

The service of these men and women makes me proud to be an Oregonian. Unfortunately, oftentimes with great heroism comes great risk. Mental impairments, along with a variety of contributing factors, have led to a large concentration of homeless veterans in Oregon, totaling roughly one-third of Oregon's homeless population.

The SORCC in White City, Oregon directly focuses on the needs of the homeless, mentally ill, and substance abusers. Serving for over 56 years, the SORCC is the VA's only freestanding rehabilitation center, carefully tailored to treat debilitating problems unaddressed by standard VA medical centers and clinics. White City pays special attention to Oregon's substantial Veterans homeless population, with 75 percent of all applicants stating that they are without a home.

While about one-fourth of the Veterans living within the general proximity of the facility receive some type of care from the SORCC, its exclusivity in Veteran specialty care has attracted patients from over 35 States. Potential patients are likely persuaded not solely by the specialized treatment and expertise of the staff, but because of the time invested in each patient's recovery. White City offers a variety of community activities which expedite patient development and growth, while forming valuable relationships with staffers. Perhaps most impressive of all, the SORCC retains consistently high outpatient scores between 80 and 90 percent.

Referred to by many as "The Dom," in reference to its history and present role as a domiciliary, the SORCC is an important facility for Oregon veterans who need treatment outside of the home. Just over two years ago, the VA considered closing the White City facility. I was strongly against the potential closure and worked to ensure that its doors remained opened to our Nation's veterans. After careful deliberation, the Department of Veterans Affairs concluded that its success in treating difficult addiction cases is unheralded, and immediately implemented plans to repair and expand the existing facility.

The SORCC continues to operate and serve Oregon's veterans with high levels of professionalism and success. The population served by White City continues to expand, including more than 120 returning veterans from the global war on terrorism. I am privileged today to offer my congratulations to the SORCC. Their continued commitment to safety, compassion, and growth will serve as a model for VA organizations nationwide.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT COOK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Robert Cook of Central High School in Rapid City, SD. Robert was named the 2006 Teacher of the Year by the National Indian Education Association.

As the English and social studies teacher at Central High School, Robert has played an integral and unique role in furthering the education of South Dakota's students. His initiative, expertise, and kind heart, has created an exceptional learning environment at Central High School. His selfless dedication to educating students for 17 years is truly commendable. I am proud to have such a fine teacher influencing our State's future leaders.

Robert is a graduate of Black Hills State University and he resides in Rapid City. Today I rise with Robert Cook's friends, family, and colleagues in honoring his selfless dedication and service to South Dakota's students.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on November 21, 2006, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 101. An act to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation.

S. 4001. An act to designate certain land in New England as wilderness for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation system and certain land as a National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2383. An act to redesignate the facility of the Bureau of Reclamation located at 19550 Kelso Road in Byron, California, as the "C.W. 'Bill' Jones Pumping Plant".

H.R. 3817. An act to withdraw the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest in New Mexico from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4000. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise certain repayment contracts with the Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska, the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2, the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, and the Webster Irrigation District No. 4, all a part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4559. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain National Forest System land

to the towns of Laona and Wabeno, Wisconsin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5061. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey Paint Bank National Fish Hatchery and Wytheville National Fish Hatchery to the State of Virginia.

H.R. 5103. An act to provide for the conveyance of the former Konnarock Lutheran Girls School in Smyth County, Virginia, which is currently owned by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, to facilitate the restoration and reuse of the property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5585. An act to improve the netting process for financial contracts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5690. An act to adjust the boundaries of the Ouachita National Forest in the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas.

H.R. 6121. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize a program relating to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, and for other purposes.

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS) during the adjournment of the Senate on November 28, 2006.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 4, 2006, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3699. An act to provide for the sale, acquisition, conveyance, and exchange of certain real property in the District of Columbia to facilitate the utilization, development, and redevelopment of such property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4377. An act to extend the time required for construction of a hydroelectric project, and for other purposes.

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

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 4048. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4080. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to settlement agreements reached with respect to litigation involving certain secondary transmissions of superstations and network stations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with