ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PRUDENTIAL AWARD MASSACHUSETTS HONOREES

- Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today it is my pleasure to congratulate and honor two young Massachusetts students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Alyssa Bickoff of Brookline and David Poritz of Amherst have been named State honorees in the 2007 Prudential Spirit of Community award program. One high school student and one middle school student from each State are honored annually.

Alyssa Bickoff, an eighth-grader at Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton, is being honored for her efforts in raising nearly $25,000 to help find a cure for ALS, or Lou Gehrig’s disease. Alyssa’s father lost a best friend to the neuromuscular disease, which motivated her commitment to help raise money to fund the research necessary to find a cure. Alyssa raised this money by personally selling bracelets and wristbands and participating in fund-raising walks. The money that Alyssa raised has been used not only to fund research, but has also purchased wheelchairs and mobility items for patients. Alyssa’s story is a true example of hope for a brighter America.

David Poritz, a senior at Amherst Regional High School, is recognized for founding a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping communities adversely affected by oil contamination in the Amazon River basin of Ecuador. David researched cases involving oil contamination in Ecuador. He spent a month learning to speak Spanish fluently, and then organized a drive through Massachusetts collecting 12,500 pairs of shoes for children in Ecuador. Since then, David’s organization, Esperanza International, Inc., has raised money to furnish educational materials, build schools, and provide medical supplies and support to local clinics. He has guided groups of students and teachers to the Ecuadorian jungle, spoken with Ecuadorian cancer patients, and served as a liaison for doctors and other medical specialists visiting the area. David believes in the importance of reaching out and helping those in need. His attitude and dedication to help the people of Ecuador is highly commendable and inspiring to other young Americans.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate that Americans today are less likely to make their communities better places to live, and for the positive impact they have on the lives of others. I also would like to salute other young people in my State who were named Distinguished Finalists by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for our outstanding volunteer service. They are: Matthew Chase of Dover-Sherborn High School in Dover; Kelsey Chisholm of Lynnfield High School in Lynnfield, Cieu Lan Dong of Cambridge; Elizabeth Handel of Needham High School in Needham; Greg Katz of Nipmuc Regional High School in Upton, and Courtney Mota, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional High School in Rehoboth.

All of these young people have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today’s world, and deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions inspire young Americans and—do play important roles in our communities, and that America’s community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:21 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

- H.R. 487. An act to amend the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act to provide compensation to members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for damage resulting from the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 1025. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of implementing a water supply and conservation project to improve water supply reliability, increase the efficiency of water storage, and improve water management efficiency in the Republican River Basin between Harlan County Lake in Nebraska and Milford Lake in Kansas.
- H.R. 1114. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey, to conduct a study on ground-water resources in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 1140. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement, if the extent possible, an enhanced-use lease for a homeless housing project at the Department of Veterans Affairs facility known as the Pulveda Ambulatory Care Center, located in North Hills, California, that such housing project shall be maintained as a sober living facility for veterans only, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 1377. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities for the GREAT project to reclaim, reuse, and treat impaired waters in the area of Oxnard, California.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:


At 5:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, which is an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:


The message further announced that the House intends upon its amendment to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012, and asks a conference with the Senate in disagreement over the votes of the two Houses thereon.

Ordered, that Mr. SPRATT, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. RYAN of...