

COMMEMORATING HENRY MANCINI

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to honor Henry Mancini, a fine composer, conductor, and arranger. Mr. Mancini was one of the most versatile musical talents and one of America's most celebrated musicians of the twentieth century. He lent his talents to many films and television series, the themes and melodies of which are recognizable to listeners the world over, even if they are unfamiliar with the name of the composer.

April 16 would have been Henry Mancini's 80th birthday. Even though Mr. Mancini passed away in 1994 after a long battle with cancer, his contribution to music and the arts has not been forgotten.

The United States Postal Service will unveil the Henry Mancini commemorative stamp next week. The unveiling ceremony on April 13 will take place at the Music Center Plaza in Los Angeles and will be hosted by our distinguished former colleague, John Glenn, a longtime friend of Mancini. Senator Glenn, it might be added, took a recording of Mancini's timeless classic, "Moon River," on his return to space in October 1998.

In his lifetime, Henry Mancini's masterful talents were recognized with 72 Grammy Award nominations and 20 Grammy wins, eighteen Academy Award nominations and four Oscar wins, and a Golden Globe.

While awards are a notable measure of talent, the scope of Mr. Mancini's work is more impressive than the nominations he received for that work. During the 1950s, Mr. Mancini had a hand in the scores of over 100 films produced by Universal-International Studios. It was also at Universal that Mr. Mancini met Blake Edwards, and together they worked on 26 films over 30 years. These collaborations produced some of Mancini's most popular and award-winning compositions, including the "Peter Gunn" television series, "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "The Pink Panther" films, and "Victor/Victoria."

In all, over 500 of Mr. Mancini's works were published. Mr. Mancini recorded over 90 albums with styles from jazz to classical, including eight albums certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America. As an in-demand concert performer, he logged over 600 symphony performances, and conducted such symphony orchestras as the London Symphony Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Andy Williams said at Mancini's 70th birthday celebration: "The wonders of Henry Mancini will be heard in every corner of the world right up to the minute this planet cools and shrinks to the size of an eighth note." But it is more than the music he composed that will be Henry Mancini's legacy.

In honor of Mancini's dedication to educating young musicians, the Henry Mancini Institute was founded in Los Angeles in 1997 by his longtime friend

and fellow composer, Jack Elliott. The Henry Mancini Institute's mission is to nurture the future of music by providing comprehensive professional training and multilevel outreach programs that make a direct impact in people's lives. Mr. Mancini himself established scholarships and fellowships at the Nation's top music schools. Many of tomorrow's composers, conductors, and arrangers have benefited from Mancini programs at New York's Julliard School of Music his alma mater, and in Los Angeles at USC and UCLA.

I would also like to recognize the Mancini family, who has gracefully embraced Henry's legacy and allowed for future generations of musicians to celebrate his accomplishments and contributions. My good friend Ginny Mancini, whom he married in 1947, has relentlessly worked to bring about the creation of this stamp, as have their children: Christopher, Monica, and Felice.

Honoring Henry Mancini with this commemorative stamp will serve as a lasting tribute, just as his music is a lasting gift to the world.●

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is a pleasure to be here today with our colleagues from the House Veterans Affairs Committee and the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW has a rich tradition in enhancing the lives of millions through its community service programs and special projects, and I am proud to have their services in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The work of our committees is as important as ever because of the thousands of new wartime veterans leaving the service and the increasing needs of our aging veterans. We owe all our veterans a debt of gratitude and I am committed to making sure we provide them with ample benefits and quality medical care.

President Bush has proposed significant increases in spending for our veterans, but it is important to keep in mind that his budget is only a starting point. Each year he has requested increases in funding for the VA and Congress has provided even more beyond those requests.

The last 2 years Congress has provided unprecedented increases in funding for VA health care. I support another substantial increase for VA health care this year and I am confident we will deliver. In fact, the budget resolution currently before the Senate provides for an extra \$1.3 billion for the VA and rejects the proposed co-pay increases and enrollment fees.

VA conducts some of the most specialized medical research in our Nation. That research is especially important to disabled veterans. I oppose the proposed cut in VA research. The Budget Committee rejected that cut and I

added an additional \$101 million for research, a 25 percent increase.

Now that the CARES process is wrapping up, VA can begin new construction projects. We will be watching to make sure the Secretary carefully considers all proposed closings. I look forward to seeing new hospitals and clinics opened in Kentucky and around the Nation.

Last year I told the Secretary that VA had come a long way in fixing its problems but there was still a long way to go. I am glad to say that the system is stronger this year, but we must not let up. We must keep working to make sure our veterans receive the assistance they need in a timely and convenient manner. I am committed to doing just that.

Finally, I recognize all the Kentucky veterans in the hearing room. I had a good visit with some of you in my office earlier this week. Thank you for making the trip today and thank you for your service to our Nation and your fellow veterans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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.)

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-6984. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to prescribing, adjusting, and collecting fees incurred for activities under the Animal Welfare Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6985. A communication from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "17 CFR Part 1, Investment of Customer Funds (69 FR 6140, February 10, 2004)" (RIN3038-AC01) received on April 5, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6986. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the authorization of officers to wear the insignia of brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6987. A communication from the Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appeals and Hearings Procedures" (RIN0729-AA74) received on April 5, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.