

REMEMBERING JIM LYONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Jim Lyons.

Jim was a tax counsel for Chairman HATCH on the Finance Committee. Before that, he served as a tax counsel for the committee when I was ranking member.

Jim had a medical emergency during a basketball game for charity which, unfortunately for us all, he did not survive.

Those who knew Jim would not be surprised that he was spending an evening at an event to help others.

He was well known for his generosity, whether it was donating holiday gifts for children in foster care or sharing his extensive knowledge of the Tax Code with younger staff who were learning the ropes.

He was incredibly smart and had a zest for his work and for life that was joyous and inspiring to all of those around him.

He loved to laugh and had a gift for making others laugh. Jim's quick wit is legendary, and he drew others to his company to hear what funny story or observation he might share next.

Devising clever floor charts that made an insightful point about tax policy was a Jim Lyons specialty. He was extremely gifted in using humor to draw attention to a serious policy concern or to point out a political absurdity.

It is a rare skill and one that Jim used to great effect. People liked to hear what he had to say. The tragedy of his loss in the prime of his life is immeasurable. Those of us who knew him take comfort in learning from his example. We can do serious work without taking ourselves too seriously. In fact, we might be much more successful by finding room to share a laugh with others. I wish Jim eternal peace and send my best wishes to his loving family.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT VESPIA, JR.

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, South Kingstown Police Chief Vincent Vespia, Jr., has dedicated his career to protecting and serving the people of Rhode Island. He retired this month after nearly 60 years of exceptional service.

The State's longest serving police chief began his career in 1959 as a trooper with the Rhode Island State police. Chief Vespia would eventually go on to become a State police organized crime investigator. His work helped bring down New England's top organized crime family. There are many stories about Vin Vespia. One of the most famous was when he crashed through a second floor window of a Federal Hill crap game from a bucket of a cherry picker, brandishing a machine gun at the surprised dice players. As Pulitzer Prize winning author Mike

Stanton wrote in his book "The Prince of Providence," "Vespia was a kick-ass cop who had grown up on the Hill, playing in the street with some of the wise guys he now pursued." As a young trooper, Vespia had busted a former playmate with a truckload of stolen furs. "How can you arrest me?" the man asked. "We played kick the can together." Replied Vespia: "You went one way, I went another."

After retiring from the State police, Vin was appointed chief of the South Kingstown Police Department in 1981. He would spend the next 35 years of his career building an effective, professional force with strong ties to the community. He created new leadership programs within the department's detective bureau and oversaw the construction of an innovative public safety facility with state-of-the-art information technology.

Chief Vespia will be remembered for his leadership and fairness. Those he led describe him as dedicated, rational, and respectable. He has been called "probably the most admired law enforcement officer in Rhode Island." I was honored to have worked with him when I was attorney general and am proud to call him my friend. Chief Vespia's 57 years of commitment and service to the people of Rhode Island represent the very best in law enforcement.

I commend him and his family for the sacrifices they have made. On behalf of those he has served throughout the years, I offer my thanks. I wish Vin and Judith-Ann, his wife of 40 years, a happy retirement and the best of luck in all future endeavors.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 2, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1808. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes.

S. 1915. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3471. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 5111. An act to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6297. An act to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bills were signed on December 2,

2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:06 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1550. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5509. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House".

H.R. 5995. An act to strike the sunset on certain provisions relating to the authorized protest of a task or delivery order under section 4106 of title 41, United States Code.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 3:07 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. 6392. An act to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to specify when bank holding companies may be subject to certain enhanced supervision, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 2943) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the resolution (H.Con.Res. 122) supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 2, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1808. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes.

S. 1915. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 5, 2016, she