HONORING RACHEL R. KLAY

- Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor a distinguished law enforcement official and dedicated public servant of our Nation. After nearly 24 years, Ms. Rachel R. Klay recently retired as a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service.

Agent Klay was born in Orange City, IA, which, I might add, is just across the state line from my home State of South Dakota. After graduating from Northwestern College in Orange City, she then went on to graduate school at Sangamon State University in Springfield, IL.

On September 6, 1983, Rachel was sworn in as a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service and assigned to the Chicago Field Office, where she served with distinction for 4 years. During the course of her career, Agent Klay also served at the Secret Service’s Western Protective Division, the Washington Field Office, the Presidential Protective Division, the Liaison Division, and the Investigative Support Division.

From 1999 to 2002, she worked as a Resident Agent in Sioux Falls, SD. She then served in the Secret Service’s Liaison Division before retiring earlier this year to take employment at the Federal Reserve Board as a Senior Special Agent.

Over the past decade, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Agent Klay and have had the opportunity to see her in action, both in South Dakota and here in Washington, DC. While always quick with a smile and a friendly demeanor, she also exuded the professionalism, confidence, and courage associated with the tremendous responsibilities she bore as a Special Agent with the Secret Service. Simultaneously, our country is better, stronger, and safer because of her service.

It is important and fitting that we as Americans recognize the invaluable contribution made every day by law enforcement officers such as Agent Klay who dedicate their professional lives to the line to investigate crimes and protect us and our families. Law enforcement officers such as Agent Klay are the ones who stand guard and preserve our safety. Their tireless efforts, personal sacrifices, and dedication to the rule of law are an example of what is right and good about our country and those who serve it.

It is therefore my honor and privilege to pay tribute today to the distinguished career and record of accomplishment provided by Special Agent Rachel Klay. Through her service, she has added to the reputation of integrity and valor of the United States Secret Service, and in doing so has provided an invaluable service to our Nation. On behalf of South Dakota and a grateful Nation, I thank Agent Klay for her service and wish her all the best in this new chapter in her life and career.

HONORING REV. DR. MARVIN McMICKLE

- Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I wish to honor and congratulate an outstanding spiritual and community leader from my hometown of Cleveland, OH. This year, the Reverend Dr. Marvin A. McMickle is celebrating 20 years of service as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, located in the heart of Cleveland’s Fairfax neighborhood.

Founded in 1893, Antioch was the second African-American Baptist church established in Cleveland, and for more than a century it has sought to fulfill its mission “to teach the word, provide outreach ministries, worship God, evangelize, and build strong church relationships.”

Since its inception, this historical landmark has nurtured leaders who have championed civil rights and equality for the poor, and it has worked to increase awareness on issues of race, poverty, employment, education, and human rights. Today, under McMickle’s leadership, Antioch offers over 70 programs and services to the community, including the Loaves and Fish Program, which serves 220 hot meals weekly, the Fellowship Fund, which provides emergency financial aid for rent, utilities, and food, the Antioch Credit Union, which has assets in excess of $2.5 million, and a Head Start program, which offers early childhood preschool.

In 2002, McMickle and Antioch established the Antioch Development Corporation to expand community outreach. The corporation now operates two signature programs to help expand community outreach, through programs like Agape, which offers HIV/AIDS counseling and testing services, and Project RESPECT, a job training and placement program.

Reverend McMickle is an accomplished author and orator. He has written and delivered countless sermons and has applied his gift for speaking as a professor of homiletics at the Ashland Theological Seminary in Ohio. McMickle has also been a visiting instructor at universities in New York, New Jersey, and Ohio, including Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, OH, Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and Cleveland State University. He has authored nine books and dozens of articles that regularly appear in professional journals and magazines. He is a contributing editor for The Living Church and a featured writer for the National Baptist Voice, the quarterly journal of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. His sermons and essays regularly appear in Preaching magazine and The African American Pulpit.

As a leader in the civil rights movement, Reverend McMickle has served as president of both the Cleveland NAACP and Urban League. And McMickle has also been a leader of numerous government and civic organizations, including the Shaker Heights Board of Education and the Karamu Performing Arts Center.

Over the years, I have worked with Reverend McMickle on various initiatives and issues of concern to our community. He has been particularly instrumental in supporting my efforts as Mayor, Governor, and U.S. Senator to prevent casino gambling from taking root in Ohio, and I thank him for his support on this issue.

Throughout all of his accomplishments, his loving and supportive wife Peggy, has stood by his side. And everyone who knows them would agree that their union is a loving partnership to be admired. Reverend McMickle and Peggy have been married for 31 years and have one son, Aaron, who is a middle school teacher in New York City.

Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to thank Reverend McMickle for his exceptional community and spiritual leadership. He has done God’s work, and our lives are better as a result of having been touched by him. I extend my congratulations to him on 20 years as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. May God continue to bless him and his family.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

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.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 493. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1465. An act to provide for the consideration and development and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 1322. An act to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 30, 2007, she had