

SC, on the passing of Austin Cunningham.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMIL SABA

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Jamil Saba, who served as the sheriff of Dougherty County, GA, for more than two decades until he retired in December 2008.

Sheriff Saba was born and raised in Albany, GA, which is located in Dougherty County. He remained there, serving his community proudly. Jamil served his country in the U.S. Army from 1960 through 1962 and began his career in law enforcement in April of 1970 as a deputy Sheriff with the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office. He was later promoted to chief investigator in 1972, the job he held for more than a decade until he won election and became sheriff in 1985.

As a true leader, Sheriff Saba has served as president of the Georgia Sheriff's Association and president of the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, as well as on the Georgia Sheriffs' Retirement Board of Directors. He was a board member of the Georgia Public Safety Committee, the Dougherty County Child Abuse Protocol Committee, the Child Death Investigations Protocol Committee, Sexual Assault Protocol Committee, and many others.

His service efforts and accomplishments at the local level are plentiful as well. Jamil was the chairman of the advisory board for the Albany-Dougherty Drug Unit and is a charter member of the Albany Sports Hall of Fame.

Jamil worked tirelessly for Daugherty County as sheriff and plans to continue serving a cause that touched him the most deeply, the Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Foundation Board. I want to recognize and thank his wife Donna Jay Adams and their son, Jim, and daughter, Lauren, for making the sheriff's job easier and sharing him with the community. I hope you all find joy in the coming years together during Jamil's retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO JERRY L. LANCASTER

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate Jerry L. Lancaster, who served as the sheriff of Pulaski County, GA, for 28 years and retired on December 31, 2008.

Jerry was born and raised in Hawkinsville, GA, which is located in Pulaski County. He remained there in order to serve his community proudly for many years. Jerry worked with the Georgia State Patrol for nearly 10 years before being elected sheriff in 1980. As sheriff, he strived to live out the values he was taught as a child—hard work, fairness, honesty, respect, and discipline. His gifts to the community have been immeasurable. The level of respect the community has for him is evidenced in the fact that he is

the longest serving sheriff in the history of the county and was never defeated in an election.

Jerry not only worked tirelessly for Pulaski County as sheriff, but he also gave of his time through his service on the Board of the Georgia Sheriff's Boys' Ranch. He gives credit to his wife Nell Goss Lancaster for her unfailing support, and I honor and thank her, their two children and three grandchildren for making Jerry's job easier and sharing him with the community. I hope you all find joy in the coming years together during Jerry's retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO GARY L. LEMONDS

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD of the Senate SSG Gary Lemonds, a lifelong citizen of Walton County, real estate broker, and decorated Vietnam veteran who passed away on January 8, 2009.

Gary Lemonds served with Company F, 75th Ranger Regiment in Cu Chi, Vietnam, and was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on August 25, 1994, at a ceremony in Fort Benning, GA. His induction was based on his involvement in a conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Lemonds served as a team leader during an ambush patrol maneuver on April 9 and April 10, 1969. When an enemy force launched a massive attack, Sergeant Lemonds led his men in an assault on the enemy emplacements. He single-handedly charged a bunker and destroyed it with grenades, then, sighting another fortification, he crawled through fierce enemy fire and silenced it with his rifle. After eliminating the hostile entrenchment system, he continued his patrol mission. On April 10, 1969, his patrol was attacked a second time. From his patrol position in a bomb crater, he called in artillery and air support on the large enemy element. When withdrawing his troops to a nearby landing zone for evacuation, he came under sniper fire from two North Vietnamese soldiers, whom he quickly eliminated with a grenade. Intense enemy fire thwarted the extraction aircraft's first landing attempt, so he directed a gun ship on the enemy location and effected a successful extraction.

His extraordinary heroism earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts as well as numerous other awards and medals. He also continued to honor other service men and women well after his tour in Vietnam through his involvement with the Patriot Guard Riders.

Gary is survived by two daughters and a son-in-law, Kimberly Lemonds and Jennifer and Jason Needham; his mother Dorothy Lemonds; sister and brother-in-law Glenda and Tom Lewis; grandchildren Jessica Lemonds, John Cwiek, and Pressley Needham, and a niece and nephew. Along with Gary, I

would like to recognize his family today and thank them for sharing their beloved family member with our proud Nation.●

REMEMBERING JOHN A. BAKER

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to praise a citizen from my State who recently passed away. In December John A. Baker who was loved and respected by those who knew and worked with him lost his battle with pancreatic cancer.

John A. Baker is survived by his wife Judy of 42 years, son Jesse M. Baker Sr., daughter Leslie Cummings, grandchildren Maria Graham, April Blakemore, Jesse M. Baker Jr., great grandson Joseph, mother-in-law Lenora Moore, sister-in-law Susan Wooden, nephews Jim and Mark Wooden, great niece Marina Lenora Wooden, brother-in-law Charles Moore, nephews Richard, Ryan, Mathew, and Kyle Moore. John is also survived by sister Lena Susort, brother Cecil Baker, nieces Lavonne Ruggles, Mary Beth Dagit, Barbara Collins and nephew Frank Baker, and several great, great great nieces and nephews.

John A. Baker was like many Alaskans. He was born in Iowa in 1937 and graduated from Everett High School in Everett, Washington in 1949 before finding his way to our great State. I have to tell you, what was Washington and Iowa's loss, was Alaska's gain.

John found his way to Alaska after serving in the U.S. Army in Australia during the Korean conflict. Upon coming to Alaska he first worked in Ketchikan where he was employed by Ketchikan Soda Works. He also flew part time for Weber Air and worked at Ellis Airlines as a mechanic in the landing gear section where he met and later partnered with Chuck Traylor.

He and Chuck Traylor formed a floatplane operation, Stikine Air Service, out of Wrangell in 1962. John held both an airframe and power plant mechanic license and was one of our Alaskan bush pilots. After selling his interest in the Stikine Air Service he moved to Juneau to work for Channel Flying Service.

John met Judy Moore Churchill in 1964, they were married on March 11, 1966, and moved to Juneau. After 3 years John and Judy returned to Wrangell where John worked at Wrangell's first television station. In conjunction with John's position at the TV station Judy opened Forget-Me-Not Florist, which provided many, many flower arrangements that went to the grand opening of the brand new saw mill office and other businesses in town.

Always the entrepreneurs and getting tired of never being able to purchase milk at the end of the week, John and Judy rented a small building from C.V. Hendersen and began a home milk delivery and small "cash and carry" market. As things changed John, along with wife, Judy entered

the field of rentals and real estate where they devoted over 35 years of their lives and presently own Grand View Bed and Breakfast which overlooks Zimovia Strait and the Elephants' Nose. Also, during this time John continued to occasionally fly for Stikine Air Service and worked as a truck driver on the North Slope until his retirement.

During this time Judy also served as the business manager for the Wrangell District of the U.S. Forest Service where she and John served as surrogate parents and guardians for many of the new Forest Service employees and couples who came to Alaska to work in the Wrangell Ranger District. It was through their wisdom and kindness and John's sense of humor that dozens of young families learned how to assimilate themselves into the Wrangell community.

John was a 1961 active Past Master Mason of the Ketchikan Masonic Lodge No. 19, a member of Ducks Unlimited, Muskeg Meadows Golf Club, Friends of the Museum, Wrangell Elks Lodge No. 1595, Pioneers of Alaska Igloo No. 15, and a member of Teamsters Local 959. He served on the Inter-Island Ferry Authority from its inception until 1999. John also spent many volunteer hours working as a docent at the Wrangell Museum when tour ships were in.

John was also a man who invested in his community. He served on the Wrangell City Council five different times including: October 1989–October 1990; November 1993–October 1994; October 1994–October 1997; January 1998–October 1998; and finally from April 1999–October 1999.

As I said, the Bakers are well known in Wrangell for helping young couples new to Alaska learn the ways of Alaska as well as for John's sense of humor. When asked why he moved to Wrangell he would always tell people it was his "youthful exuberance." And when asked in the 1980s why he had decided to work on the Alaska pipeline instead of continuing his flying career he simply said "there are not many old, bold, pilots in Alaska—besides work on the pipeline paid more."

Judy and John were always willing to lend a hand and help their neighbors and to make their community—Wrangell—a better place for everyone to live. John invested himself in southeast Alaska and made Wrangell a "better community" and made all that knew him "better people." He will be missed by his family and friends and most importantly by his loving wife of 42 years, Judy. God grant him his just reward, he will be missed in Wrangell and in the hearts of those who knew him—God's speed John Baker, may the wind always be under your wings.●

TRIBUTE TO FATHER NORMAN ELLIOTT

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of Alaska's most be-

loved religious leaders, Father Norman Elliott. When people think of Alaska, they think of the natural beauty and skylines defined by mountains; rarely are the religious leaders that bind our lives together recognized for their devotion to our communities.

Father Elliott began his record of service in 1941 by enlisting in the U.S. Army, serving in Europe for 5 years. After the conclusion of World War II, he returned to school and earned his B.A., followed by a master of divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria in 1951.

He knew from an early age that he wanted to serve as a missionary and began seeking an appointment overseas, hoping for a post in India or the Philippines. Retired Reverend William J. Gordon, Jr., the Bishop of Alaska, convinced him to serve in Alaska, a position that changed his life. Since 1952, he has served all over our State. Father Elliott was ordained in Anchorage at the All Saints' Episcopal Church, earned his pilot's license, and then was transferred to Fort Yukon, where he flew missions to nearby villages. He then spent some time in Fairbanks and Ketchikan before returning to Anchorage, where he forged a strong relationship between the Greek Orthodox Church, the Jewish Congregation, and the All Saints' Episcopal Church.

He retired in 1990, but between almost daily visitations at the Providence Hospital and the Alaska Native Medical Centers, and his service as Chaplain at the Port of Anchorage, he can hardly be considered a retiree.

For more than 50 years, Father Elliott has been a beloved pastor and key leader in interreligious relationships throughout Alaska. I speak for so many Alaskans in wishing Father Norman Elliott a happy 90th birthday. We extend our best wishes to him for continued good health and good works.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1. An act making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BAUCUS, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 350. An original bill to provide for a portion of the economic recovery package relating to revenue measures, unemployment, and health.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 343. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage services of qualified respiratory therapists performed under the general supervision of a physician; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 344. A bill to require hedge funds to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. KAUFMAN):

S. 345. A bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2012, to rename the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 as the "Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2009", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 346. A bill to implement equal protection under the 14th article of amendment to the Constitution for the right to life of each born and preborn human person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 347. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to distinguish between the severity of a qualifying loss of a dominant hand and a qualifying loss of a non-dominant hand for purposes of traumatic injury protection under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 348. A bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 349. A bill to establish the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 350. An original bill to provide for a portion of the economic recovery package relating to revenue measures, unemployment, and health; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself and Mr. BAYH):

S. 351. A bill to require United States Government representatives to present to the Government of Iraq a plan to establish an oil trust; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. DORGAN,