

many opportunities to join the people of Wise County for events, festivals, and meetings, and I am proud to be a part of this sesquicentennial celebration and look forward to sharing in many more events in the coming years.●

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF GALAX CENTENNIAL

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to announce the centennial anniversary of the historic city of Galax. The centennial celebration created and will continue to create community awareness of opportunities for the preservation of Galax's rich heritage. In addition, this event will foster pride in Galax's educational, cultural, social, and economic resources and will encourage the brainstorming of ways to ensure a bright future for the city of Galax.

Throughout the year, the city of Galax has come up with exciting ways to celebrate its centennial. July was Freedom Celebration Month in Galax which included a Fourth of July parade and the Virginia State Barbeque Championship. August is Musical Heritage Celebration Month and will include the Annual Old Fiddler's Convention, as well as the Annual Championship Rodeo. September is Free Enterprise, Agriculture and Industry Month and will feature a play on the history of the city of Galax, as well as events with authors Sharyn McCrumb and Robert Chappell.

This centennial celebration of the city of Galax is a great way to remember its history, appreciate its current state, and look forward to its bright future. Over the years I have enjoyed many opportunities to join the people of the city of Galax for events, festivals, and meetings, and I am proud to be a part of this centennial celebration and look forward to sharing in many more events in the coming years.●

RECOGNIZING PLANTERS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Planters Company which has had a fruitful working relationship with Suffolk County over the past century and has one of its major production facilities located there. To celebrate, Planters has embarked on a 4-month, cross-country tour visiting landmarks in Planters' history. Over the past century Planters has consistently delivered a variety of fresh-tasting nuts and has also developed an American icon in the internationally famous Mr. Peanut.

On Tuesday, June 13, 2006 Planters NUTmobile and Centennial Display Tour made a stop in Suffolk, VA. Visitors got the opportunity to meet and interact with Mr. Peanut, sample fresh roasted peanuts, view Planters and Mr. Peanut collectibles from the past century, and put themselves in moments

and events throughout Planters and American history using green screen technology.

Over the past century Planters' Suffolk facility has enjoyed a wonderful relationship with the city of Suffolk. The Planters Suffolk facility produces a variety of nut products. Planters has employed thousands of Virginians over the years, and many more have enjoyed and benefited from both its products and its reputation in the Suffolk community. Planters has been a model for the type of relationship that should exist between communities and businesses over the past century, and we look forward to working with them for the next 100 years.●

TRIBUTE TO RALPH CONTE

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the retirement and to honor the service of a fellow Virginian, a true patriot, and a career civil servant of the Department of Defense who has given 39 years of dedicated military and civilian service to our country. Mr. Ralph Conte was born in Ponza, Italy, in 1940. He immigrated to the United States in January 1956 whereupon he studied engineering at New York University. He was commissioned as an Air Force officer through OTS in June 1967, and his first assignment was at Aviano Air Base, Italy. His military career included serving in Vietnam as a member of the premier combat engineering unit in the Air Force, known as RED HORSE. He further served at Kunsan Air Base in Korea and at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH. In 1975 he separated from active duty and continued service to his country as a civilian manager at Air Force Logistics Command and a NATO program manager at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He finally settled in Virginia in June 1986, working for the Air National Guard eventually as the chief of programs.

I believe everyone in the Air National Guard will attest that very few individuals have had a greater positive impact on providing the finest facilities and installations for the Air National Guard to accomplish their missions. During his tenure at the Air National Guard, Mr. Conte was directly responsible for planning and programming facility and real property requirements worth over \$7 billion to support 177 Guard locations throughout the 50 States, 3 territories, and the District of Columbia. His leadership, outstanding technical expertise, and unlimited energy have created a blueprint for success for which generations of Air National Guardsmen will reap the benefits. I offer sincere appreciation and thanks for his service, and wish him and his family the best in retirement.●

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 12:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 467. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 250. An act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act.

S. 3693. An act to make technical corrections to the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005.

S. 3741. An act to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3682. An act to redesignate the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia as the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 5683. An act to preserve the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States.

H.R. 5877. An act to amend the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 to extend the authorities provided in such Act until September 29, 2006.

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

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, August 2, 2006, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 250. An act to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act.

S. 3693. An act to make technical corrections to the Violence Against Women Act and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005.

S. 3741. An act to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with