AUBURN LIONS CLUB COMMEMORATES CHARTER

• Ms. SNOWE. Madam President, today I pay tribute to the Auburn Lions Club which will commemorate the receipt of their charter on November 13th during their magnificent ''Charter Night.'' Although I deeply regret that I am unable to attend in person, I will be there very much in spirit!

I cannot tell this Chamber how inspired and impressed I am by the phenomenal history of the Lions Club and all it has accomplished and exemplifies to this day. For 92 years, the men and women of the Lions Club have been on the front lines of compassion and good will for countless individuals throughout America and the world with their extraordinary commitment to community and humanitarian service that has been the cornerstone of the Lions Club's exceptional mission as well as the impetus behind its founding by Melvin Jones in 1917.

Speaking of the enormous legacy of the legendary Melvin Jones, I want to take a moment to express the profound distinction I felt this past May when I was honored as a Melvin Jones fellow, the most prestigious form of recognition conferred by the Lions Club International Foundation. And I can tell you, receiving that accolade from the Lions Club which I hold in such high esteem as well as from my cousin, Duke Goranites, 1st Vice District Governor of Maine and District Governor-Elect of the Lions Club—who is like a brother to me and is the brother of my wonderful cousin, Georgia Chomas, was truly one of the most gratifying experiences of my life!

And let me just say, Duke has really outdone himself this year! Believe me, we are all well aware of how busy he is these days. His schedule could not be more rigorous as he's traveling around the State, and so I am even more grateful to Duke who not only will emcee the Charter Night event, but has been vital in helping Auburn bring this charter to fruition.

What a truly landmark accomplishment this charter represents—one that is emblematic of the initiative, generosity, and resolve of my hometown of Auburn, ME, where my roots run deep, as well as the enduring purpose of the Lions Club which has a longstanding legacy of contribution on behalf of others in Maine, America, and the world. And let me say, how pleased I was to send an American flag to the Auburn Lions Club that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of this marvelous occasion.

The Auburn Lions Club will be joining the ranks of the largest international service organization in the world which has a presence in more than 200 countries and with 1.3 million members and 45,000 clubs worldwide. They will be committed in word and deed to advancing the Lions Club motto ''we serve.'' And Melvin Jones' time-honored precept that ''you can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else'' will be in good hands in Auburn.

The Auburn Lions Club will not only celebrate their newly acquired charter status but will also install the respective officers, whose leadership throughout the process has been instrumental. In that light, I commend Adam Smith, Auburn chapter president; and Georgia Chomas, vice-president, who coordinated the Charter Night event with Sandy Tassinari. I also commend Celeste Yakawonis, second vice-president, Nicole Andree, treasurer, and Sherry Bonawitz, secretary.

I also convey my immense appreciation for the stewardship and support of Glen Aho, Auburn city manager and charter member of the Auburn Lions Club, as well as to Ron Johnson, international director of the Lions Club, Lewis B. Small, Sr., past international director, and Roger Blackstone, district governor. I also recognize the Gray/New Gloucester Lions Club for their sponsorship of the Auburn Lions Club.

In keeping with the high caliber of individuals who have dedicated their enormous time and talent to this sterling endeavor, I am proud to say, the Auburn Lions Club can already point to community projects its members will be tackling, from addressing challenges confronting Auburn school students with a focus on homeless teens to working with the Lions' statewide effort to raise funds to purchase and install a standby generator for the Good Shepherd Food Bank. The Auburn Lions Club has established a goal of raising $76,000 to match the Lions Club international grant of $75,000. To say they will be hitting the ground running is an understatement!

The achievement of this charter is a memorable moment for the Auburn Lions Club, and I have no doubt what is said of Lions Clubs throughout Maine and around the world will be said of the Auburn Lions Club many times over—''whenever we get together, problems get smaller. And communities get better.''•

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 11:26 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Chiappardi, 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. 3962. An act to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 3962. An act to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes.

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–3616. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that was discovered during an audit performed by the Air Force Audit Agency and finalized in their report dated January 30, 2007, and has been assigned Air Force case number 07—07; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–3617. A communication from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Plans), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Civilian Health Professions Scholarship Program for Mental Health Providers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3618. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation S–AM: Limitations on Affiliate Marketing; Extension of Compliance Date'' (RIN3235–AJ24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3619. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations Based on the 2008 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Additions'' (RIN0694–AE53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3620. A communication from the Director of the Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Estimates of Natural Gas and Oil Reserves, Reserves Growth, and Undiscovered Resources in Federal and State Waters off the Coast of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama''; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3621. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Further Extension of Effective Date of Normal Retirement Age Regulations for Governmental Plans'' (Notice 2009–86) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3622. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch,