

however, we must be cautious not to be overly restrictive of public access to public lands. The same holds true for natural resource management. We cannot use a one-size-fits-all management style when there are so many differing opinions on how to best utilize our domestic natural resources.

In closing, I want to again say thank you to the volunteers for their tremendous efforts to ensure that the public lands we enjoy today will be enjoyed by many, for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

RETIREMENT OF RICK DIEGEL

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the distinguished career of a man who has devoted his life to improving the welfare of working men and women.

Rick Diegel hails from Texas, where he worked as a journeyman wireman and foreman. He served his country in the U.S. Air Force from 1964 to 1968, and is a veteran of the Vietnam War. He also served three terms as the mayor pro-tem of the City of Ingleside, Texas, and was elected business manager of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 278 in Corpus Christie in 1977. He held this post until 1983, when he was appointed to the International Office of IBEW as the director of their Committee on Political Education. In 1998, he became director of the Political/Legislative Department, a position he has held to this day.

For nearly four decades, Rick has fought to improve the working and living standards for our Nation's workers. As director at the International Office, Rick spearheaded the modern political program of the union, and transformed the way that unions effect legislative change. He worked to get more IBEW members elected to office than any other union, and he established a full-time grassroots mobilization program at IBEW to give even a louder voice to workers' needs.

Throughout his career, Rick has been a forceful advocate for the approximately 750,000 members who work in a wide variety of fields, including utilities, construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government. Rick has served as a powerful champion for the labor movement, not only because he was a skillful advocate on behalf of workers, but also because he encouraged workers to make their individual voices heard. Rick understood the importance of workers engaging in the political process to elect members who made workers' rights a priority.

Rick Diegel is a dear friend and an invaluable ally in the fight to support America's workers. He has left an in-

delible mark on the country he has served his entire life, and he has improved the lives of millions of workers. I wish him a retirement full of health and happiness.●

HONORING MICHAEL HOOFFSTETTER

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize a fellow New Mexican, Michael Hooffstetter, for his hard work and advocacy on behalf of individuals living with Parkinson's disease.

Michael is in Washington this week receiving a very prestigious award from the Parkinson's Action Network, the Milly Kondracke Award. The award's namesake was a well-known Parkinson's advocate who worked tirelessly to increase awareness of this disease and support Federal funding for research until her death in 2004. The award is presented annually to an advocate who demonstrates the incredible strength of spirit and commitment to advocacy that Milly demonstrated. I am very pleased that this year's recipient is Michael Hooffstetter.

Each of the last several years, Michael and others from New Mexico have come to Washington and met with me to discuss programs that help those suffering with Parkinson's disease. As the New Mexico State coordinator for the Parkinson's Action Network, Michael speaks candidly about his disease, the treatments he has undergone, and the effect it has had on him and his family. Michael's Air Force service has given him a special interest in the Department of Defense Neurotoxin Exposure Treatment and Research Program. I have always appreciated his honesty and insight and admire him for his advocacy.

Michael Hooffstetter has helped many people by dedicating his time and efforts through the Parkinson's Action Network. I congratulate him for this award.●

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I wish today to congratulate the New Mexico affiliates of Habitat for Humanity on the completion of their 500th house. This house was built for Frances Marquez and her daughter, 11-year-old Amanda Marquez in San Pedro, NM, which is located right outside of Espanola. The Espanola and Los Alamos affiliate of Habitat for Humanity gathered 100 people from Espanola Valley to volunteer on this project and bring a real sense of community to the Marquez family's new home.

This particular house was a very special project. It involved the community not only through the volunteers who built the house, but also through the suggestions of Northern New Mexico College surveying students who helped draft the plans for the house. Drafting instructor Jeff Toomey brought this project to his class in order to give them a real-world lesson on drafting

plans for a client. Thanks to their input, this house was specially designed to meet the needs of the Marquez family.

Habitat for Humanity is responsible for the creation and rehabilitation of over 150,000 homes since its 1976 inception. In my home State of New Mexico, there are 18 affiliates of Habitat for Humanity who have improved the lives of families and communities by striving to provide safe and affordable housing. As a Senator, I am always looking for ways to help New Mexico communities be the best that they can be, and thanks to organizations like Habitat for Humanity, this common goal can be accomplished.●

TRIBUTE TO GRACE PALEY

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the recent passing of Grace Paley. Grace, who called Vermont her home, was a renowned and award-winning short story writer, a political activist, a wife and mother.

Although she spent much of each year in Thetford, VT, and we considered her an adopted Vermonter, her fiction was set in the apartments, streets and neighborhoods of New York City. Grace Paley was not attracted to the bright lights or famous personalities or glitter of New York; however, she was attracted to the quotidian lives and the interpersonal and ethical problems faced by people very like ourselves. As Grace once said, "I'm not writing a history of famous people, I am interested in a history of everyday life." She wrote about them in her two most noted collections of stories, "The Little Disturbances of Man" and "Enormous Changes at the Last Minute." And she wrote beautifully, and with great sensitivity to both the spoken language and to human relationships. Her work gathered enormous critical acclaim. She was one of the great short fiction writers of our age.

Her home in Thetford, VT, was not some weekend getaway, some means of unwinding from the hectic pace of life in the big city. For Grace, Thetford—and the State of Vermont—was a place where she could carry on her long-standing struggle for peace and for social justice. She was an active, a very active, presence in the local community. Whether it was through her long-standing commitment to bringing peace to the world or her many local readings of her fiction, Grace Paley was a presence in our lives—and a beloved local figure. She never sought the spotlight, but she did not shy away from it when she felt her cause was just. She lived her convictions and served as a model for generations of women, of Vermonters, of activists.

In recognition of her contributions to Vermont, Grace Paley was awarded the title of "Vermont State Poet" in 2003, a position that had been held previously by Robert Frost, among others. She was also awarded the title of "New York State Writer" by Mario Cuomo in

1986. It is a fitting testimony to the quality and importance of her literary work that both States, which she called home, chose to honor her in this fashion.

Grace Paley will be sorely missed, but her work, her passion for peace and justice, and her love of her fellow Vermonters will not be forgotten.●

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 and a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on September 28, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

H.R. 976. An act to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3668. An act to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA), the abstinence education program, and the qualifying individuals (QI) program, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 43. Joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

H.J. Res. 52. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3625. An act to make permanent the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency.

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bill was subsequently signed on September 29, 2007, by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BYRD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008" (Rept. No. 110-186).

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 1693, a bill to enhance the adoption of a nationwide interoperable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States (Rept. No. 110-187).

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. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2119. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DODD, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2120. A bill to authorize the establishment of a Social Investment and Economic Development Fund for the Americas to provide assistance to reduce poverty, expand the middle class, and foster increased economic opportunity in the countries of the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2121. A bill to provide funding and incentives for caregiver support and long-term care assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2122. A bill to amend title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to reduce class size through the use of highly qualified teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DOMENICI, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2123. A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2124. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 19. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per centum of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. Res. 338. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Passport Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SUNUNU, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 339. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the situation in Burma; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 340. A resolution recognizing the efforts and contributions of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 334

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 334, a bill to provide affordable, guaranteed private health coverage that will make Americans healthier and can never be taken away.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from using private debt collection companies, and for other purposes.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey