

stone progression, one that the WASPs started. Without them, it would have been a longer, tougher road. They set the stage for the rest of us to be able to continue what they started.”

On behalf of myself, the State of Kansas, and the people of this great country, I wish to express my sincerest thanks to all of the WASPs for their brave and patriotic service in World War II. We are truly a grateful Nation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Ola Mildred “Millie” Rexroat and the six other women from South Dakota who served honorably during World War II as members of the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASPs.

More than 1,000 women answered the call and served as pilots during World War II. Because WASPs records were classified and archived for over 30 years, WASPs have been left out of much of the documented history of World War II.

On July 1, 2009, legislation was signed into law that honors the service of these women with the Congressional Gold Medal, which is given in honor of outstanding service to the United States and is one of the nation’s highest civilian awards. This Congressional Gold Medal finally gives these women the honor they deserve.

Between 1942 and 1944, the 1,102 women of WASP were trained in Texas, and then went on to fly noncombat domestic military missions so all their male counterparts could be deployed to combat. WASPs were required to complete the same primary, basic, and advanced training courses as male Army Air Corps pilots, and many went on to specialized flight training. By the conclusion of the war, WASPs logged 60 million miles of flying in every kind of military aircraft.

Following the war, the WASPs were disbanded and the women pilots paid their own way home without pomp or circumstance. Even during the war, the families of the 38 women who died in the line of duty were responsible for the costs to transport their bodies and arrange burials. It was not until 1977 that the WASPs were granted veterans’ status.

Ms. Rexroat is the last surviving member of the WASPs living in South Dakota, and she is believed to be the only female Native American to serve as a member of the WASPs in World War II.

Ms. Rexroat spent part of her childhood living with her grandmother at Vetal, SD. She graduated from St. Mary’s Indian High School for Girls in Springfield, SD. After college, she graduated from WASPs training in the “1944-7” class on September 8, 1944, at Sweetwater, TX. She then spent 4 months towing targets for students behind a T6 plane at Eagle Pass Army Airfield, TX.

Ms. Rexroat is 91 years old and still lives independently in Edgemont, SD. Her vivid memories of her service are inspiring, and I am proud to have co-sponsored the bill to provide these

women the Congressional Gold Medal and recognize their service here on the floor of the Senate today.

While five of the other women are no longer with us, I would like to posthumously recognize the other women who joined from South Dakota: Helen (Anderson) Severson of Summit, SD, who was killed in service during a flight training accident in 1943; Marjorie (Redding) Christiansen of Mystic, SD; Loes (Monk) MacKenzie of Salem, SD; Laurine Nielsen of Deadwood, SD; and Maxine (Nolt) Wright DeHaven of Sioux Falls, SD. I would also like to recognize Violet (Thurn) Cowden formerly of Bowdle, SD.

35TH YEAR OF THE DIVISION AND OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise in commemoration of a deeply tragic anniversary for the Cypriot-American community, their friends and relatives in Cyprus, and for the respect of human rights and international law. Thirty-five years ago this week, the armed forces of Turkey violated the sovereignty and territory of the Republic of Cyprus by illegally invading and occupying the north of the island state.

The international community, speaking through resolution after resolution by the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, has since 1974 called for an end to the division of Cyprus and the return of refugees to their homes. Yet three and a half decades later, the military occupation of one third of our close and consistent ally’s territory by Turkey remains an intolerable reality.

There are more than 43,000 Turkish troops on Cyprus—that is approximately one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots. The occupation, expropriation, transfer and destruction of Greek Cypriot-owned property in the north of the island proceeds unabated. Indeed, an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 U.S. citizens of Cypriot descent have claims to such properties. So too continues the wanton desecration of Greek Orthodox churches and religious artifacts that are not only sacred to hundreds of millions of faithful believers, but beautiful and historic sites and objects of inherent cultural value to all of humanity.

Despite a generation of suffering such injustices, the Greek Cypriot community continues to demonstrate remarkable magnanimity in seeking a fair solution to the division of the island. Like many Hellenic-Americans, I applauded Cypriot President Demetris Cristofias’ effort to restart the process of reuniting the island by directly engaging the Turkish Cypriot leadership. Although little progress has been made toward resolving the most significant issues—most notably the disposition of Greek Cypriots’ property and the presence of Turkish troops—after 36 meetings in ten months of direct negotiations, President Cristofias remains committed to continuing his talks with

Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat.

An additional cause for hope came this past April, when the European Court of Justice ruled that a judgment of a court in the Republic of Cyprus must be recognized and enforced by the other EU member states even if it concerns land situated in the Turkish occupied areas of Cyprus. This ruling confirms the international right of Greek Cypriots who were forced from their property by the Turkish occupation to seek relief against those who later made use of the property illegally, providing not only a measure of justice to those able to pursue such a claim, but providing valuable leverage to the Republic’s government in resolving the overall property issue.

These developments should strengthen our commitment in Congress to ensuring that the United States stands by its steadfast ally, the Republic of Cyprus, to achieve a resolution to the tragic division of the island that is fair to Greek Cypriots. As was conclusively demonstrated by the wholly justified rejection of the Annan Plan by Greek Cypriots in 2004, the Cyprus question is one that can only be resolved through mutual agreement on a solution, not the imposition of one. In the context of the current talks, that means the United States must encourage Turkey to give the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community the leeway and authority to negotiate a solution that is truly in the interests of the communities on the island, rather than seeking to continue its military presence.

The vocal support of the United States for a fair, freely negotiated outcome between the communities is as much a moral as it is a geopolitical necessity, given that it is not just the rights of the Greek Cypriot community that are at stake, but our solemn role as a nation that champions human rights and adherence to the rule of law. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me today in bearing witness to the 35 years of injustice wreaked upon the people of the Republic of Cyprus, and in recommitting ourselves to the urgent task of fairly and finally reuniting the island.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING DUDLEY SPOONAMORE

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate and recognize a distinguished Kentuckian, Dudley Spoonamore, a Boyle County High School teacher, who was recently named the 2009 Kentucky Engineering and Technology Education Teacher of the Year.

The Kentucky Engineering and Technology Education Teacher of the Year award, bestowed by the Kentucky Engineering and Technology Education Association Leadership Committee as well as fellow Technology Education

teachers from across the Commonwealth of Kentucky, is the highest honor given to State educators in the field of technology education. Each year it is awarded to individuals who provide exceptional learning opportunities in the area of technology education to students and professionals.

Students in Mr. Spoonamore's engineering and technology lab are exposed to an innovative and hands-on approach to teaching engineering design principles. Building a robot, assembling electrical circuits, and experimenting with CO₂ cars in wind tunnels are just an example of what Mr. Spoonamore's students participate in each school year.

This month, Mr. Spoonamore will be honored at the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education Leadership and Learning Conference in Louisville, KY.

Additionally, Mr. Spoonamore is a recipient of this year's Teacher Excellence Award by the International Technology Education Association, which was presented to only 39 individuals across the United States.

Mr. Spoonamore has proven himself to be an exemplary teacher, changing the way teachers teach and how students learn. He is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to teachers everywhere. I wish him luck on all of his future endeavors. ●

REMEMBERING CLAUDE "T" MOORMAN

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today, Wednesday, July 22, Claude "T" Moorman II is being put to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. "T" was a remarkable scholar, athlete and physician who served his Nation with honor during the Vietnam war.

Born August 21, 1939, in Roanoke, VA, "T" grew up in Miami, FL, where he excelled in football, receiving both All State and All American honors while playing at Miami High School; "T" was a popular student who was elected student body president.

"T" attended Duke University on a football scholarship. He served as a class officer and played football for legendary coach Bill Murray. "T" caught the much celebrated game winning touchdown in the 1961 Cotton Bowl, and he was elected to the All American Team. "T" Moorman is a member of Duke University's Athletic Hall of Fame, and in addition he was named one of Florida's All-Time Top 100 Football Players and Duke's Top 50 Athletes of the Century.

But athletic prowess is not why we honor Claude "T" Moorman II today at Arlington National Cemetery and here in the Senate. It is, of course, for his service to our Nation that "T" warrants our praise and respect.

After the cheers of Saturday college football games died down for "T," he continued his education at Duke University Medical School, completing his degree in 1966 and training under an-

other Duke legend, Dr. Lenox Baker, this time in the field of Orthopedics. In 1970, he volunteered for medical service in Vietnam, caring for our wounded soldiers. Those who called "T" a friend know it was this experience that shaped the character of "T" Moorman, and it is this service that makes "T" the true all-American that he was and that we honor today. "T" Moorman continued to serve with our military for 28 years.

Upon his return from Vietnam, "T" finished anesthesiology training at Emory, followed by a law degree from William and Mary in 1979. He then served with the Army Department of Legal Medicine Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington DC. Before retiring from the U.S. Army Reserves in 1998, Colonel Moorman commanded multiple U.S. Army Reserve units. Additionally, during this time he opened anesthesiology centers in Leesburg, VA, Stuart, FL, and Port St. Lucie, FL.

During the last decade of "T"'s life he fulfilled a lifelong dream of farming in Washington County, NC.

By making the choice to serve in the military during a time of war, a decision which demands and deserves our respect, those in the medical service make a choice to help their fellow man in the most difficult of situations—combat. "T" showed through action part of what comprised his character, morality, and strong passion for helping fellow Americans. Having been an All American Football player in college, "T" could have played professional football had he chosen that route. Instead, "T" made the most of his college career to obtain not only his undergraduate degree but additionally two medical degrees and a law degree. I think that this is an exemplary model of what a college athlete might strive to become. America certainly benefitted from "T"'s choices.

COL Claude "T" Moorman II will be remembered and missed by so many of the soldiers that he mended and friends and family that he humored. He will be forever celebrated and his legacy will never be forgotten. ●

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 from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:23 p.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 bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1622. An act to provide for a program of research, development, and demonstration on natural gas vehicles.

H.R. 1933. An act to direct the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center to assist law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2632. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day.

H.R. 2729. An act to authorize the designation of National Environmental Research Parks by the Secretary of Energy, and for other purposes.

H. J. Res. 56. Joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 30. Concurrent resolution commending the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 123. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historical and national significance of the many contributions of John William Heisman to the sport of football.

At 2:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Schiff (manager on the part of the House in the matter of impeachment of Samuel B. Kent), announced that it has agreed to the resolution (H. Res. 661) resolving that the managers on the part of the House of Representatives in the impeachment proceedings now pending in the Senate against Samuel B. Kent, formerly judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, are instructed to appear before the Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment for those proceedings, and advise the Senate that, because Samuel B. Kent is no longer a civil officer of the United States, the House of Representatives does not desire further to urge the articles of impeachment hitherto filed in the Senate against Samuel B. Kent.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 885. An act to elevate the Inspector General of certain Federal entities to an Inspector General appointed pursuant to section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1622. An act to provide for a program of research, development, and demonstration on natural gas vehicles; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1933. An act to direct the Attorney General to make an annual grant to the A