

With the stated mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character, the Girl Scouts of America started as a group of just 18 in Savannah, GA, in 1915. And as the Scouts have grown up along with the country, their cause has lost none of its relevance or necessity. They have brought those simple, yet noble ideals to all parts of the Nation and now proudly claim a membership of more than 3.6 million.

Through the Girl Scouts, young women develop a sense of civic responsibility and self-esteem that helps them realize the critical role they have to play in their communities and their country. Similar ideals were taught to me at an early age by my family and have helped to motivate and inspire me throughout my career.

Years ago, my mother told me, "It's a fact, not a fault, that we haven't had more women in elected office. It's just the way history turned out. But it's our fault if we don't do something to change that and to bring more women into government and the future."

Today, I am proud to be one of 16 women serving in the Senate—the largest class of women Senators in American history. Across the country, we see women taking more active leadership roles not only politics, but business, education and science. We have built on the great foundation that was laid for us by generations past, and it is our responsibility to these courageous leaders to continue momentum forward. This is especially true in Arkansas as we carry on legacy of Hattie Caraway, the first woman ever elected to the Senate and a trailblazer for women in politics.

There is still much left to do, and the unyielding commitment of groups like the Girl Scouts will prepare the next wave of great American women to the benefit of their communities and country. Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and most sincere thanks to the Ouachita Council for 80 years of service to the girls of Arkansas.●

#### 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-1239. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, the report of (3) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1240. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral James D. McArthur, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1241. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Defense Environmental Programs of fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1242. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Joseph R. Inge, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1243. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Steven W. Boutelle, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1244. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Limitation on Issuance of Excess Stock" (RIN3069-AB30) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1245. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1246. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Termination of a Foreign Private Issuer's Registration of a Class of Securities Under Section 12(g) and Duty to File Reports Under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934" (RIN3235-AJ38) received on March 28, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1247. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to foreign supplies purchased during fiscal year 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1248. A communication from the Acting Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sudanese Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR part 538) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1249. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Home Loan Bank Appointive Directors" (RIN3069-AB33) received on March

29, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1250. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act; Implementation" (RIN3069-AB32) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1251. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations (including 2 regulations beginning with CGD05-07-004)" (RIN1625-AA08) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1252. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones (including 2 regulations beginning with CGD05-07-011)" (RIN1625-AA00) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1253. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operations (including 2 regulations beginning with CGD13-06-048)" (RIN1625-AA09) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1254. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; South Portland, Maine, Gulf Blasting Project (CGD01-07-012)" (RIN1625-AA00) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1255. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations (including 4 regulations beginning with CGD01-07-027)" (RIN1625-AA09) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1256. A communication from the Chief of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Chesapeake Bay, between Sandy Point and Kent Island, MD (CGD05-06-104)" (RIN1625-AA87) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1257. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification relative to his intent to enter into a free trade agreement with the Republic of Panama; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1258. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Hospital Conditions of Participation: Requirements for Approval and Re-approval of Transplant Centers to Perform Organ Transplants" (RIN0938-AH17) received on March 29, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1259. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to payments made to Cuba for telecommunications services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.