

that Senator GREGG and I will certainly miss working with her on critical issues that impact so many New Hampshire residents.

Claira may be retiring from her day job but in no way is she retiring from her community. Her knowledge of New Hampshire, her warm demeanor, and her strong leadership will continue to benefit the organizations she supports. Additionally, candidates—notably those seeking the highest office in the land—will turn to Claira for advice and counsel that only she can provide.

Claira is a good, true and loyal friend. A great citizen of New Hampshire, Senator GREGG and I extend our warm regards to Claira on the occasion of her retirement. We look forward to seeing her in the communities she has served and will serve.●

TRIBUTE TO PEARL D. WILLIAMS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge Councilwoman-at-large Pearl D. Williams of Slidell for being named volunteer of the year by the United Way of St. Tammany Parish. I would like to take some time to make a few remarks on her success and her contributions to Louisiana.

Councilwoman Williams has long enjoyed volunteering with various organizations in order to assist the community, especially needy children, and this award recognizes the hard work and success she has constantly rendered.

Councilwoman Williams has shown tireless dedication to the United Way. Williams has served on the St. Tammany United Way Leadership Council as a progressive, active fundraiser who helped establish various committees and celebrations in order to benefit different charities. She also served on the board of directors for the Children's Wish Endowment and as past president of the Slidell Memorial Hospital Women's Health Alliance, among many other great accolades.

Councilwoman Pearl D. Williams passed away of heart failure at the age of 64 on Thursday, May 17, 2007, at her residence. She is survived by not only proud family members but also the grateful city of Slidell who will never forget Councilwoman Williams' selfless acts of generosity and charity.

Thus, today, I rise to honor Councilwoman Pearl D. Williams so that more people can understand the kind of sacrifices she gave for others.●

RECOGNIZING LAITRAM, LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge Jay Lapeyre and Laitram, LLC, of New Orleans for receiving the Recognition of Excellence in Innovation certificate from the Louisiana Technology Council. I would also like to take a few moments to expand on Laitram, LLC, and their continued success.

The Louisiana Technology Council recently hosted their third annual

awards council and the first since Hurricane Katrina. This certificate awards local and regional leaders in new technology throughout the United States who have created a new industrial advance or service in the last 12 months, operated a new, original manufacturing process, or have received a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark office for a recent technological discovery. More than 60 nominations were submitted from public and private sectors, institutions, and individuals.

J. M. Lapeyre, the designer of the original shrimp-peeling machine in 1946, founded Laitram, LLC, and completely transformed the shrimping industry. Since its inception, his descendants have continued to carry on this tradition of improvement and modernization. Over the past 5 years, Laitram has patented more than 60 new inventions, including 16 in 2006, illustrating Laitram's commitment to innovation and the best quality for its customers and the State of Louisiana. Specifically, the Intralox Series 400 Angled Roller conveyor belt has revolutionized the industry, allowing the replacement of older technology and maintaining Louisiana's package handling applications not only in food but in other industries as well. Therefore, I congratulate Jay Lapeyre and Laitram LLC on being an inspiration to business owners everywhere, and I wish them success.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Bossier City, LA, which is celebrating its centennial anniversary, and I would like to take a few moments to publicly recognize their great history.

In the 1830s, the area of Bossier City originally encompassed the Elysian Groves Plantation of James Crane. Due to its proximity to the river, it quickly became a hotbed for trade and activity. By 1850, hundreds of wagons crossed through the vicinity on their way to the West; many settlers also stayed, realizing the land's fertile river valley and abundant farmland. Soon, interstate railway systems boomed, and Bossier became a growing metropolis. The farmers, realizing the area's potential, quickly began to sell plots of land as transportation flourished. Finally, in 1907, with its growing textile industry and expansive transportation system, Bossier City received official status as a city in Louisiana. Throughout its history, Bossier City has endured and survived many impediments, such as the great fire which consumed over half of the downtown area. In the late 1950s, Bossier was named the fastest growing city in Louisiana.

Bossier City began its centennial celebration on April 7 with the biggest birthday party that the city has ever witnessed on the banks of the city's foundation on the Red River. The initial festivities ranged from the opportunity to meet the city's oldest resi-

dent to a reception, with a 100-square-foot birthday cake. Throughout the year, the commemoration will continue with events from the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life to Barksdale Air Force Base. Over the year, residents and business owners in the city will be able to attend and plan activities that aid in representing the city's deep southern history and culture.

The centennial memorializes Bossier City's rise to one of the great cities of the State of Louisiana. Today, I want to congratulate Bossier City on the last 100 years, and I wish the residents luck and continued success and progress.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that it has passed the act (S. 676) to provide that the Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank or the Alternative Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank may serve on the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation, without amendment.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 65. An act to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1441. An act to strengthen controls on the export of surplus parts for F-14 fighter aircraft.

H.R. 2356. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on Father's Day.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 12, 2007, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 5. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 65. An act to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 1441. An act to strengthen controls on the export of surplus parts for F-14 fighter aircraft; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 2356. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to encourage the display of the flag of the United States on Father's Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-2227. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Israel; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2228. A communication from the General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's plan for the future of its workforce; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2229. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Franchising, 16 CFR Part 436; Disclosure Requirements and Prohibitions Concerning Business Opportunities, 16 CFR Part 437" (RIN3084-AA63) received on June 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2230. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Corporation's Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2231. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Department's Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2232. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Administration's Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2233. A communication from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Administration's Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2234. A communication from the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Department's Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2235. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Department's Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-114. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to provide resources to address the colony collapse disorder affecting honeybees; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 76

Whereas, Michigan and the nation's agricultural industry rely on honeybees to pollinate plants and enable the production of our nation's fruits, vegetables, seeds, and nuts. Honeybees pollinate at least 90 commercial crops and account for 80 percent of the nation's pollination services, providing \$5 billion to \$10 billion of direct benefits to United States agriculture; and

Whereas, honeybees in Michigan and 25 other states have succumbed to a mysterious ailment referred to as Colony Collapse Disorder, where honeybees abandon their hives. In affected states, beekeepers lost up to 50 percent of their colonies last winter, threatening Michigan's \$383 million fruit industry and billions of dollars of agricultural production nationwide; and

Whereas, immediate research is needed to determine the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder and assistance to Support our nation's 135,000 beekeepers and the agriculture industry from this potentially crippling threat: now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide resources to address the Colony Collapse Disorder affecting honeybees; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives, May 22, 2007.

POM-115. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan expressing opposition to Norfolk Southern Corporation's proposed sale of its rail line between Lansing and Jackson; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 96

Whereas, The Norfolk Southern Corporation is considering the sale of several Michigan lines, including the line that runs between Lansing and Jackson. Traffic on Michigan's rail lines has increased over the past two years. Expanding both freight and passenger rail service is being promoted as a solution to rising oil prices, pollution, and increased highway congestion. The sale or closure of rail lines could be counterproductive to efforts to improve Michigan's economy; and

Whereas, The Norfolk Southern lines are vital links between Michigan cities and between Michigan and neighboring states. Expanding rail capacity on the Lansing/Jackson line is essential to the future development of this area. New industry, including production plants for coal energy, biodiesel, and ethanol fuel, is proposed for Michigan and the railroad will play an integral role in moving products and supplies. Continued operation of this line by Norfolk Southern is essential to expansion of new industry in Michigan; and

Whereas, Norfolk Southern is a Class One railroad operator, earning revenue in excess of \$250 million annually. As a Class One operator, Norfolk Southern has the capacity to maintain and promote the use of these lines. The proposed sale of the Lansing to Jackson line will almost certainly place the line under the management of a Class Three operator, a rail company earning revenue of \$20 million or less annually. A Class Three operator may be far less likely to have the means to maintain the line, thus increasing the chance of accidents. Class Three operators also rely on federal grants for line and equipment maintenance—grants that are not always guaranteed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we express opposition to Norfolk Southern's proposed sale of its rail line between Lansing and Jackson; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; members of the Michigan congressional delegation; the United States Department of Transportation, Surface Transportation Board; the Norfolk Southern Corporation; AMTRAK; and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

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 Mr. HATCH:

S. 1591. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow full expensing for the cost of qualified refinery property in the year in which the property is placed in service, and to classify petroleum refining property as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 1592. A bill to reauthorize the Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 1593. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief and protections to military personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1594. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to improve port safety and security for especially hazardous cargos, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1595. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in the manner in which beds are counted for purposes of determining whether a hospital may be designated as a critical access hospital under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1596. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 South Getty Street in Uvalde, Texas, as the "Dolph S. Briscoe, Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 1597. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. ISAKSON):