Billington proposed to UNESCO formation of a World Digital Library to gather an online collection of significant primary materials from cultures around the world which was officially launched in seven languages in Paris last month with the Library, UNESCO, and more than 30 partner institutions around the world.

Dr. Billington has been a prodigious private fundraiser for the Library's programs. In 1990 he formed the Madison Council whose members have raised nearly $400 million for the Library which has been well used to support scholarly studies such as the Kluge Center and some 300 stimulating and popular exhibitions such as the Vatican Library, American Treasures, Lewis and Clark, and the recent Lincoln Bicentennial. A major accomplishment was the creation of the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation achieved through a public/private partnership with the Packard Humanities Institute for archiving and preservation of the Library's massive collection of audio visual material.

Jim Billington has presided over an increase of more than 50 million items in the Library's collections which now total nearly 140 million. He has also ensured that the Library's valuable multiple format collections are preserved for future generations and enhanced the security of staff, researchers, and visitors.

It was Dr. Billington's far sighted initiative in 1999 to bring young leaders to the United States from Russia to learn practical skills through exposure to America's democratic government and free market system. Since then through the Open World Program more than 14,000 current and future leaders from Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Uzbekistan have experienced our democracy and community life gaining new ideas for implementing change in their countries and fostering cooperation with the United States.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments that Jim Billington has made both to the Library of Congress and the Nation. His energy, enthusiasm and vision for a knowledge based democracy and the life of the mind are commendable and he is still going strong at 80. We wish him a happy birthday.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I offer my best wishes to the Librarian of Congress, Dr. James Billington, who just celebrated his 80th birthday.

Dr. Billington became the Librarian of Congress in 1987 after being nominated by President Reagan and confirmed by the Senate. If you read his confirmation testimony closely you can see the seeds for the direction he wanted to take the Library of Congress. It was Dr. Billington's vision for what the Library of Congress could be for current and future generations and his effective management that steered that great institution into the digital age. Because of his leadership, the Library today collects a diversity of material in both conventional and digital formats. Dr. Billington refers to this as ''adding without subtracting,'' and it is now a model for archival institutions. But simply collecting and preserving this material is not enough. It was his insistence, through programs such as the National Digital Library and World Digital Library, that this goldmine of information be shared much more widely with researchers, educators, and the general public both here on Capitol Hill and online via the Library's renowned Web site that makes it so useful.

I know how much Jim Billington reveres the Library's role of service to Congress and the American people. He works tirelessly to attract Members to visit the Library. It has been my pleasure to co-host with him several dinners in recent years for my colleagues which gave them a clearance to see some of the incomparable Library of Congress exhibits, such as Creating the U.S., Jefferson's Library, and Winston Churchill, in the magnificent surroundings of the Jefferson Building.

Formation of the Madison Council, the Library's first ever philanthropic and advisory body, was Dr. Billington's idea which he carried out with great energy and success. The Madison Council has been invaluable in bringing priceless collections to the Library and augmenting appropriated funding.

Finally, I applaud Dr. Billington for instituting and cosponsoring with First Lady Laura Bush the National Book Festival since 2001, in which I have had the good fortune of participating as an author. The National Book Festival, modeled on the Texas Book Festival initiated in the 1990s by Laura Bush, has been a very popular annual event in Washington and has done much to promote reading and the creativity of America's writers.

Jim Billington is truly a national treasure. He is a man of great intellect and leadership. I want to thank him for all he has done at the Library of Congress and throughout his long career of public service. I am happy to call him my friend, and I wish him all the best on his 80th birthday.

I yield the floor.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING FRANCES NAM

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, today I want to speak about an extraordinary young woman who has left us far too soon. On May 15, my former staff member Frances Nam died after a 3-year battle with lung cancer. Fran was just 39 years old. She left behind two beautiful daughters—Seanna, age 11, and Henna, age 9.

In the mid to late 1990s, Fran was my legislative assistant on all matters related to appropriations, immigration, housing, judicial appointments, and matters under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. She was a standout staff member in every way: always enthusiastic and diligent about her work, always caring about her colleagues, and an exemplary public servant who cared deeply about our constituents.

In January 1999, Frances went to work for U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Service, CRS, DOJ's race relations mediation arm. This job brought out another side of Fran: the compassionate but cool-headed mediator, a master of human relations. CRS sent Frances all over the country, wherever ethnic communities were at odds with one another, to prevent or soothe civil strife and bring disparate people together despite their differences. Originally a political appointee in the Clinton administration, Fran stayed at CRS until 2003 as a senior policy adviser.

Frances then went to work as senior policy adviser to the late Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald. Along with her primary legislative and policy duties, Fran was the Congresswoman's liaison to the Congressional Black Caucus, CBC. In this role she became the first non-African American to organize a CBC annual legislative conference, and she is still remembered fondly by CBC members and staff for her charm, efficiency, and diplomatic skills.

Since late 2003, Frances has worked as vice president of Government Affairs for Sodexo USA, a major food service company. Here, in addition to working with Congress as well as State and local governments, Fran was known for her extraordinary efforts to open new educational and career opportunities for Asian Americans and other people of color.

Outside her working life, Fran was a vivacious young woman who enjoyed a wide circle of friends and her two loving daughters. A woman who truly loved her work and life, she was recently the subject of an article in Working Woman magazine on successful working mothers.

In her all-too-brief life, Frances Nam made a deep and lasting difference in the lives of many people—here in the Senate, in communities across the country, and in her own close community of family, friends, and colleagues. She will be deeply and truly missed.•

TRIBUTE TO HARRY M. HALLMAN, JR.

• Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Mayor Harry M. Hallman, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement as mayor of Mount Pleasant, SC. Mayor Hallman is a dedicated public servant and his work has earned our gratitude and appreciation.

It was with much personal and professional sadness that he recently announced he would have to relinquish his position as the mayor of one of South Carolina's largest municipalities as he continues his personal battle with Alzheimer's.

In an address to the residents of Mount Pleasant, the mayor made clear this was a difficult decision. He could have stayed in office and carried on. But Mayor Hallman felt he could no longer meet the high standard he had set for himself of being ''effective.''

As Mayor Hallman said in his resignation, ''To me, being 'effective' means 'excellence'. I realize now that I am not meeting my personal definition of 'effective.' This Town deserves only the best from its leadership. Half way will not do for my Town.''

His resignation was the mark of a true public servant willing to put the interests of the town he loves above his own personal interests.

Mayor Hallman has compiled a long and distinguished career of service in public office and private life.

After being elected to the office of mayor in September of 2000, Mayor Hallman spent nearly two terms in office growing his town and improving its assets. He will be remembered as a mayor who instituted infrastructure projects that helped change the face of Mount Pleasant. After only 3 years under his service, the town saw over $150 million worth of road improvements and city development. Additionally, he helped secure Federal and State moneys for a newly debuted farmer's market venue and a waterfront park for public use.

During his time as mayor of Mount Pleasant, Mr. Hallman chaired the Police, Legal and Judicial Committee and the Transportation Committee. He also served on the Water Supply Committee and as an ex-officio member of the Mount Pleasant Waterworks Commission, the Patriots Point Authority, and the Charleston Aviation Authority.

In 1988, Mayor Hallman was elected to serve in the South Carolina House of Representatives. While in office, he chaired the Charleston County Legislative Delegation as well as the State House Committee, which was responsible for overseeing the $78 million renovation of the South Carolina State House. He also offered his skills on the Joint Bond Review Committee, and the State Development Board.

Born and raised in South Carolina, Mayor Hallman took great pride in seeing his State develop from corner to corner. As the son of a retired oil executive and a stock market investor in Greenwood, SC, he grew up to appreciate all that the State has to offer. He was a 1958 graduate of the University of South Carolina, where he finished with a degree in business administration. Years later he was awarded an honorary doctor of humanity letters degree from the University of Charleston.

As a distinguished member of the State community, Mayor Hallman was often asked to participate in the development of multiple health and educational improvements and expansions. He served on the University Study Committee as their chairman, as well as the Low Country Graduate Advisory Board. Mayor Hallman chaired the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and served as treasurer for Charleston Memorial Hospital. His dedication to all aspects of life in South Carolina was broad in scope and great in impact.

A devoted citizen, Mayor Hallman formally retired on May 20, 2009, as a revered member of the Mount Pleasant and South Carolina community. His leadership and his commitment to our State will be forever marked by his extraordinary vision and endless sacrifice. Throughout his entire career and to this day, Mayor Hallman has served as a model to those around him.

Along with his wife Shirley ''Brooke'' Hallman, who has stood next to him with unwavering loyalty and shared sacrifice, he celebrates his retirement with his three children and six grandchildren. I thank him for his service and wish him the very best in his retirement.

I ask that the Senate join me in honoring him for his lifelong career of service and also send along our best wishes to him and his family as he continues his battle.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. TOM DEAN

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Dr. Tom Dean of Wessington Springs, SD, who has been named the National Rural Health Association's 2009 Practitioner of the Year and wish to congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

Dr. Dean has spent the majority of his 30 years in practice as a family physician in Wessington Springs, SD, and has served as a member of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission since 2007.

After completing his medical education and training out of the State, Dr. Dean returned to his native Wessington Springs, SD, as a National Health Service Corps physician. Dr. Dean dedicated his professional career to delivering health care to his neighbors in rural South Dakota. He is well known in his community for the personal attention he gives to his patients and for his understanding of the value of the patient-doctor relationship.

Having spent most of his career helping the residents of Wessington Springs stay healthy, Dr. Dean has come to understand the particular challenges of rural health care delivery and the impact of health policies on rural America. Dr. Dean is greatly involved with the National Rural Health Association, an organization whose mission is to improve the health and well-being of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural health issues.

In addition to his practice and MedPAC work, Dr. Dean is chief of staff at Avera Weskota Memorial Medical Center, and serves on the board of directors of the Bush Foundation Medical Fellowship and the South Dakota Academy of Family Physicians. He is a past president of the National Rural Health Association, recipient of numerous awards and honors, and his research is published in many medical journals.

Through his practice and research, Dr. Dean has demonstrated his commitment to improving the quality of care provided to the one-fifth of Americans who live in rural areas.

I applaud Dr. Dean's commitment to providing quality health care to his patients. His contribution to shaping health care policy has added a valuable and powerful voice for both rural health care providers and patients.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIC F. ROSS

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Eric F. Ross who will celebrate his 90th birthday on June 25, 2009. A loving grandfather, great-grandfather, and husband, Eric has been dedicated to educating the public about the Holocaust and is a passionate supporter of educational and cultural institutions in the United States, Germany, and Israel.

Born in Dortmund, Germany, Eric fled Nazi Germany and arrived in the United States when he was 20 years old. He courageously returned to Europe in 1942 as a soldier in the U.S. Army and a member of the ''Ritchie Boys,'' a group of young men who escaped Nazi Germany and joined the Army. These men were specially trained to fight the Nazis and because of his service, Eric was awarded a Bronze Star. He went on to become a successful businessman, establishing Alpha Chemical & Plastics in Newark, New Jersey and Mercer Plastics Company, which is based in Florida.

Holocaust remembrance and education are extremely important to Eric. In 2003, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and he remains actively involved with the museum. He and his beloved wife Lore, who recently passed away, are the museum's largest individual donors and the museum's Ross Administrative Center is named in memory of his parents, Albert and Regina Rosenberg, who perished during the Holocaust.

I am pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 90th birthday of this remarkable man. His passion for education and dedication to philanthropy has touched countless lives and should serve as an example to others. I thank him for his tireless work and would like to extend my warmest wishes on this momentous occasion.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages