

the 100th anniversary of the founding of the city of Melba, Idaho. Starting August 17, 2012, the citizens of Melba will gather throughout the weekend to commemorate this special time in their southwestern Idaho community.

Melba was founded by Clayton C. Todd, naming the yet-to-be town after his 4-year-old daughter. Stopping in Idaho on his way to Alaska to mine for gold, Mr. Todd heard about a State land sale. He purchased 160 acres of land and laid out the town site. He had done his homework and saw that this land with a siding on the railroad and expanding farms throughout the area would cut five miles off the route to the nearest town of Nampa and the mainline railroad.

Melba became a small boom town in the middle of an agricultural area. Shortly after World War I, the area became famous for its sweet corn seed. Area farmers expanded their seed operations to grow carrot, onion and alfalfa seed, along with the corn. The rich, fertile soil, abundant water and the hot summer days with cool nights earned Melba the moniker "The Seed Heart of America."

Like many small communities in our great country, they have seen times of struggle. In 1949, Melba was hit hard by an epidemic of infantile paralysis, also known as polio. The residents not only supported one another, in 1950 they held the first Polio Auction, raising \$2,000 for medical research on the disease. Now called the Melba Community Auction, area residents continue the tradition of helping one another as they raise funds for nonprofit organizations that provide services to those in and around Melba.

The spirit of small town America is alive and well in Melba. They believe in helping their neighbors as well as strangers. Their schools are a source of pride and strongly supported by the community. And as to their Fourth of July celebration? Let me put it this way—no one can question their patriotism and love of America! Theirs is a grand celebration of our Nation's birthday.

So, Madam President, I am very proud to recognize this landmark anniversary and congratulate the community of Melba for this centennial. Melba has much to celebrate as well as to look forward to in its next century. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO REX E. KIRKSEY

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam President, I, on behalf of my colleague Senator BINGAMAN and myself, wish to recognize Rex E. Kirksey on the occasion of his retirement, following a distinguished career serving the agricultural community in our home State of New Mexico and elsewhere.

Mr. Kirksey has dedicated 32 years of his life working for New Mexico State University to improve agricultural outreach and to facilitate vital research. As the Superintendent of the NMSU Agricultural Science Center in

Tucumcari, NM, Mr. Kirksey oversaw research programs focusing on developing forage and grazing systems for irrigated lands in New Mexico and the western United States.

In 2003, he took on additional responsibilities as superintendent of the Agricultural Science Center in Clovis, NM. Under his leadership, that institution emerged as the State's leading off-campus center with nationally and internationally recognized programs in agronomy, dairy management, peanut breeding, and crop stress physiology.

During his tenure at New Mexico State University, Mr. Kirksey authored many professional publications, including peer reviewed journal articles, proceedings papers, research reports and bulletins, progress reports and published abstracts, and an extensive range of business reports and correspondence. He has also given numerous presentations to industry and peer groups.

In addition to his work domestically, Mr. Kirksey has been involved with the Afghanistan Water, Agriculture, and Technology Transfer, AWATT, project—a partnership with USAID and New Mexico State University. This project aims to improve the community and farm-level management of the supply and demand of irrigation water resources for increased agricultural productivity and food security in Afghanistan. He also has worked with the Botswana Sustainable Agriculture Initiative, an international consortium with a goal to develop an integrated, sustainable agricultural system. The Botswana Initiative will assist both small and large farms to employ conservation agriculture practices to increase fresh water availability, grow more nutritious food, build agricultural infrastructure, create more agricultural jobs, and stimulate enterprise creation in rural areas.

Mr. Kirksey's leadership and expertise has made a difference in the lives of so many people in our Nation, as well as other parts of the world. Senator BINGAMAN and I thank Mr. Kirksey for his commitment and dedication to the people of New Mexico and to our agricultural communities. We would also like to thank his wife Cyndie and their three children for always supporting Rex in his endeavors. Thanks to his work and the work of our land grant institutions, farmers and ranchers across the country have access to the resources they need to help ensure our country's future competitiveness in an increasingly global economy.

We wish Mr. Kirksey continued success, and a most happy retirement. ●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:28 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4078. An act to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 6082. An act to officially replace, within the 60-day Congressional review period under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, President Obama's Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program (2012-2017) with a congressional plan that will conduct additional oil and natural gas lease sales to promote offshore energy development, job creation, and increased domestic energy production to ensure a more secure energy future in the United States, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4078. An act to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent.

S. 3457. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

#### 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-7004. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for Distribution of Byproduct Material" ((RIN3150-AH91) (NRC-2008-0338)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7005. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NRC Regulatory Issue Summary 2012-08: Developing Inservice Testing and Inservice Inspection Programs Under 10 CFR Part 52" (RIS 2012-08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7006. 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; South Carolina 110(a)(1) and (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9705-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7007. 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; Tennessee: Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review; Fine Particulate Matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)" (FRL No. 9704-7) received in