

In the last 16 years, Knight's creation has been visited by thousands of people from all over the world, artists and art lovers, journalists, students on field trips, retirees, newlyweds and just plain curious people come by the mountain each day. The Folk Art Society of America has declared Salvation Mountain a national folk art shrine. The American Visionary Art Museum has embraced Leonard Knight and his mountain monument.

Salvation Mountain is the product of the vision and non-stop labor of one dedicated man. Leonard lives alone at the base of the mountain, sleeping in a converted school bus that is as colorful as his desert creation. He uses paint constantly supplied by visitors, local residents and others willing to be a part of this stunning work-in-progress. He figures that he has used close to 60,000 gallons of donated paint over the years.

American folk art is found in all corners of our nation. Perhaps one of the least likely locations would be the desert where Salvation Mountain is found. Leonard Knight's artwork is a national treasure, a singular sculpture wrought from the desert by a modest, single-minded man. It is a sculpture for the ages—profoundly strange and beautifully accessible, and worthy of the international acclaim it receives.●

HONORING KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 23 members of Kentucky Refugees Ministries, Inc. (KRM) for all they have done to bring and welcome refugees to Kentucky.

Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Inc. is the refugee resettlement office in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for two national church-based programs: Church World Service and The Episcopal Migration Ministries. This group, which has offices in both Louisville and Lexington, is authorized by the U.S. Department of State to assist refugees legally admitted to the United States as victims of warfare, or other forms of persecution related to their religious or political beliefs. Since their inception in 1990, KRM has placed over 3,000 refugees representing 25 different nationalities and ethnic groups, in various communities throughout the Commonwealth. Once the refugees have been admitted, KRM provides them with housing, furnishings, food, and clothing. They also offer educational opportunities such as English and cultural orientation classes in order to help refugees adapt to their new life. In virtually every instance, these individuals have become productive and active citizens, willing to work their way up from the bottom in an effort to live the American dream.

One fact we as Americans must never forget is that our forefathers were also political and religious refugees in search of a better life. The system they established was specifically set up so

people could live their lives without fear of endless persecution. Late last year, President Bush signed the Presidential Determination authorizing the United States to admit 70,000 refugees in 2002. I applaud President Bush's efforts concerning refugees. Only 8,100 refugees, a quarter of the number admitted at the same time last year, have so far been admitted. This slowdown in admittance has obviously occurred because of security matters resulting from the September 11 tragedies. However, I hope that soon we can begin expediting refugee admittance again after we put the proper security and safety procedures in place. The principles of freedom and democracy our nation lives by must serve as our guide in this extremely important matter. If we let these individuals languish in deplorable conditions in refugee camps or hostile lands, we will be turning our backs on the principles we so cherish. We cannot let this happen.

Once again, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking and honoring KRM. I am grateful to know that Kentucky's adopted refugees and their families are being looked after in such a careful and caring manner.●

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S DEBATE TEAM

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in congratulating Michigan State University's Debate Team. These bright young men and women recently won this year's Cross Examination Debate Association Seasonal National Championship—the most prestigious national college debating title.

As I am sure many of my colleagues in this room can appreciate, debating is a skill that requires enormous preparation, great intelligence and the ability to think and speak quickly. Michigan State University's Debate Team has repeatedly excelled in these areas, establishing itself as one of the finest debate teams in the nation. In fact, since 1994 the team has finished no worse than fifth in the competition, and it recorded another first place finish in 1996. This is a spectacular record of achievement that is the source of great pride for the University and for the State of Michigan.

We often come to this floor to congratulate the hard work and dedication of the student athletes from our states who have won national championships on the basketball court or the football field, whose competitions are shown on television and whose victories are written about in newspapers. However, the young men and women who compete with their quick minds and sharp wit deserve just as much of an accolade as those who compete with quick legs or strong arms. The debate season lasts virtually the entire academic year. From August to April the team spends countless hours every week studying, analyzing, researching and practicing.

The commitment that these young people have shown to competition is unrivaled.

Director of Debate Jason Trice, Head Coach William Repko and Assistant Coaches Alison Woidan and Michael Eber did an excellent job of preparing this year's team. The full roster of that team is Anjali Vats, Geoff Lundeen, Maggie Ryan, Job Gillenwater, John Rood, Austin Carson, Calum Matheson, Greta Stahl, Suzanne Sobotka, John Groen, Gabe Murillo, Amber Watkins, Aaron Hardy and David Strauss. I can think of no better place for these young men and women to be congratulated than in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. Senate, an institution known for its history of great debaters.

I know that all these individuals, as well as their families and friends, are incredibly proud of their accomplishments. I also know that Michigan State University is thrilled to have this honor. In addition to adding my own congratulations I would also like to wish these young men and women the best of luck in defending their championship next year and extending the proud record of accomplishment for which this team has come to be known. I know that my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating Michigan State University's Debate Team for their victory as National Champions of the Cross Examination Debate Association.●

HONORING LTG THOMAS J. KECK

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a member of our military who has faithfully served the United States for over 30 years. LTG Thomas J. Keck is to retire this Friday and I think it is appropriate that we honor him here on the Senate floor today.

Lieutenant General Keck graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1969. After completing flight training, he was sent to Vietnam. While there, he flew B-52 missions over North Vietnam, and distinguished himself in combat numerous times. In recognition of his gallantry, Lieutenant General Keck was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. The bravery he displayed in Vietnam is demonstrative of the characteristics that define the Air Force Officer's Core Values: Integrity first, Service Before Self, Excellence in all that is done. He has certainly displayed these values throughout his career.

After the War, Lieutenant General Keck came back to the U.S., and served in a variety of commands in the Air Force. Throughout his career, Lieutenant General Keck has flown twenty-two different planes in several different missions. He logged over 4,600 flying hours, 886 of which were in combat. He has certainly shown himself to be an able and adaptable pilot, perhaps one of the finest that the Air Force has produced.

Lieutenant General Keck served in many places throughout the U.S. and abroad, including California, Arizona, Nebraska, Guam, Alabama, and Panama. I think it is also appropriate to recognize his family on this occasion as well, as they have supported him throughout many years and many moves.

Lieutenant General Keck leaves the military as the Commander of the Eighth Air Force. The Eighth Air Force, or "Mighty Eighth" as it is known, consists of nine wings and two groups—nearly 500 aircraft, more than 53,000 active duty and civilian personnel, and 80 major installations world wide. The Mighty Eighth is headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base in Northwest Louisiana. I am extremely proud to have my state host this exemplary unit. The relationship between the people of Northwest Louisiana and the community on base is excellent, and Lieutenant General Keck has only made that relationship better.

On September 11th, Air Force One landed at Barksdale while it was on its way back to Washington. Lieutenant General Keck and Briadier General Bedke played host to President Bush. Less than a month later, numerous units from the Mighty Eighth would be deployed across the globe, defending America from the menace of terrorism. As Lieutenant General Keck leaves the service, we are a nation at war, but our Air Force is no doubt stronger as a result of Lieutenant General Keck's leadership. In the years to come, the Eighth Air Force will undertake many more missions in Operation Enduring Freedom, and there is no doubt in my mind that they will be successful.

In closing, I would like to thank Lieutenant General Keck for his years of dedicated service to our country. I would also like to thank his family for the support they have provided over all of these years. I wish him well in the future and success in all of his endeavors.●

ON THE AGUA CALIENTE CULTURAL MUSEUM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce that, after several years of preparation, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is ready to construct a major cultural museum. The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum will be built at the Indian Canyons near Palm Springs, California.

The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum will pay tribute to the Agua Caliente Band's rich heritage and at the same time educate the community and visitors about the tribe's history of tribulation and triumph. This museum will truly be a bridge to the tribe's past and a platform for celebrating its future and potential.

A greatly expanded facility from the temporary museum built in 1995, this new 100,000 square-foot museum will house an auditorium, provide space for

traveling exhibits, and allow for the expansion of the current museum's education programs in language, singing and crafts. Visitors to the museum will learn about the tribe's history through exhibits of photographs, videotaped testimonies and other historical artifacts. The facility will also feature exhibits on current issues like land and water rights, as well as sovereignty issues.

When completed, the cultural museum will be a fitting tribute to the Agua Caliente Band, its proud traditions and history. The tribe, part of the Cahuilla Nation, survived the arrival of the Spanish in 1776, and through the centuries has become a strong and enduring people despite many challenges. The tribe is an important economic force in Southern California, has endowed an extremely generous and ambitious philanthropic program, and is a visionary steward of the land. This museum will ensure that the great heritage and spirit of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians are never forgotten and are accessible to all.

I commend all those who have made the dream of an Agua Caliente Cultural Museum a reality.●

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR ALVIN M. STOKES, SR.

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Pastor Alvin Stokes, Sr. of Trinity A.M.E. Church and congratulate him on his forthcoming retirement.

Pastor Stokes has served as a positive and energetic force within the New Jersey communities he has served. In his efforts as a member of the clergy, he organized the United Black Clergy Association of Bridgeton and aided in obtaining plans to build the new Grant A.M.E. Church. Perhaps his most important work, however, has been through his ministry to his parishioners at Trinity A.M.E. Church, where he has been pastor since 1979.

While Pastor Stokes has a strong presence outside of his ministry, some of his greatest efforts have been on behalf of the schoolchildren of New Jersey. During his time in Chesilhurst, he served on the School board and organized efforts that led to the construction of the community's first elementary school. He has also served on the New Jersey Federation of District School Boards, a county Task Force for school dropouts and teen pregnancy, and the Fairfield Township's School Crisis Committee.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the efforts of Pastor Stokes to improve the lives of those around him. The people of New Jersey are truly grateful for his service.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 12:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 1370. An act to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to establish requirements for the award of concessions in the National Wildlife Refuge System, to provide for maintenance and repair of properties located in the system by concessionaires authorized to use such properties, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1925. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Waco Mammoth Site Area in Waco, Texas, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2051. An act to authorize the National Science Foundation to establish regional centers for the purpose of plant genome and gene expression research and development and international research partnerships for the advancement of plant biotechnology in the developing world.

H.R. 3694. An act to provide for highway infrastructure investment at the guaranteed funding level contained in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

H.R. 4044. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for implementation of a program to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4069. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for miscellaneous enhancements in Social Security benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4714. An act to prohibit members of the Armed Forces in Saudi Arabia from being required or formally informally compelled to wear the abaya garment, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H. Con. Res. 387. Concurrent resolution recognizing the American Society of Civil Engineers for reaching its 150th Anniversary and for the many vital contributions of civil engineers to the quality of life of our Nation's people including the research and development projects that have led to the physical infrastructure of modern America.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1370. An act to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to establish requirements for the award of concessions in the National Wildlife