

me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID JOST

● Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to David Jost for his hard work as an intern in my Riverton office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

David is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, where he received a B.A. in psychology, B.S. in sociology, and M.S. in neurophysiology. David has also received a master of natural resources from Virginia Tech. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank David for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

TRIBUTE TO THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF CJI

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the elementary students of Chester-Joplin-Inverness, CJI. These students took part in Chester's annual Harvest 4 Hunger Campaign. All together, they gathered 2136.5 pounds of nonperishable food.

CJI is a combination of three towns up on what we call the Highline in Montana. The towns are Chester, Joplin, and Inverness. These three towns have come together to make one great school to serve the students of the area.

There are 108 elementary students at CJI, and they did such a wonderful thing for families in the area. Harvest 4 Hunger is a campaign operated by CHS to gather nonperishable food items and money donations to give to local charities to feed families in need.

Now I hear the students had a little motivation for bringing food in. The winning classes at the end of each week were rewarded with a pizza party. There is no better motivation than a pizza party. I read a lot of quotes from the kids, and it sounds like they had a great time collecting the food, and they were happy to get the chance to help people in need. One student told their teacher Miss Manion, That is what Hawks do.

It makes me so proud to see young Montanans helping out their communities. These students did such a wonderful thing. Great job, and God bless.●

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS GUEST HOUSE

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Veterans Guest

House for its unwavering commitment and loyalty to providing our servicemembers, veterans, and their families lodging while they address their own health care needs at medical facilities throughout northern Nevada. The Veterans Guest House is one of a kind for our great State and is an invaluable resource to our military community.

The Veterans Guest House was founded over two decades ago when a mother and her children were found sleeping in their car while their veteran father was in the intensive care unit at the local VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. In the early 1990s, founders of the Veterans Guest House—Chuck Fulkerson, Dick Rhyno, Thomas Purkey, Minor Kelso, Robert Crowell, Esq., Wally Willson, Lois Crocker, David Parsons, Joseph Rooney, Charles Grundy, Jes Barbera, Don Anderson, Lew Carnahan, Ben Duncan, Jeani Hunt, Jim Martin, Manuel Muniz, Rick Sorenson, Ensio Tosolini, Joe Scamihorn, William Wood, Len Crocker, Kit McGrath, Richard Shuster, Elaine McNeill, Rand Tanner, Chester Henry, and Ted Buchwald—realized that many veterans and their families lacked a place to stay while family members received medical treatment, and in 1994, they created the Spouse House. By 1998, the facility grew to offer five beds for veterans and their families.

In 2002, the facility was officially named the Veterans Guest House, and on Veterans Day in 2004, with only private donations, the organization purchased and renovated a 3-story home across the street from the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System Medical Center. This facility now accommodates up to 17 guests. The Veterans Guest House provides both long-term and short-term lodging to veterans and their families for various situations, including veterans receiving outpatient care, families of veterans who are hospitalized, and veterans' immediate family members who are receiving medical treatment as an inpatient or outpatient. In the 22 years since its inception, the Veterans Guest House has served over 55,000 nights to veterans, veteran spouses, and veteran families.

There is no way to adequately thank the men and women that lay down their lives for our freedoms, but those at the Veterans Guest House have gone above and beyond to show their appreciation. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to chief executive officer Noreen Leary, the incredible staff, and the many dedicated individuals who volunteer at the Veterans Guest House, in addition to president Terry Tholl, vice President Monk Maim, secretary Lucy Miller, treasurer Carol Langford, and past and present members serving on the board of directors. These individuals helping our active military members, veterans, and their families at the Veterans Guest House stand as shining examples of the

manner in which we should respect our men and women in uniform. The unwavering dedication of the Veterans Guest House to providing our brave men and women with a place to stay is commendable, and I am proud to honor it today.

As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals who serve our Nation, but also to ensure they are cared for when they return home. Equally as important, it is crucial that these servicemembers and their families have a place to stay while receiving quality care. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation. I am very pleased that veterans service organizations like the Veterans Guest House are committed to ensuring that the needs of our veterans are being met.

Today I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing the Veterans Guest House, an organization whose mission is noble and charitable. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge this organization and its work to provide active military members, veterans, and their families a safe place to stay, and I wish it the best of luck in all of its future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING THOMAS C. SWEENEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the people of Kodiak, AK, will gather on Saturday, May 7, to celebrate the life of Thomas "Tom" Cornelius Sweeney. Tom passed away on March 29 at the age of 84.

Tom was born on February 9, 1932, in Helena, MT. He first came to Kodiak as a member of the U.S. Navy, then returned to work construction and married Nancy Ann Norman. Nancy's family owned the gift and photo shop, Norman's.

Tom first pursued a career in law enforcement, serving as a territorial policeman, detective, State trooper, and private investigator. That took Tom and Nancy to various cities in Alaska. Following the 1964 Good Friday earthquake and tsunami, they returned to Kodiak for good. Tom and Nancy helped Nancy's family restore Norman's following the disaster. Tom pursued his entrepreneurial interests in oil sales, automobile sales and service, and finally insurance brokerage before retiring in 1996—a well-rounded career.

He was equally committed to the Kodiak community, serving as president of the Kodiak Chamber of Commerce, the Kodiak Rotary Club, and Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #18, which Tom helped reactivate in 1983. His statewide leadership roles included service as state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and chairman of the Alaska Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Tom leaves behind his beloved wife of 60 years, Nancy, two sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a large extended family. I join with the people of Kodiak in celebrating the life of this great Alaska pioneer.●

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF YORK COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

● Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate the York County Children's Advocacy Center on the celebration of their 10th anniversary.

The York County Children's Advocacy Center opened its doors in May of 2006 in York, PA. Since its opening, the center has stayed true to its mission "to reduce the trauma of child abuse investigations, foster professional collaboration and cooperation, and provide education and advocacy regarding the prevention of child abuse within the community."

Without a child advocacy center, if a child is brave enough to report abuse, that child is often required to retell and, thus, relive the abuse through multiple, repetitive interviews with child protective services, prosecutors, police, victim services, and medical and mental health providers. The interviews often occur in places that magnify the child's trauma—police stations, emergency rooms, or offices of lawyers and social workers.

The York Child Advocacy Center, by contrast, brings together law enforcement, trained interviewers, child protective services, medical providers, and mental health experts in a child-friendly, safe house, where an abused child feels secure and only has to undergo one interview and one physical exam.

As a result of the center's tireless efforts, over 3,000 children have received vital services. The York County Children's Advocacy Center has achieved many important milestones. Some of these milestones include earning full accreditation through the National Children's Alliance, expanding their forensic interviewing and forensic medical services, and being accepted as a United Way partner agency. Each of these milestones has allowed the York County Children's Advocacy Center to better serve the most vulnerable in our society, our children.

On behalf of the Senate, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the York County Children's Advocacy Center as they celebrate 10 years of dedicated service to York County's children and families.●

TRIBUTE TO EVA ENCINIAS-SANDOVAL

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a great New Mexican and a great American. Eva Encinias-Sandoval is a pioneer and a cultural icon in the world of flamenco in New Mexico.

New Mexico has a long and rich cultural history with flamenco as one of

its dynamic traditions. Flamenco is a complex art form that originated in Spain and blends influences from different cultures. It mixes both discipline and spontaneity.

With sweeping, expressive arm movements and rhythmic stomping often accompanied by singing or music, flamenco is more than a form of dance. It incorporates guitar, percussion, and song as integral parts of the art form.

Eva Encinias-Sandoval's career in flamenco spans more than 40 years. Her professional expertise includes performance, teaching choreography, concert production, and direction.

Eva began dancing and teaching flamenco at a young age. Her mother, Clarita, was also a dancer, and Eva started her training at the age of 5.

At age 14, Eva began teaching students in her mother's studio, and in 1973, she formed her first flamenco dance company, Ritmo Flamenco. The following year, she enrolled in the University of New Mexico, though the dance department did not offer flamenco classes at the time.

Eva began teaching flamenco as a single course offering at UNM in 1976. Now, the program of study includes all levels of flamenco technique and specialized topics. As a result of Eva's dedication and passion, UNM is the only institution in the country that offers bachelor of arts and masters of fine arts degrees with a concentration in flamenco.

Eva later went on to establish the National Institute of Flamenco in 1982. NIF is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of flamenco in the United States. With Eva's artistic vision and guidance, the organization has expanded to include several thriving programs, such as the Conservatory of Flamenco Arts, Festival Flamenco Internacional de Albuquerque, Alma Flamenca, and many others.

Eva's work has also helped bring renowned international flamenco artists from Spain and other parts of the world to study and teach in our State, adding a depth of knowledge and expertise to her students' experiences. She hopes that her students will become the better artists by learning alongside the best artists.

She was the first woman inducted into the Albuquerque Wall of Fame, has received three Bravo awards, and accolades from her colleagues and students.

Despite the importance of these awards and honors, they are not what distinguishes Eva most. Instead, it is the example she sets in always doing her best, always giving back, and always striving for excellence.

Eva has changed her community as a talented dancer and teacher who has inspired countless students. She is deeply committed to her community and pays equal attention to young, less experienced dancers as more advanced students.

Although the origins of flamenco are cloudy, the Encinias family is a true

"flamenco family." Eva's children, Marisol and Joaquin, are both dancers. Her passion and legacy will live on through them, as well as her students who can be found at NIF, UNM, and, now, Tierra Adentro, a local charter school that incorporates flamenco into its curriculum.

Our State is fortunate to have someone like Eva Encinias-Sandoval, who not only sees the beauty of art, but also the beauty of our culture. Flamenco will continue to grow in New Mexico thanks to her dedicated work and the love of dance she continues to share with the community.

By educating mostly New Mexican students, Eva views flamenco as an opportunity to teach our State's youth programs relevant to whom they are as a people. Flamenco is an art form that is as unique as the artists who study it.

Whether through an appreciation or dedication to the art form, Eva Encinias-Sandoval has brought flamenco into the lives of countless New Mexicans. Her love for the art has not gone unnoticed, and I commend her for all of her accomplishments and her service to our State.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1890. An act to amend chapter 90 of title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 699. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to update the privacy protections for electronic communications information that is stored by third-party service providers in order to protect consumer privacy interests while meeting law enforcement needs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4240. An act to require an independent review of the operation and administration of the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and subsets of the TSDB, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4498. An act to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law.