

be as long lasting as the land he honored. God bless Matthew Joseph Stanley.

CORPORAL JONATHAN E. SCHILLER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with a sense of sadness, but also pride, that I rise today to pay tribute to CPL. Jonathan E. Schiller of Ottumwa, IA, who gave his life on New Year's Eve in service to his country in Iraa. He is remembered by friends and family for his good humor and his patriotism. Corporal Schiller's parents, Bill and Liz Schiller, said of their son, "Jon died doing what he loved, serving his country and protecting the freedom of our people and others. We are proud of our son's accomplishments and those of his fellow soldiers in the Army and all branches of the military. We are forever grateful to the Army for changing our boy into a man who fought and died defending something that we take for granted every day... freedom!" My thoughts and prayers are with Bill and Liz, Jon's brothers Charlie and Max, and all of those in the Ottumwa area and elsewhere who mourn the loss of this brave young man. Jon Schiller's willingness to volunteer for military service in a time of war speaks loudly to his love of our country. He now joins the honored ranks of generations of American youth who have laid down their lives for the preservation of freedom. His courageous service and tremendous sacrifice must never be forgotten by a grateful Nation.

WELCOMING REPRESENTATIVE MAZIE HIRONO TO THE 110TH CONGRESS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to welcome the newest member of the Hawaii Congressional Delegation, Representative MAZIE HIRONO, to the 110th Congress.

Representative HIRONO has previously served the State of Hawaii as Lieutenant Governor, Hawaii State Representative, and deputy state attorney general, and I am confident she will continue her distinguished record as a compassionate, tireless, and courageous public servant through her service in Washington as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. She embodies the best of Hawaii and our Nation.

As a young girl, she and her mother and two brothers emigrated from Japan in search of a better life. The life they found in Hawaii was marked by struggle and hard work. But, more importantly, MAZIE HIRONO found hope and self-reliance.

She also learned an important lesson that still guides her today. "My mother taught me that no circumstance is beyond the power of courage, and that when you know what is right you must find the will to act, even against the greatest of odds," she says. That uncommon spirit, from an uncommon mother, defines MAZIE HIRONO.

I kindly ask you and my colleagues to join me in welcoming Representa-

tive HIRONO to the 110th Congress of the United States.

RETIREMENT OF GARY LAPIERRE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a New England journalism legend, Gary LaPierre, who retired on December 29, capping a remarkable career. For many citizens of our region, Gary LaPierre is the voice of New England. He comes from the beautiful small town of Shelburne Falls, MA, where his mother Esther still lives today, and is one of the most dependable, fair, and effective journalists Massachusetts has ever seen. Gary first began covering me in my 1964 Senate reelection campaign, and he has been asking me questions ever since—his interviews with me number in the hundreds. This past election day, November 7, 2006, Gary declared me the winner in my Senate race that evening.

Gary has won many awards for his outstanding journalism over the years. His "LaPierre on the Loose" segment and his skills in investigative reporting send chills down the spines of anyone out to defy the public interest. Whether it is lighthearted regional stories, investigative analyses, or news of the day, Gary handles them all well, and he brings them to us with his trademark clarity, vision, and integrity. I am not sure what Boston will do in the mornings now that Gary is retiring.

I have always liked Gary. He asks the tough questions, and he has been there when history was happening in Boston. He brought national stories to local neighborhood news and covered everything local superbly.

Schoolchildren love Gary, too. When we were buried in a snowstorm, he is the dean of school cancellations and can read through the list faster than anyone on the air. He covered the blizzard of 1978 while holed up in his studio for 5 straight days, keeping constant tabs on those stranded on Route 128. For many, Gary was the narrator in what became one of Boston most cherished hometown stories.

But Gary's reach has often extended beyond Boston borders. He has traveled with the Beatles, and he met our Iranian hostages in Germany. But he always came home to where his heart is—and we are happy he did.

Gary is a fair political reporter as well. He has covered every Democratic Presidential Convention I can recall—and Republican ones, too—and he covered my own campaign in 1980. In fact, no campaign is complete without Gary's analysis, and we have all learned a great deal from him over the years.

His reassuring voice guided us through the horrors of September 11, a day that none of us will ever forget. He also brought us the joys of the Red Sox World Series Championship in 2004. Whatever the topic, he had a talent for making his listeners feel they were a part of the event.

Gary's compassion, his integrity, and his love for Boston will be missed on

the airwaves each morning, but he leaves us with cherished memories, and he helped make WBZ in Boston the world class broadcasting station it is today. Now, as he retires, I join his countless admirers in wishing him a long and happy retirement. He has certainly earned it. We will miss you on WBZ, Gary, but to us, you will always be the voice of Boston.

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 159. An act to redesignate the White Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of Vermont as the "Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area".

At 7:31 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1. An act to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Foreign Relations by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 198. A bill to improve authorities to address urgent nonproliferation crises and United States nonproliferation operations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1. An act to provide for the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.