

his family through another grieving process. Despite these concerns, in a manner typical of this courageous and selfless family, he proudly states "My brother was over there for something he believed in, and I want to help finish it."

Although Steven Valdez may no longer be with us, his legacy and his spirit will forever live on in our hearts. On behalf of a grateful nation, my thoughts and prayers go out his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him.

I thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BARBARA BERGER RETIREMENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to recognize Barbara Berger, a dedicated Senate employee who is retiring today. Barbara has devoted 33 years to the Office of the Sergeant at Arms in the Senate Recording Studio.

She has served 13 Sergeants at Arms. Of the 320 Senators who have passed through these halls during her tenure, only 4 current Members have been "under the Dome" longer than Barbara.

Throughout her career in the Senate, Barbara has brought strength, passion, and dignity to every aspect of her service. She's seen tremendous change over the years. But through it all, she has remained constant and loyal to this institution.

On behalf of the entire Senate, I would like to thank Barbara Berger for her 33 years of service.

We wish her the very best in her retirement.

#### 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.)

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 554. An act to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity.

S. 1904. A bill to provide elementary and secondary education assistance to students and schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1906. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude property tax rebates and other benefits provided to volunteer firefighters, search and rescue personnel, and emergency medical responders from income and employment taxes and wage withholding; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1907. A bill to promote the development of Native American small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1908. A bill to authorize the Under Secretary of Technology of the Department of Commerce to award grants to establish up to eight Nanoscience to Commercialization Institutes throughout the United States to develop commercial applications for nanotechnology; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 284. A resolution authorizing filming in the Chamber of the Senate for the use by the Capitol Visitor Center; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 285. A resolution recognizing the efforts and contributions of outstanding national Hispanic scientists; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 440

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 440, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians services under the medicaid program.

S. 662

At the request of Mr. REED, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a

bill to reform the postal laws of the United States.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the depreciation recovery period for certain roof systems.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to establish a market driven telecommunications marketplace, to eliminate government managed competition of existing communication service, and to provide parity between functionally equivalent services.

S. 1570

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1570, a bill to promote employment of individuals with severe disabilities through Federal Government contracting and procurement processes, and for other purposes.

S. 1900

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1900, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize the amount of the medicare part B premium.

S. RES. 282

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 282, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families.

AMENDMENT NO. 2124

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2124 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3058, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1906. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude property tax rebates and other benefits provided to volunteer firefighters, search