

Senate victory. An arduous conference followed, as several House committee chairmen adamantly opposed the bill—through it all Kevin fought to uphold the principles laid down in our legislation. We prevailed, resulting in the historic enactment on December 17, 2004, of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, IRTPA.

We faced even more complex procedural hurdles in 2007, when Senator COLLINS and I led the efforts of multiple Senate committees to assemble and enact provisions that built on what we had accomplished with IRTPA, mandating counterterrorism improvements in areas such as terrorist travel, communications interoperability, and aviation and maritime security. By then the committee's chief counsel, Kevin had demonstrated his skills at legislative maneuvering in a variety of circumstances. I called on him once again to help coordinate our team as we pushed through a difficult markup, a lively Senate debate, and a fiercely contested conference, at which approximately 15 Senate and House committees claimed jurisdiction and joined the fray. Our work resulted in ambitious legislation, known as the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007," enacted on August 3, 2007.

I have described his biggest accomplishments in the areas of national security and good government, but through his entire career Kevin has also shown a passion for the pursuit of justice, including justice for the powerless. Upon graduating from Amherst College, Kevin went to work defending the rights of prisoners to humane conditions in the Texas penal system. Then after graduating from Yale Law School, one of Kevin's jobs took him to Cambodia, where he worked with that nation's judges and prosecutors in an effort to help improve the rule of law as that nation struggled to emerge from its brutal totalitarian past.

On the committee, Kevin has worked tirelessly to improve the treatment of asylum-seekers who often languish in county jails and other immigrant detention facilities as they pursue their claims. He drafted the first bill to address immigration detention reform, the Secure and Safe Detention and Asylum Act, and in 2007 we won Senate passage of the bill as an amendment to ultimately unsuccessful immigration reform legislation. Although legislative progress in this area has proven elusive, Kevin's work helped to bring greater attention to the need for reforms. He has now embraced the opportunity to support the detention reform initiatives being undertaken at the Department of Homeland Security.

I have benefited greatly from Kevin's commitment to my goals and to the pursuit of excellence while achieving them. I want to thank him again for his hard work, his long hours, and selfless persistence in pursuit of worthy legislation.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### TRIBUTE TO HAWAII EDUCATORS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate two outstanding educators from my state, John Constantinou, from Kea'au High School, and Yannabah Lewis, from Kealakehe High School, for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award, administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, is the highest recognition that a mathematics or science teacher may receive. Since the program's inception in 1983, more than 3,900 educators nationwide have been recognized for their contributions to mathematics and science education. As a former educator and principal, I know firsthand about the countless hours that go into creating curricula, and it makes me proud to see outstanding teachers receive recognition for their hard work.

The dedication of John and Yannabah to their field and to the children of Hawaii is undeniable. I applaud them both for receiving this outstanding recognition, and I wish them the very best in their future endeavors. ●

### TRIBUTE TO CAROL TWEDT

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Carol Twedt as she celebrates retirement from more than 20 extraordinary years of public service. Her earnest dedication to and enthusiasm for service to her fellow citizens has set an example for all to follow.

Carol's career began when she joined Jim Abdnor's successful Senate campaign against George McGovern in 1980. Her passion was pushed to a new level when Carol's husband Curt passed away at an early age in 1987. It was this event which prompted her to undertake the challenge of running for Minnehaha county commissioner. The level of courage and perseverance she demonstrated through her first campaign paid off with an overwhelming victory. In her five subsequent terms as a county commissioner, she has shown unceasing dedication and compassion to serving her constituents. Because of this remarkable resolve, Carol has made praiseworthy accomplishments in combating homelessness, improving juvenile services, and, above all, working to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of county operations.

Carol's service has benefitted the people of Minnehaha County over her many years of service. I would like to extend to her my heartfelt gratitude for her many years of outstanding service. ●

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

### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:18 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. 1405. An act to redesignate the Longfellow National Historic Site, Massachusetts, as the "Longfellow House—Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site".

### 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-8492. A communication from the Director, Employee Services, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Chicago, IL; Fort Wayne-Marion, IN; Indianapolis, IN; Cleveland, OH; and Pittsburgh, PA, Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AM21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2010; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8493. A communication from the Director, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semi-annual Report for the period of April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8494. A communication from the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010 and the Chairman's Semi-Annual Report on Final Action Resulting from Audit Reports, Inspection Reports, and Evaluation Reports; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8495. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2010 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-8496. A communication from the Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Arms Export Control Act (OSS Control No. 2010-1961); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-8497. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Alaska Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.