Bryan has reflected great credit on the State of Mississippi and I appreciate his service.●

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OMAHA STAR

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Omaha Star, the largest and oldest African-American newspaper in my home State of Nebraska. The Star is celebrating its 70th Anniversary this year.

The Omaha Star is currently distributed in 48 States, as the paper has become legendary for its civil rights work. Since its beginning, the Star has been a champion in the struggle for equal rights.

The Omaha Star was founded in 1938 by the late Mildred Brown, a remarkable person in her own right, who was also the aunt of the current publisher and editor, Dr. Marguerita L. Washington. Mrs. Brown's foresight and pioneering spirit in establishing the Star required not only a dedicated amount of time and effort, but also courage and vigilance. Her efforts paid off, as the paper continues to educate and advocate; and Mrs. Brown was posthumously inducted into the Nebraska Journalism Hall of Fame this past year.

In addition, the building housing the Omaha Star was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in January. Mrs. Brown allowed the Star to provide a home for the De Porres Club, an active civil rights organization within the North Omaha community. The Star also kept its readership apprised of the civil rights movement's successes and failures across the country by researching the issues and urging involvement.

The Omaha Star's mission states that it is ''dedicated to the service of the people that no good cause shall lack a champion and that evil shall not go unopposed.'' My fellow Nebraskans and I take great pride in knowing that the Star has faithfully abided by this mission throughout its 70 years of existence, and we will continue to follow the Omaha Star on its spirited journey to provide a voice for civil rights and equality for all.●

TRIBUTE TO LTC JOHN LUCAS

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, today, I wish to acknowledge the love and support LTC John Lucas's family has shown him during his 24 years of service in the U.S. Air Force. LTC John Lucas, an Arkansas native, will retire from the Air Force on August 1, 2008. Lieutenant Colonel Lucas attended the University of Arkansas, making me particularly proud because that is my alma mater, and his oldest son, John Lucas, is carrying on the tradition as a freshman at the university as well.

Lieutenant Colonel Lucas's wife, Coleen, wrote to me on the occasion of his retirement and asked that I write a note of thanks to their family and her husband in an effort to recognize their sacrifice and support over the last 24 year. She writes:

> While John served his country, his family and mine were both loving and supportive through times of crisis, war and peace. We had times of struggle but both of our families helped me and our children so that my husband could serve our country. Over the past 24 years, we have moved eight times, lived in 11 homes, uprooted the children from schools, moved them away from friends, and endured deployments. Through it all the one constant was family.

Our men and women in uniform have a tremendous responsibility to protect our Nation's freedoms and it is family support that helps them accomplish their mission. Sacrifice, selflessness and perseverance define the special role of a military family such as the Lucas family.

Today, I thank John C. Lucas and his family for their service to our Nation. Our country is blessed to have you John, Coleen, Kevin, Bryan and Andrea Lucas.●

RECOGNIZING DAVID STEVENS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize David Stevens, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

David is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD, and the University of South Dakota. In the fall he will attend the Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to David for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING RENÉE LATTERELL

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Renée Latterell, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Renée is a graduate of Central High School in Aberdeen, SD, and of North Dakota State University, where she majored in Spanish and international studies. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Renée for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING SAM GRIFFIN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Sam Griffin, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Sam is a graduate of Jefferson Senior High School in Alexandria, MN. Currently he is attending American University, where he is majoring in Political Science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sam for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING JONATHAN ABDNOR

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Jonathan Abdnor, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Jonathan is a graduate of Prospect High School in Mount Prospect, IL. Currently he is attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he is majoring in news editorial journalism. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Jonathan for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

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.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT TAKES ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13047 OF MAY 20, 1997—PM 45

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order