

business leader, an accomplished professional engineer, a successful entrepreneur, and a dedicated family man.

On behalf of the United States Senate, we recognize Mr. L. Robert Kimball's commitment to his community in Ebensburg, PA.●

#### TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM PEYTON HARRIS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to tell you about a wonderful and humble man, William Peyton Harris of Camden, AL, who died on February 25, 2008.

Mr. Harris was born October 22, 1909. He was a man who loved adventure and a man of many talents. He survived the Great Depression and worked some weeks for \$5 per week. He grew up in a time when good morals, good manners, and discipline were the norm.

He was very fortunate to have married Lois Sutherland who was the perfect life partner for him. She was with him for 62 years. They had one son, my friend, Billy, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

At the age of 12, he rode a horse 2½ miles to see the last steamboats loading cotton bales on the Alabama River. Then, in the early 1960s, he salvaged an old steamboat that sank in 1850 and his discovery revealed lost treasure.

He was well known in his later years for his artwork of Old South scenes and wildlife, especially the wild turkey, which he also loved to hunt. His art studio was in the back of an old country store he owned and operated for many years in Possum Bend. The store was known as the "Social Center" of Possum Bend. After renting out the country store, he concentrated more on his art. His popularity grew and in 2001, he was interviewed by CNN and the interview aired on national television. Buyers for his art increased and more visitors stopped by his studio. No matter how busy he was, there was always time for his friends and customers. Good conversation occurred on subjects from politics to weather, and from grandchildren to divorces and if you were down and out, or had a cold, he would always offer you a little of his special "remedy."

As a son of a store owner in a nearby community myself, I remember some of those times very well when as a young boy I observed such scenes, but times have changed. We are much "busier" now, though not necessarily wiser. The old store stands vacant. Only fond memories remain of the life of a wonderful man who was one of the last of a great generation.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Kathryn Tucker Windham, who is celebrating her 90th birthday on June 5, 2008. In Alabama, one of our greatest treasures is our history, which is often best learned

through the stories told by others. Alabama is lucky to have one of the world's best storytellers, Kathryn Tucker Windham, who shares her memories and observances of our State's social history in a way unlike any other. Kathryn can tell stories about graveyards and ghosts, cooking or recipes and the Gee's Bend quilters that provide her listener with a unique view into life in the rural South.

Born in Selma, AL, Mrs. Windham grew up in Thomasville, where she began her writing career at the age of 12 working for the Thomasville Times, a local weekly newspaper. After receiving her bachelor's degree from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL, Kathryn became one of the first women to cover the police beat for a major daily newspaper in the South at the Alabama Journal. She also worked as a reporter, photographer, and State editor for the Birmingham News and as a reporter, city editor, State editor, and associate editor for the Selma Times-Journal, where she won Associated Press awards for her writing and photography.

Kathryn is also the author of 24 books and is a playwright. She is widely recognized for storytelling abilities in classrooms, historical meetings, and storytelling events across Alabama. In addition to her writing career, Mrs. Windham worked as the community relations coordinator for the area agency on aging, which serves 12 rural counties in southwest Alabama and promoted statewide war bond drives during World War II.

Mrs. Windham's work in radio brought her a new level of notoriety, as she is now a favorite contributor to National Public Radio's program, "All Things Considered." Her tales about life in the rural South tell listeners more about our region than is widely known and have included stories about rumors of people who could kill a rattlesnake by spitting, a hailstorm in Thomasville that was supposed to have knocked the eyes out of goldfish in a pond, or the frog houses Alabama children make with cold mud.

Quoted in a 1999 article for Current magazine, Windham said of her storytelling, "It preserves a part of our Southern history maybe, our heritage. We need to know where we came from." I could not agree with her more. Kathryn Tucker Windham will leave an important legacy as a trailblazing female journalist and a chronicler of life in Alabama that I greatly admire.

I join Kathryn's three children, Kathryn Tabb Windham, Amasa Benjamin Windham, Jr., and Helen Ann Windham Hillel, and her two grandsons, David Wilson Windham and Benjamin Douglas Hillel in wishing Mrs. Windham a happy 90th birthday. Mrs. Windham is a special and unique lady, and I wish her the very best.●

#### 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.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:13 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 2712) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which I originated, it was resolved that the said bill pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

At 1:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, without amendment:

S. 2829. An act to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 17. Joint resolution directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean.

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

H.R. 752. An act to direct Federal agencies to transfer excess Federal electronic equipment, including computers, computer components, printers, and fax machines, to educational recipients.

H.R. 1771. An act to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes.

H.R. 3323. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey a water distribution system to the Goleta Water District, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3819. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for such treatment until such veterans are transferred to Department facilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4841. An act to approve, ratify, and confirm the settlement agreement entered into to resolve claims by the Soboba Band of

Luiseno Indians relating to alleged interferences with the water resources of the Tribe, to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and perform the Settlement Agreement and related waivers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5787. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to enhance authorities with regard to real property that has yet to be reported excess, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5826. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2008, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5856. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2009, 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. 300. Concurrent resolution recognizing the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 325. Concurrent resolution celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program, which began on June 15, 1958, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 334. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month.

At 6:39 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6124. An act to provide for the continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 752. To direct Federal agencies to transfer excess Federal electronic equipment, including computers, computer components, printers, and fax machines, to educational recipients; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1771. An act to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation, financial resources for the conservation programs of countries the activities of which directly or indirectly affect cranes and the ecosystems of cranes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3323. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey a water distribution system to the Goleta Water District, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3819. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for such treatment until such veterans are transferred to

Department facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5787. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to enhance authorities with regard to real property that has yet to be reported excess, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5826. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2008, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5856. An act to authorize major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

H. Con. Res. 300. Concurrent resolution recognizing the necessity for the United States to maintain its significant leadership role in improving the health and promoting the resiliency of coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H. Con. Res. 325. Concurrent resolution celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program, which began on June 15, 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. Con. Res. 334. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6124. An act to provide for the continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2420. A bill to encourage the donation of excess food to nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to food-insecure people in the United States in contracts entered into by executive agencies for the provision, service, or sale of food (Rept. No. 110-338).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 1581. A bill to establish an interagency committee to develop an ocean acidification research and monitoring plan and to establish an ocean acidification program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Rept. No. 110-339).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2482. A bill to repeal the provision of title 46, United States Code, requiring a license for employment in the business of sal-

vaging on the coast of Florida (Rept. No. 110-340).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 2307. A bill to amend the Global Change Research Act of 1990, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-341).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 563. A resolution designating September 13, 2008, as "National Childhood Cancer Awareness Day".

S. Res. 567. A resolution designating June 2008 as "National Internet Safety Month".

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1210. A bill to extend the grant program for drug-endangered children.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2982. A bill to amend the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to authorize appropriations, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEVIN from the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. Kimberly A. Siniscalchi, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Mark D. Shackelford, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Charles E. Stenner, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. John F. Mulholland, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nominations beginning with Brigadier General Stephen E. Bogle and ending with Colonel Joe M. Wells, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 29, 2008.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, to be General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr., to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Julius S. Caesar and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Garland P. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 14, 2008.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. William H. McRaven, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Michael C. Vitale, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Raymond E. Berube, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Richard R. Jeffries and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) David J. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 3, 2008.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. David F. Baucom and ending with Capt. Vincent L. Griffith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 31, 2008.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. David C. Johnson and ending with Capt. Thomas J. Moore, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 31, 2008.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Donald E. Gaddis and ending with Capt.