

to bring people together, develop innovative programming, and mentor young leaders has helped ensure the long-term success of the Asian Chamber well beyond just her tenure.

She has been recognized by countless organizations for her business acumen and her heartfelt commitment to public service. I am proud to congratulate Vida Lin on this special day, and I wish her great success in the coming term of her presidency.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING WHITNEY WREATH

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, one of the great symbols of the winter holiday season we are just beginning is the wreath. Between the beautiful green needles and the fragrant smell, wreaths are reminders of a simpler time. And nowhere is the wreath more emblematic than my home State of Maine. Indeed, Maine is the largest producer of balsam fir wreaths in America, owed in large part to the tree's prevalence in our State's landscape. Furthermore, sales of these stunning wreaths contribute millions of dollars to the Maine economy. In recognition of these critical facts, I rise to honor the Whitney Wreath company, a renowned small business headquartered in Washington County.

Whitney Wreath is in its 21st season of producing fragrant and vivid green wreaths for display during the winter holidays. The company was started in 1988 when David Whitney, the company's founder, sold handmade wreaths from the back of a pickup truck during his teenage years. Two decades later, Whitney Wreath is now America's largest mail-order wreath company, selling its products through its own Web site, as well as several other catalogues and outlets including QVC. Incredibly, its wreath sales are now in the hundreds of thousands each year. The company has nine facilities throughout the State, and is in the process of building a tenth to improve productivity. And this year, despite the turbulence in our Nation's economy and an uncertain employment picture, Whitney Wreath was able to hire 250 additional employees over last season because of a substantial new contract.

Decorated with a range of colorful and timely ornaments, such as pine cones, Maine blueberries, sleigh bells, and of course bright red bows, Whitney's wreaths are nothing short of spectacular. Made using fresh Maine balsam fir, the smell of a Whitney wreath is unmistakable, and an outstanding symbol of the season it represents. The company also manufactures a range of Christmas centerpieces and the unique Maine Kissing Ball, consisting of "snow" covered pine cones combined with brilliant red berries.

Whitney Wreath has been celebrated over the years for its commitment to

quality wreaths. In 2007, the Small Business Administration honored the company with its Jeffrey H. Butland Family-Owned Business of the Year award because of the company's efforts to be involved in the community and provide critical employment opportunities to the citizens of Downeast Maine. The award also paid homage to David Whitney's other small businesses, Whitney's Blueberries and Whitney's Tool Shed.

Finally, in the spirit of the holiday season, it is fitting to acknowledge the magnanimous work Whitney Wreath is doing to support our Nation's breast cancer survivors. Last year, the company asked Facebook users to join the fight against breast cancer and for every 20 people who joined, Mr. Whitney pledged to bring special wreaths with pink ribbons to survivors of the disease. On December 22, 2008, after almost 500 people took his message to heart, David Whitney arrived at Cancer Care of Maine in Brewer with 30 special wreaths.

This year, Mr. Whitney has promised to donate 25 percent of every breast cancer awareness wreath purchased to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The company has also announced that it will donate 20 percent of the proceeds from the sales of its Original Christmas Wreaths to the National Autism Association. As we work to combat these terrible illnesses, I am proud to have caring and thoughtful individuals like David Whitney doing their own part to encourage and support those afflicted.

A downeast staple for nearly a quarter of a century, Whitney Wreath has become a leader in its field by combining attention to detail and concern for the community. I thank David Whitney and everyone at Whitney Wreath for all they do to lift our spirits during the holiday season, and wish them many more years of success.●

##### TRIBUTE TO KENNETH CHRISTOPHER SATTERLEE

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kenneth Christopher Satterlee, 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.

Kenny is a graduate of La Jolla High School in San Diego, CA. Currently he is attending the American University, where he is majoring in history. 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 Kenny 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 and a withdrawal 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 11:15 a.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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1319. An act to prevent the inadvertent disclosure of information on a computer through certain "peer-to-peer" file sharing programs without first providing notice and obtaining consent from an owner or authorized user of the computer.

H.R. 1854. An act to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 to modify an environmental infrastructure project for Big Bear Lake, California.

H.R. 2134. An act to establish the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission.

H.R. 2221. An act to protect consumers by requiring reasonable security policies and procedures to protect data containing personal information, and to provide for nationwide notice in the event of a security breach.

H.R. 2278. An act to direct the President to transmit to Congress a report on anti-American incitement to violence in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2711. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the transportation of the dependents, remains, and effects of certain Federal employees who die while performing official duties or as a result of the performance of official duties.

H.R. 3224. An act to authorize the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan, design, and construct a vehicle maintenance building at the vehicle maintenance branch of the Smithsonian Institution located in Suitland, Maryland, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4165. An act to extend through December 31, 2010, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

H.R. 4217. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

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

H. Con. Res. 199. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the redesignation of Company E, 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment of the United States Army and the sacrifice of the soldiers of Company E and their families in support of the United States.

H. Con. Res. 206. Concurrent resolution commending the soldiers and civilian personnel stationed at Fort Gordon and their