

soldiers, make the right choices for them, and make the right judgments for our country's long-term interests. I believe that sending General Petraeus to Iraq will help accomplish that. I wish him well and Godspeed.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO HELEN FENSKE

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, today I wish to honor Helen Fenske, the grandmother of environmentalism in my great home State of New Jersey. I join with New Jerseyans and environmentalists everywhere in mourning her passing on January 19, 2007.

Helen was truly a pioneer in understanding the importance of preserving our environmental resources for future generations. Her activism began in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey had plans to build a jetport on swampy land in Chatham Township, in Morris County, NJ. But not on Helen Fenske's watch. Self-described as "the little old lady in sneakers," she understood that the swamp was a treasure—an environmentally sensitive area—and that a jetport would be an ecological disaster to the region. With dogged determination, Helen Fenske mobilized a group of likeminded residents in the Green Village vicinity. In a grassroots effort that included raising money, creating awareness, and lobbying to retain this environmental resource, Helen Fenske managed to procure substantial acreage to be donated to the federal government. This acreage became the nucleus of the 7500 acre Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge—established by Congress in November 1960.

The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is, indeed, a treasure and was the first refuge to receive national wilderness recognition—signed into law by President Johnson in 1968. This was the culmination of Helen Fenske's efforts to save the Great Swamp. Thanks to Helen's perseverance and vision, today, one can walk on a boardwalk through vast portions of the swamp to enjoy the natural wildlife that inhabits it, including 244 species of birds, mammals such as red fox, coyote, beaver, raccoons, fish, reptiles, and amphibians, and many large oak and beech trees, and plants such as mountain laurel, mosses, and ferns.

But Helen Fenske's legend did not stop with the Great Swamp. She went on to become an environmental advocate assuming key leadership positions in State government, as special assistant to the first commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Richard Sullivan, and Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources. Her leadership became the inspiration for a myriad of conservation efforts, including the battle to save Sunfish Pond along the Appalachian Trail at the Delaware Water Gap. She was addition-

ally the inspiration for the formation of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and was involved with the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, Patriot's Path, the Hudson River Walkway, the Morris Parks and Land Conservancy, and the preservation of the Highlands along with many other efforts.

For her groundbreaking efforts as a champion of the environment, Helen Fenske was the deserving honoree of numerous awards, including the Marcellus Hartley Dodge Award from the Great Swamp Watershed Association; a Congressional Citation for her work in saving the Great Swamp and the creation of the American Revolution Heritage Corridor; the Achievement Award of the Washington Association; and honorary degrees from Ramapo College and Drew University.

Even after she moved to New Hampshire, she remained in touch with her New Jersey roots, always connected to her fight to preserve the Great Swamp and its environs. She died in New Hampshire, but left a living legacy in New Jersey. She will be greatly missed, but the legacy of the "old lady in sneakers" has been passed on to a new generation of environmentalists who have taken on her very important mission. ●

#### 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.)

#### 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-491. A communication from the Administrator, Dairy Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Northeast and Other Marketing Areas—Interim Final Order" (Docket No. DA-06-01) received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-492. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Office of Secondary Market Oversight, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation Disclosure and Reporting Requirements; Risk-Based Capital Requirements" (RIN3052-AC17) received on

January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-493. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-494. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, transmitting, pursuant to law, (14) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-495. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's purchases from foreign entities for fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-496. A communication from the Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of Defense Policy on Organizations that Seek to Represent or Organize Members of the Armed Forces in Negotiation or Collective Bargaining" (RIN0790-AH99) received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-497. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Restriction on Carbon, Alloy, and Armor Steel Plate" (DFARS Case 2005-D002) received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-498. A communication from the Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Service by Members of the Armed Forces on State and Local Juries" (RIN0790-AH99) received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-499. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Material Inspection and Receiving Report" (DFARS Case 2003-D085) received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-500. A communication from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustment of Acquisition-Related Thresholds" (DFARS Case 2004-D022) received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-501. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a competition that was performed to reduce the cost of the Base Operating Support function at Homestead Air Reserve Base; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-502. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 269) received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-503. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 272) received on January 25, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-504. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management