection for the People of France.

My spouse of more than fifty years is the daughter of a lady of France.

We have lived in Grasse and enjoyed numerous visits to every part of this noble nation.

My Father was born in Nice at the Hotel Negresco. He lived with his parents in the Loire until a teenager. He later lived in Paris and Senlis.

I was honored to receive the Legion of Honor from President Mitterrand when I served as Chief of Protocol of the White House under President Bush Senior. As Chief of Protocol I organized more visits between President Bush and President Mitterrand than Mr. Bush had with any other Head of State.

In my youth I had the privilege of having a Governors from France.

Soon after the close of World War Two I had the pleasure of being with a French Family for a Summer near the City of Tours. That started my love affair with "La Belle France".

It was France that turned the American quest for Independence into a reality.

France's legendary culture has spread her elegant language (the language of Diplomacy) across the globe with 73 French speaking nations forming the Francophonie.

France shapes global tastes.

Everyone's second country is France.

I have worked at the United Nations for thirty years. France is a powerhouse at the Parliament of Man being a Permanent Member of the Security Council.

France is at the peak of success with her Couture, Painting, Music, Film, Drama, Cuisine, Wines from Bordeaux and Burgundy, Champagne (who wouldn't love a country with 640 types of cheese?).

My mind turns to -

The City of Lights, the Statue of Liberty, La Cote D'Azur, Versailles, the Tricolor, Normandy and the bluffs of the beaches of Utah and Omaha, Talleyrand, Le Musee D'Orsay, Napoleon, La Marseilles, Chartres, The Chateaux of the Valley of the Loire, President Wilson, General De Gaulle, General Eisenhower, Françoise Mitterrand.

President Wildenstein and friends, thank you, thank you, thank you for bestowing on me this great honor. I am touched, humbled and proud.

Encore, Bon Soir

Bon Thanksgiving and Dieu Vous Benisse.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING RENO TUUFULI AND ASHLIE BLAKE

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize two exceptionally talented young people from my home State of Nevada, Ashlie Blake and Reno Tuufuli. These two young athletes were selected to represent the United States as members of the U.S.A. Track and Field World Youth Team, and competed in the International Association of Athletics Federations—

IAAF, World Youth Championships in Donetsk, Ukraine. These dedicated and hardworking young Nevadans competed with great skill against the best young athletes in the world, and they represented their State and their Nation admirably at the competition.

Ashlie Blake and Reno Tuufuli helped lead Team USA to its best showing at the World Youth Championships. The team took home 17 medals over the course of the competition, more than any other country. Ashlie placed third out of 55 athletes from around the world, winning the U.S.A.'s first medal of the competition for her performance in the women's shot put event. Reno surpassed his personal best record in the men's discus throw and placed seventh out of 30 international athletes in the men's discus competition.

There is no doubt that both of these outstanding performances were the result of many hours of hard work and dedicated training, and Ashlie and Reno should be proud of their efforts and achievements. I congratulate Ashlie Blake and Reno Tuufuli on their success, and I wish them all the best as they continue their athletic endeavors.●

REMEMBERING GORDON BELCOURT

• Mr. TESTER. Madam President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Gordon Belcourt, the executive director of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council. Gordon passed away on July 15 in Billings, MT.

Gordon was a tremendous leader and advocate for Indian Country. A trusted and experienced voice, Gordon could always be counted on to use common sense to get to the heart of the issue and find a solution. He leaves big shoes to fill, and he will be missed by all Montanans. Sharla's and my heart goes out to all of Gordon's friends and family who are mourning his loss.

Gordon grew up on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and graduated from Browning High School. He attended the University of Santa Clara in California, where he participated in the ROTC Program, before becoming a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He earned a master's degree in public health from the University of California at Berkeley and returned to the Big Sky State to attend law school at the University of Montana. He also served as president of the Blackfeet Community College. Gordon, who was honored by the State of California and the University of California Berkeley as a Public Health Hero, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Montana for his work to improve Native American health.

Gordon built the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council from the ground up, serving as executive director beginning in 1998. He gave the council a powerful voice—both throughout the region and across the Nation. He

worked tirelessly to improve life in Indian Country through infrastructure projects, the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, and the creation of the Tribal Law and Order Act. He also created the regional Tribal Institutional Review Board for the protection of the rights of Native Americans.

Gordon was a courageous leader on issues of alcoholism and suicide in Indian Country. Due to Gordon's leadership, the Tribal Leaders Council received \$5 million in 2009 to combat alcohol abuse among American Indians. His extensive knowledge of the issues facing the community and his commitment to doing what was right made him an outstanding advocate for Native Americans.

As we bid farewell to Gordon, we recognize that he was a true warrior for Indian Country. His given Blackfeet name, Mixed Iron Boy, was in remembrance of the combat his uncle endured in World War II, and it will serve as a reminder to all of us of Gordon's remarkable strength, unwavering courage, enduring compassion, boundless vitality, and lasting legacy.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gordon's widow, Cheryl, and all of his family and many friends.●

ROSHOLT, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Rosholt, SD. Founded in 1913, Rosholt will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

Located in Roberts County, Rosholt possesses a strong sense of community that makes South Dakota an outstanding place to live and work. Julius Rosholt presented the plan of the town site next to the proposed railroad. The town of Rosholt was built and born on the economy of agriculture beginning with the first lots sold on August 11, 1913. Rosholt has continued to be a strong reflection of South Dakota's greatest values and traditions. The community of Rosholt has much to be proud of and I am confident that Rosholt's success will continue well into the future.

Rosholt will commemorate the centennial anniversary of its founding with celebrations held from August 13-18 featuring a centennial play, fireworks, 3K run, alumni reunion, and a kiddie parade. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Rosholt on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

NEW EFFINGTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize New Effington, SD. Founded in 1913, New Effington will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year.

Located in Roberts County, New Effington possesses a strong sense of community that makes South Dakota an outstanding place to live and work. New Effington was named after Effie

Staffer Pratt, who was one of the women who secured the homestead. New Effington has continued to be a strong reflection of South Dakota's greatest values and traditions. The community of New Effington has much to be proud of and I am confident that New Effington's success will continue well into the future.

New Effington commemorated the centennial anniversary of its founding with celebrations held from July 5 through July 7 which featured events such as an Alumni Day, Centennial 5K run, parade, and fireworks display. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of New Effington on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 appropriate committees.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 1315. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from enforcing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

S. 1316. A bill to repeal the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act providing for the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

H.R. 1911. To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish interest rates for new loans made on or after July 1, 2013, to direct the Secretary of Education to convene the Advisory Committee on Improving Postsecondary Education Data to conduct a study on improvements to postsecondary education transparency at the Federal level, and for other purposes.

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1334. A bill to establish student loan interest rates, and for other purposes.

S. 1335. A bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 1336. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit States to require proof of citizenship for registration to vote in elections for Federal office.

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-2303. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual reports of the Attorney General relative to enforcement actions taken by the Department of Justice under the Lobbying Disclosure Act for the periods beginning on January 1, 2011, and July 1, 2011; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2304. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additions to the List of Validated End-Users in the People's Republic of China: Samsung China Semiconductor Co. Ltd. and Advance Micro-Fabrication Equipment, Inc., China" (RIN0694-AF93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2305. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eliminating the Prohibition Against General Solicitation and General Advertising in Rule 506 and Rule 144A Offerings" (RIN3235-AL34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2306. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Retail Foreign Exchange Transactions" (RIN3235-AL19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2307. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Supervised Investment Bank Holding Company Rules" (RIN3235-AL35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2308. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Legal Office, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of 'Predominantly Engaged in Activities That Are Financial in Nature or Incidental Thereto'" (RIN3064-AD73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2309. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2012 Annual Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2310. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Global Strategic Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the obligation and expenditure of funds for the implementation of Cooperative Threat Reduction activities (DCN OSS-2013-1046); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2311. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Dryers and Room Air Conditioners" (RIN1904-AC98) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on July 16, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2312. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wyoming Regulatory Program" (Docket No. WY-043-FOR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 16, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2313. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Section 274b Agreements with States" (Management Directive 5.8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 17, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2314. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Kansas; Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 9833-7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2315. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Attainment for the Sacramento Nonattainment Area for the 2006 Fine Particle Standard; California; Determination Regarding Applicability of Clean Air Act Requirements" (FRL No. 9833-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 12, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2316. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York State Ozone Implementation Plan Revision" (FRL No. 9830-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2317. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Additional Qualifying Renewable Fuel Pathways under the Renewable Fuel Standard Program; Final Rule Approving Renewable Fuel Pathways for Giant Reed (*Arundo Donax*) and Napier Grass (*Pennisetum Purpureum*)" (FRL No. 9822-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2318. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Second Ten-Year PM10 Maintenance Plan for Canon City" (FRL No. 9832-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 9, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2319. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Approval of 'Infrastructure' SIP with respect to Source Impact Analysis Provisions for the 2006 24-Hour PM2.5 NAAQS" (FRL No. 9832-4) received in the Office of the President of the