

Nine decades ago, my mother left Slovenia—a Slovenia that was impoverished, ruled by autocrats, and dominated by foreign powers; a nation that sent forth immigrants desperate to find a better life. Today, a free, prosperous, and democratic Slovenia sends forth global leaders and humanitarians who are helping to build a better world.

This is a magnificent achievement—a testament to the vision, courage, and talents of the Slovenian people. On this proud anniversary, I join with all of my colleagues here in the Senate in saluting our friend and ally, the Republic of Slovenia.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OHIO RIVER WAY PADDLEFEST

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Ohio River Way, a nonprofit, volunteer-led organization working to promote, protect and celebrate the natural beauty and recreational benefits of the Ohio River.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the Annual Ohio River Way Paddlefest, the largest paddling event in the country. Each year, Paddlefest attracts more than 2,000 paddlers to Cincinnati to canoe and kayak down the Ohio River and enjoy the gorgeous natural resources in Southwest Ohio. I have been a regular participant in the canoe races as part of Paddlefest and plan to participate again this year.

Due in no small part to the efforts of the Ohio River Way and the widespread popularity of Paddlefest, Greater Cincinnati has been designated as the Paddling Capital of The United States. Cincinnati enjoys a great selection of paddling-friendly waterways including the Ohio, Great Miami, Little Miami, Whitewater and Licking Rivers as well as the Four Mile, Caesar, Stonelick, O'Bannon, Indian and White Oak Creeks. Additionally, Cincinnati is home to the largest number of paddling-access points with more than 25 places to launch canoes and kayaks.

I congratulate the Ohio River Way on the 10th anniversary of Paddlefest and thank Paddlefest chair Brewster Rhodes and the hardworking volunteers of the Ohio River Way for the tireless work they do each year to ensure that Paddlefest is an enjoyable experience for all participants.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HAWKINS

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I would like to honor a leader from my home State of Minnesota, William A. Hawkins. Bill, who is retiring with distinction as the chairman and CEO of Medtronic, has achieved great professional success through his dedication to and advancement of life-saving innovations. Approximately every 4 seconds, the life of someone somewhere in the world is improved by a Medtronic product or therapy.

Medical technology is an important solution to our Nation's health care challenges. Under Bill's leadership,

Medtronic has helped to maintain Minnesota's world leadership in medical innovation.

Bill has nearly 35 years of career experience in the medical device industry, serving in leadership positions at Novoste Corporation, American Home Products, Johnson and Johnson, Guidant Corporation, and Eli Lilly. He began his medical technology career with Carolina Medical Electronics in 1977. While reflecting on his career at Medtronic, he recently said, "I have seen many product launches—from the ear thermometer to the automatic external defibrillator."

He joined Medtronic in 2002 as senior vice president and president of the company's vascular business before serving as corporate president and chief operating officer. Bill Hawkins was named chief executive officer of Medtronic in 2007 and assumed the additional role of chairman in 2008.

Under his guidance, Medtronic's capacity to serve patients extended further to provide an array of diagnostic, preventive, and chronic disease management solutions. With a breadth and depth of expertise across more than 30 major chronic conditions, he recognized the unique position to play a larger role in the health care industry.

In March of 2010, Bill received the Biomedical Engineering Society's Distinguished Achievement Award. This award is given to recognize those that have made great contributions to the field of biomedical engineering and bioengineering.

Mr. Hawkins serves on the Board of Visitors for the Duke University School of Engineering and the Board of Directors for the Guthrie Theater and the University of Minnesota Foundation.

I ask my colleagues to join me, his friends, family, and colleagues in commending Bill Hawkins on his numerous achievements and wishing him well as he begins a new journey.

Congratulations, Bill.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARC MILANI

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Marc Milani, a spring intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Marc is a graduate of Christopher Columbus High School in Miami, FL. Currently, he is a sophomore pursuing a major in philosophy at Dartmouth College. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Marc for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO OLIVIA VOLSLOW

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Olivia Voslow, a spring intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Olivia is a graduate of the Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, MD. Currently, Olivia is preparing to enter into her freshman year at Middlebury College. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Olivia for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

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 10:21 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 711. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the "Schertz Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 1632. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5014 Gary Avenue in Lubbock, Texas, as the "Sergeant Chris Davis Post Office".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 349. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4865 Tallmadge Road in Rootstown, Ohio, as the "Marine Sgt. Jeremy E. Murray Post Office".

S. 655. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 95 Dogwood Street in Cary, Mississippi, as the "Spencer Byrd Powers, Jr. Post Office".

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 771. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1081 Elbel Road in Schertz, Texas, as the "Schertz Veterans Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.