

uniform while fighting to protect our interests and spread democracy worldwide.

While many of these patriots gave their lives on the battlefield, survivors such as Jose Bunda lived to tell some of the horrific events he endured. His firsthand accounts show the realities of WWII. They are gut-wrenching but show the human will to survive.

Today I wish to recognize the service and sacrifice of one of our veterans from the 'Greatest Generation' who stood in the face of danger: Jose Bunda. He is a true American hero who lived through the worst days of war and told his heroic story of survival.

Mr. Bunda grew up in the Philippines and joined the U.S. Army after graduating from high school when he was 18. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Mr. Bunda was stationed on Corregidor Island.

In 1942, Mr. Bunda was defending the island against the Japanese and although his squad was able to hold its ground, he and his comrades were forced to surrender.

The realities of war Mr. Bunda experienced is something he always remembered. Almost 60 years after he was taken prisoner he recalled it as one of the worst times of his life in a story published in the Times Record.

Mr. Bunda detailed how he was piled into a boxcar for a ride that lasted 18 hours. Once the train stopped at Camp Duo he was forced on the infamous Bataan Death March where he walked day and night with no food.

"Once you fall down, they shoot you or chop off your head," Mr. Bunda said in a 1999 interview saying it was a miracle that he survived.

He was a prisoner of war for 2 years, working in a Japanese labor camp but escaped and joined a guerrilla unit until the end of the war.

Mr. Bunda's will to survive triumphed over the atrocities he was put through in WWII. Despite all the hardships, violence and massacres he witnessed, he remained committed to the military and continued his service in the Korean War.

Mr. Bunda and his wife Rosario came to the United States in 1957 when he was stationed at Fort Chaffee. Although his career required him to move to other military bases, the couple moved back to Arkansas in 1962 once he retired from the military after 30 years of service.

In 2000, Mr. Bunda received many of the medals, awards and recognitions he deserved for his heroics and service. Of his 16 medals, he said he was proudest of his Silver Star and the Prisoner of War medals.

A veteran, a POW and a member of Disabled American Veterans, Mr. Bunda lived his life as a loving husband, devoted father and an inspirational grandfather. Today we honor the life and legacy Mr. Bunda leaves behind. His heroic tales of survival and commitment to service have ensured he will be remembered with the highest

regard as a great American hero. His sacrifices made to secure victory and peace for all freedom loving people of the world will never be forgotten.●

RECOGNIZING THE UNI-CAPITOL WASHINGTON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme, UCWIP. Our Nation has benefited from the service of outstanding Australian college students who participate in internships throughout the U.S. Congress through this program.

The program is providing students with the opportunity to obtain considerable experience through their congressional internships, while also making available other educational experiences throughout their time in the United States. Uni-Capitol Washington Programme interns have helped me serve Idaho constituents, and I am grateful for their efforts and dedication.

Chris Colalillo, a UCWIP participant, has joined my staff as an intern this semester. Chris is studying bachelor's of law and arts at the University of Western Australia, where he is double majoring in political science and international relations and ancient history. When he graduates, Chris plans to work in a law firm and eventually go into Federal or State politics. Chris has been great to work with, and he was very quick to learn his role and responsibilities in the office. He is very intelligent, eager, and always puts forward his best work. He has shared with us some of the political and cultural differences between the United States and Australia, and it has been a great learning experience for both Chris and the staff.

Chris shared his impressions regarding the program and his internship. He said:

The UCWIP has been a unique opportunity to further my knowledge in the legislative process of the United States, enabling me to develop an appreciation for democratic systems of government as well as providing me with practical experience that will facilitate my theoretical studies in Political Science and International Relations. The welcoming nature of the staff within Senator CRAPO's office has made this internship an enjoyable experience thus far.

Eric Federer, UCWIP's director and founder, has successfully focused his Capitol Hill and Australia experiences to provide this valuable educational exchange opportunity that benefits Australian students and congressional offices. His dedication to advancing this learning experience is remarkable.

I have been honored to have worked with the Uni-Capitol Washington Internship Programme for 5 years. The program is shaping young leaders who are helping to deepen understanding between our two nations while providing outstanding constituent support. I commend Chris Colalillo, Eric Federer, and the other Uni-Capitol

Washington Internship Programme participants and interns for their achievements and wish them continued success.●

RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NEW YORK

● Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of National Mentoring Month. This month we recognize the millions of Americans who have joined together to better the lives of others, especially our youth, through the gift of mentorship. The generosity and willingness of individuals to work together for the common good has been a hallmark of the American character since our Nation's founding.

Every day volunteer organizations across the country make substantial contributions to our Nation by fostering a place and sense of mentorship. One such extraordinary organization is the Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City. Founded in 1906, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, serving more than 3,000 young people annually. The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City is to provide mentors to all children who need caring adult role models. These mentors change the lives of New York City's youth by expanding their horizons and helping them to realize their potential.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City is unique in that it offers a variety of individualized mentoring programs that match dedicated mentors, or Bigs, to special populations of youth, or Littles. These include a New American Mentoring Program for immigrant youth, a Young Mothers Mentoring Program for pregnant teens or teenage mothers, an Incredible Kids Mentoring Program for children with a learning or physical disability or chronic disease, a Building Futures Mentoring Program for youth who are in the foster care system, and a Children of Promise Mentoring Program for children who have an incarcerated parent, sibling, or family member. Two additional special mentoring programs offered at Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City that have a national significance are their 9/11 Together We Stand and FDNY Partnership Programs. These are unique mentoring programs for children who lost a parent or close relative in the World Trade Center attacks and those who lost a parent in the FDNY in the line of duty, including but not limited to September 11. So as you can see, Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City is doing their part to ensure that all children have positive role models in their life no matter what their circumstances may be.

National Mentoring Month highlights the need and significance of mentors and mentoring for individuals of all ages. From organizations to individuals, mentoring enriches children's education and overall success in life.

The small investment a mentor makes in the life of a child exponentially increases the success of a child's future and the success of the community. National Mentoring Month is particularly significant for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City because it offers a special opportunity for the organization to raise awareness of the power of mentoring and recruit volunteer mentors, which are critical to its mission of providing children with caring adult role models. By upholding the principles of volunteerism and academics, we continue creating positive opportunities for the next generation.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the month of January as National Mentoring Month so we may continue to honor the important work that organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City play in making our Nation a better and more prosperous place. ●

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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2041. A bill to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project and provide for environmental protection and government oversight.

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-4786. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspending Random Row Diversion Regulations Under the Marketing Order for Tart Cherries" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0047; FV11-930-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4787. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling

of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 (Scotch) and Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2011-2012 Marketing Year" (Docket No. AMS-FV-10-0094; FV11-985-1A IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4788. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0057; FV11-906-1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4789. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Okra" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0100; FV11-327) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4790. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-11-0077; FV11-983-2 IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4791. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants" (RIN0575-AC81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4792. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals)" (FRL No. 9329-9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4793. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4794. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4795. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4796. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and Delisting Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revising the Listing of the Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the Western Great Lakes" (RIN1018-AX57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Disapproval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Infrastructure and Interstate Transport Requirements for the 1997 Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS" (FRL No. 9613-7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4798. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oklahoma; Interstate Transport of Pollution" (FRL No. 9613-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4799. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions" (FRL No. 9613-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4800. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of Florida; Control of Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerator (HMIWI) Emissions from Existing Facilities" (FRL No. 9611-8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4801. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units" (FRL No. 9611-4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4802. 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 "Damages on Account of Personal Physical Injuries or Physical Sickness" (TD 9573) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.