

In case I wasn't perfectly clear last year at his confirmation hearing, I want to be sure that Secretary Kempthorne knows that I am serious. The Interior Department has been a source of shame to this government for too long. It is failing in its mission to protect the public land and balance the needs of the American people with wisdom and integrity. It has stumbled from one misstep to another, from one scandal to another, and I have to question who is in charge over there.

I want to hear from Secretary Kempthorne what action he plans to take to be certain that we won't see this sort of problem again. I want to hear from Mr. Laverty what he would do, if he is confirmed to the post of Assistant Secretary, to end the politicization of the Fish and Wildlife Service. We cannot continue to have government scientists whose work is manipulated and conclusions are rewritten by political appointees. We cannot continue to have federal officials working secretly with groups challenging their own agencies.

Until I receive these assurances, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to allow Mr. Laverty's nomination to come to a vote in the Senate.

#### IDAHO GUNFIGHTERS HONORED

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on March 30, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates announced that Mountain Home Air Force Base in my home State of Idaho had earned the coveted 2007 Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence. This Presidential honor is given only to a single installation in each of the military branches for outstanding and innovative efforts by installation personnel. I am honored to be able to publicly herald this tremendous achievement by Colonel Rock and all the men and women of Mountain Home Air Force Base.

This high honor reflects a sustained level of excellence by all the Gunfighters of Mountain Home. Installation of the Year can only be achieved if everyone, from the wing commander to airmen working in all aspects of operations and support, has their priorities straight and expectations for personal duty performance at the highest level. Improving the structures that protect valuable aircraft, creative and responsible financial management with regard to improving facilities, and a commitment to Air Force families are just some of the ways in which Mountain Home Air Force Base demonstrated its excellence this year. The Gunfighters have maintained this strong tradition of superiority and excellence for over half a century. The missions have changed over the years, but Gunfighter commitment and performance has not.

Idahoans can be very proud of their Gunfighters. Mountain Home Air Force Base is as much a part of Idaho history as the magnificent valleys, rivers, and

plateaus that surround the base. The 366th Fighter Wing is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to the national security of the United States. The missions currently headquartered at Mountain Home comprise a vital component of our comprehensive military defensive and offensive force. Idaho is fortunate to be host and home to these defenders of freedom.

Idaho benefits from Mountain Home Air Force Base, not just when the military men and women serving out their assignments there call our State "home" for a time in their military careers but also when some return to call Idaho home permanently in retirement.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the Gunfighters and my heartfelt gratitude for their service to our great country, in defense of my freedom and that of my family.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO BOB HUDSON

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to the public service of Bob Hudson, city manager of Farmington, NM.

Bob first came to New Mexico in 1982 to take on the job as director of parks, recreation & cultural affairs in Farmington. Since that time he has served the citizens of Farmington faithfully, eventually becoming city manager in 1999.

Bob's commitment to the community of Farmington did not end with his official duties. He has also served on the boards of several local organizations including the Boys & Girls Club, the Farmington Inter-tribal Indian Organization, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The citizens of Farmington are well aware of Bob's contributions to their community and have honored him with numerous awards, including the New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award in 1991 and the Elks Citizen of the Year award in 1995. Bob was also inducted into the History Makers Hall of Fame by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce in 2001 and the recipient of the 2005 Public Employee of the Year award.

Bob is retiring in April to devote more time to his family, but I am sure his dedication to the community of Farmington will not end. I wish him the best in retirement and thank him for his long years of service. •

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1591. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year

ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 1332. An act to improve the access to capital programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 1254. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in social security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which two-thirds of the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200, adjusted for inflation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 1255. A bill to protect Indian arts and crafts through the improvement of applicable criminal proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1256. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 1257. A bill to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1258. A bill to amend the Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978 to authorize improvements for the security of dams and other facilities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1259. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the achievement of universal basic education in all developing countries as an objective of United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 1260. A bill to protect information relating to consumers, to require notice of security breaches, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1261. A bill to amend title 10 and 38, United States Code, to repeal the 10-year

limit on use of Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. Res. 178. A resolution expressing the sympathy of the Senate to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala, and encouraging the United States to work with Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOND:

S. Res. 179. A resolution welcoming the Prime Minister of Singapore on the occasion of his visit to the United States and the 40th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), expressing gratitude to the Government of Singapore for its strong cooperation with the United States in the campaign against terrorism, and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the continued expansion of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Singapore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. Res. 180. A resolution recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Idaho Potato Commission and designating May 2007 as "Idaho Potato Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. Res. 181. A resolution honoring and recognizing the achievements of the United States Air Force Academy football program over the last 27 years; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. Res. 182. A resolution honoring the life of Jack Valenti; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. AL-EXANDER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BURR, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. GREGG):

S. Res. 183. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Charter Schools Week, April 30, 2007, through May 4, 2007; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 184. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to childhood stroke and designating May 5, 2007, as "National Childhood Stroke Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 242

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 242, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 329

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from California

(Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to promote the national security and stability of the United States economy by reducing the dependence of the United States on oil through the use of alternative fuels and new technology, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to improve Medicare beneficiary access by extending the 60 percent compliance threshold used to determine whether a hospital or unit of a hospital is an inpatient rehabilitation facility under the Medicare program.

S. 578

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve requirements under the Medicaid program for items and services furnished in or through an educational program or setting to children, including children with developmental, physical, or mental health needs, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 588

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 588, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase the Medicare caps on graduate medical education positions for States with a shortage of residents.

S. 589

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 589, a bill to provide for the transfer of certain Federal property to the United States Paralympics, Incorporated, a subsidiary of the United States Olympic Committee.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator

from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 604, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the certain costs of health care services under the health care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 624

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide waivers relating to grants for preventive health measures with respect to breast and cervical cancers.

S. 689

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and expand the charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the Medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 695

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 695, a bill to amend the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 to allow for certain claims of nationals of the United States against Turkey, and for other purposes.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 725

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 725, a bill to amend the Non-Indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to reauthorize and improve that Act.

S. 755

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 755, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to