TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH ATKINS NICKERSON, JR.

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and work of Joseph Atkins Nickerson, Jr., of Chatham, MA, a retired builder and prominent local historian who passed away on November 23 at the age of 89. Joe lived his entire life in the town of Chatham. The only exception was during his service to the Navy during World War II.

Joe was a direct descendent of the founders of Chatham, and he will always be remembered for his leadership in preserving the town's history. He had an extraordinary ability to recall people, places, and dates, and his storytelling skill was legendary.

Joe was a member of numerous local sports teams in his youth, and at the age of 22 he pitched a no hit, no run, no walk, 22 strike-out perfect baseball game for the local Chatham team. He was also an original member of the Chatham Town Band, and played the clarinet beautifully in concerts and parades for over 50 years. His skills as a town musician were a great source of pride for all his family.

Joe served the town in many other ways as well. He was a volunteer fireman, a member of the School Building Committee, president and historian of the Chatham Historical Society, a founding member of the Conservation Association, president of the Boston Glass Club, and a member of the Retired Men's Club.

In recent years, Joe and his beloved wife Gerry worked together to write a book, ''Chatham Sea Captains in The Age of Sail.'' Before he passed away he was delighted to learn that his long-awaited book would be published by History Press, Inc. of Charleston, SC, in February 2008. I am sure it will be a wonderful memorial to Joe and a delight to the people of Chatham and all of us who love Cape Cod. His remarkable life and his commitment to the community will continue to inspire us all for years to come, and we mourn the passing of this amazing son of Chatham.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, 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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:37 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 bill and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 888. An act to amend section 1091 of title 18, United States Code, to allow the prosecution of genocide in appropriate circumstances.

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Patricia Q. Stonesifer as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

H.R. 236. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration.

H.R. 1759. An act to establish guidelines and incentives for States to establish arsonist registries and to require the Attorney General to establish a national arsonist registry and notification program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2930. An act to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3526. An act to include all banking agencies within the existing regulatory authority under the Federal Trade Commission Act with respect to depository institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3690. An act to provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3791. An act to modernize and expand the reporting requirements relating to child pornography, to expand cooperation in combating child pornography, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4043. An act to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to preserve and expand minority depository institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4252. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through May 23, 2008, and for other purposes.

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

H. Con. Res. 147. Concurrent resolution recognizing 200 years of research, service to the people of the United States, and stewardship of the marine environment by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 251. Concurrent resolution commending the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for its work of promoting energy efficiency for 30 years.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 236. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to create a Bureau of Reclamation partnership with the North Bay Water Reuse Authority and other regional partners to achieve objectives relating to water supply, water quality, and environmental restoration; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1759. An act to establish guidelines and incentives for States to establish arsonist registries and to require the Attorney General to establish a national arsonist registry and notification program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2930. An act to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3526. An act to include all banking agencies within the existing regulatory authority under the Federal Trade Commission Act with respect to depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3791. An act to modernize and expand the reporting requirements relating to child pornography, to expand cooperation in combating child pornography, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4043. An act to amend the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 to preserve and expand minority depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 147. Concurrent resolution recognizing 200 years of research, service to the people of the United States, and stewardship of the marine environment by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its predecessor agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H. Con. Res. 251. Concurrent resolution commending the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for its work of promoting energy efficiency for 30 years; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 2416. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the alternative minimum tax on individuals and replace it with an alternative tax individuals may choose.

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–4127. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Watermelon Research and Promotion Plan; Assessment Increase'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–07–0038) received on November 27, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4128. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mango Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Amendment to Term of Office Provision'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–07–