

Dick's success is evident in both his internal administration of the State chamber and his work leading key probusiness campaigns which have made a positive impact on Oklahoma creating jobs and increasing business development.

Due to Dick's work, the State chamber now operates debt free. During his tenure, Dick has built the State chamber to over 2,000 members. He has been named Executive of the Year by the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives and is already a member of the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame.

Through leading key campaigns advocating new business opportunities and job creation such as Right-to-Work and tort reform, Dick has been credited with saving the business community in Oklahoma over \$2 billion. In fact, the State chamber recently earned the Nation's highest honor from the American Tort Reform Association and the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform. Just this year, the State chamber was awarded the "The State Legislative Achievement Award" by the U.S. Chamber's Institute for Legal Reform and the first annual "Gold Medal for the Best State Civil Justice Legislation" by the American Tort Reform Association. Dick has also led international outreach serving as Executive in Charge of sister chamber work between the Oklahoma State Chamber and both the Gansu, China Provincial Chamber and the Liaoning, China Provincial Chamber. Dick was a presenter at the VI Hemispheric Sister Cities Forum in Iquique, Chile, and he is the recipient of the "The George Nigh Global Trade Award." Dick's involvement in Oklahoma business development has been extensive.

Dick's success is due in part to his long history in chamber management. Before coming to Oklahoma, Dick worked in chambers throughout the country from California to Texas before coming to Oklahoma in 1986. His experience also extends internationally as Dick worked as a project adviser for the U.S. Chamber's Center for International Private Enterprise serving as a consultant to the National Chamber of Commerce of Zimbabwe, Africa.

Oklahomans can appreciate Dick's service to the Oklahoma State Chamber and the entire State of Oklahoma, and we wish him the very best in his retirement and all future endeavors.●

COMMENDING C. VIVIAN STRINGER

● Mr. MENENDEZ, Madam President, I rise to extend my congratulations to C. Vivian Stringer for her induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. It is a proper tribute for such a distinguished and celebrated career. This is certainly an incredible honor which stands tall, even amongst her other considerable accolades.

The success that Vivian Stringer has achieved in her 38-year coaching career, including the last 14 at Rutgers

University, speaks for itself: 825 victories; 30 seasons of 20 or more wins; 22 NCAA Tournament appearances; 4 Final Fours with 3 different programs; Olympic Gold as an assistant coach with the 2004 U.S. Women's Basketball team. Her commitment to excellence is unsurpassed and lauded by peers and supporters alike.

Most importantly, Vivian Stringer has served, above all else, as a teacher to each of her players. Her dedication to education beyond the court is clear, as her players traditionally graduate on par with their nonathlete classmates. The students who have walked into her program walk out of it as strong and dignified women, each ready to continue the legacy of achievement that Vivian Stringer has set before them, whatever the arena. Two years ago, Vivian Stringer's leadership was on display as the Lady Scarlet Knights, in the face of adversity and slander, served as shining examples of exceptional poise and grace.

This 2009 Hall of Fame Class is indeed one of the most distinguished in memory, and it is fitting that Vivian Stringer enters alongside other luminaries that share her caliber of achievement. I applaud Vivian Stringer's service to Rutgers University, the entire basketball community, and the great State of New Jersey. I wish her luck as she continues her career and in all of her other future endeavors.●

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.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 599. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty (Rept. No. 111-75).

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-2871. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of the authorization of (4) officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2872. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employer Comparable Contributions under 4980G, and Requirement of Return for Filing of the Excise Tax under Section 4980B, 4980D, 4980E or 4980G" ((RIN1545-BG71)(TD9457)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2873. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reasonable Good Faith Interpretation of Required Minimum Distribution Rules by Governmental Plans" ((RIN1545-BH53)(TD9459)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2874. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification to Consolidated Return Regulation Permitting an Election to Treat a Liquidation of a Target, Followed by a Recontribution to a New Target, as a Cross-Chain Reorganization" ((RIN1545-BI72)(TD9458)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2875. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Single Insured—Reinsurance" (Rev. Rul. 2009-26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2876. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Insurance E&P Project" (Rev. Rul. 2009-25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2877. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Automatic Contribution Increases under Automatic Contribution Arrangements" (Revenue Ruling 2009-30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2878. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Paid Time Off Contributions" (Revenue Ruling 2009-31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2879. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Paid Time Off Contributions at Termination of Employment" (Revenue Ruling 2009-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 9, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2880. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the