

Seabrook and all of New Hampshire when he won a bronze medal in the men's halfpipe competition. We are all very proud of Andrew Weibrecht, who won bronze in the Super-G, and Hillary Knight, who took silver with her team.

Of course, the State is still celebrating Bode Miller, who, by winning a gold, silver, and bronze medal on the Whistler slopes, became the most decorated American alpine skier in history.

But I am proud of every Granite Stater who represented our country in these Games. As someone in elected office, I can tell you that not every race goes exactly how you would like. What is important is that each of you has achieved so much through focus and hard work, far away from the spotlight. You represent the best of our State.

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize Tyler Walker of Franconia and Chris Devlin-Young of Campton, who will be skiing for Team USA later this week at the Vancouver Paralympic games. The Paralympic games continue to shine as an example to the world of what each of us can achieve. Thank you for representing our State and our country. Good luck.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the University of New Mexico men's basketball team for achieving a second straight Mountain West Conference title.

The team's accomplishments include a school record 28 wins, including 10 road wins this season. In addition, their remarkable achievements include 14 consecutive victories and top 10 rankings in both the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls.

Renowned for passionate fans, the University of New Mexico men's basketball team dedication to character and teamwork has brought tremendous pride to the people of New Mexico and offers our country a reflection of this spirit.

I also wish to commend the leadership of senior cocaptain Roman Martinez for his excellence in the classroom and his contributions to the community. As an Academic All-American, Roman exemplifies the true character of a student-athlete. Knowing Roman's dedication to service in the community, it is clear that his role in this most worthy pursuit will be even greater in the years to come.

Along with my fellow New Mexicans, I wish these students much success as they prepare to compete in the Mountain West Conference and NCAA tournaments, and I applaud their achievements.●

DR. MIKE LOOPER

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Dr. Mike Looper of

Greenwood for being named the Agriculture Research Service National Scientist of the Year for 2009. Dr. Looper, an animal scientist at the Dale Bumpers Small Farm Research Center, is the first Arkansan to receive the Herbert L. Rothbart Outstanding Early Career Research Scientist Award, which goes to the top scientist who has worked for less than 7 years.

I commend Dr. Looper for his research on how improved livestock management can have a positive economic impact on our rural farmers. Through his research efforts, Dr. Looper represents the best of our Arkansas values: hard work, dedication, and perseverance. He also inspires the next generation of Arkansas leaders as an adjunct instructor of biology and physiology at the University of Arkansas.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our Arkansas agriculture community. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly \$15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

I salute Dr. Looper and the entire Arkansans agriculture community for their hard work and dedication.●

RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS RED CROSS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today, during Red Cross Month, I salute the efforts of the Arkansas Red Cross. The men and women who work in support of our local Red Cross chapters are part of a global network that mobilizes during the most devastating of times. They provide comfort and care for those who need it most, whether that need is clothing, shelter, or blood.

The Arkansas Red Cross exemplifies our Arkansas values of humanity, compassion, and a spirit of giving. Many times throughout the years, I have seen the good work of our Arkansas Red Cross first hand. The sacrifice and commitment they make is to be acknowledged and celebrated. On behalf of the people of our State, I thank everyone in the Arkansas Red Cross family, from volunteers to staff members to donors of blood or financial resources.

Since 1943, the President of the United States has proclaimed March as "Red Cross Month." President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation, recognizing the American Red Cross as a true reflection of the humanitarian and volunteer spirit and calling on Americans to "rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross."

Mr. President, communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need, and the Red Cross depends on the support of the public to achieve its mission.●

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN WATTS

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate Kevin Watts of McGehee, AR, for being named Ginner of the Year by the Southern Cotton Ginners Association. Kevin is an excellent example of Arkansas's agriculture tradition. After working with his father in a cotton gin, Kevin knew by the time he graduated from high school what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas's economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly \$15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

Our farm families are critical to our Nation's economic stability. Agriculture is one of the leading U.S. industries in exports, with a trade surplus of \$23 billion in fiscal year 2009. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families are able to maintain their livelihoods and continue to help provide the safe, abundant, and affordable food supply that feeds our own country and the world and that is essential to our own economic stability.

I salute Kevin and all Arkansas farm families for their hard work and dedication.●

REMEMBERING DIANA TILLION

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Diana Tillion, of Halibut Cove, AK. I am saddened to report that Diana, a true Alaskan spirit and invaluable public servant, passed away at home, with her family surrounding her, on February 3, 2010, at the age of 81. Diana is remembered by those who knew her as a beloved wife and mother, public servant, teacher, writer, poet, and friend. She is treasured by the people back home as an incredible artist who depicted Alaska's beauty in a unique way. Diana had the ability to create a window through her art—a window into the impressive and untamed landscape of our great State. Any one of her pieces could draw you into that scene and that moment in a meaningful and memorable way.

Alaska is a vast open land full of breathtaking scenery, wild animals, and diverse terrain. It is also a place that is rich in culture. From Alaska's native peoples and the traditions passed down by their ancestors, to the pioneers of the gold rush, to Alaskans who are breaking new ground today—it is not a place for the faint of heart. Alaskans take pride in this, and Diana Tillion undoubtedly understood this sense of pride and shared in it with us.

Diana was born in Paradise, CA on June 1, 1928. She migrated north to the

territory of Alaska at the age of 11 in 1939, when her stepfather and mother found work at the Independence Gold Mine outside of Palmer, AK. In 1942 her family moved to Homer, AK. Before graduating from high school in 1948, Diana had already gained attention and praise for her art. In her teens Diana won a juror's choice award for a painting and was paid \$100 a great amount at that time—to paint a mural of Homer in the old Yah Sure Club saloon. She was recognized as a promising artist and began studying art by correspondence, since, at that time, there was no road access to Homer and the lower Kenai Peninsula. As a young woman, Diana left Alaska to study under the prominent artists of the time in New York, London, and Paris.

In 1952, Diana married an Alaskan commercial fisherman and the love of her life, Clem Tillion. Clem proposed to Diana on their first date, and they spent 59 wonderful years together. Clem and Diana built their life together in Halibut Cove, a small scenic community located on the south shore of Kachemak Bay in Prince William Sound—a 6-mile trip by boat from Homer. The Tillions had four children: William, Marian, Martha, and Vincent. When Alaska celebrated statehood in 1958, Clem became active in the State legislature and served in both the House and Senate. Diana was a key supporter in Clem's political career and successfully moved four children back and forth between Halibut Cove and Juneau when the State legislature was in session. She maintained their education as well as her career in the arts throughout this time. Her son Vincent has said that she "supported [Clem] wholeheartedly in a way many wouldn't be able to do". The special friendship between Clem and Diana Tillion was well recognized among political colleagues and friends in Juneau.

In 1958 Diana discovered a new medium, distinguishing herself as the first and only known artist to paint with octopus ink. A biologist friend helped her perfect the extraction process so that removing the ink caused no harm to the creatures found in the lagoon near her home. Once removed, the ink naturally regenerates. Diana was fascinated by how the color of the ink shifted from animal to animal—from purple to gold to green. She built an art gallery in Halibut Cove that drew many visitors and renowned artists to the small community over several decades. It was said that Diana turned Halibut Cove into an "isolated haven" for Alaska's artists. Diana's work was featured in a solo exhibit at the Anchorage Museum in 1971 and her work was shown across the country. She published six books, served as the vice president of the Alaska Council on the Arts and taught art at Homer Community College for 10 years. Diana influenced many Alaskans through her compassion for art and public service. Her living legacy is apparent today through

her work, family, and those who were fortunate enough to have known her.

You can go through life and meet thousands of people, but it is rare to meet someone as exceptional as Diana. She was a pioneer, in the truest sense of the word. A lover of Alaska and the people. Diana painted her last picture just 8 days before she passed away. She is survived by her husband Clem, their four children, grandchildren, and friends. Alaskans back home, myself included, are proud of the legacy that is Diana's life and work. The person she was and the beautiful art she left with us will forever be cherished.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I am proud to recognize and thank Diana Rutzebeck Tillion for her passion for life and her family, her originality, and years of giving to her community. I extend my condolences and sincere sympathy on her passing to her family, friends, and students.●

TRIBUTE TO CARL TUBBESING

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today I honor Carl Tubbesing, executive director of the National Conference of State Legislatures, NCSL, on the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of service. Carl's dedication to the ideals of federalism has been steadfast and unwavering during the course of his time at NCSL, and his accomplishments have been many. His tireless commitment to maintaining the balance among Federal, State and local governments undoubtedly has made a positive impact in the lives of many.

I am fortunate to have worked with Carl during my days as chairman of the National Governors Association. Together, we fought to maintain a healthy relationship between Federal and State governments, and to ensure that the folks in Washington adhered to the same ideals of federalism in which we believed.

In 1986, I made a speech as mayor of Cleveland lamenting the fact that while Constitutional federalism was alive in theory, it had died in practice. We have made great progress since I gave that speech more than 20 years ago. The comeback story of federalism and our success in the proper delineation of responsibility from Federal centralization to local control is due, in no small part, to Carl's perseverance and hard work.

Carl's efforts to devolve authority for domestic policy from the Federal to State level paid off, most notably, with the passage of several major pieces of legislation. These include the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Reform Act, welfare reform, and Medicaid reforms.

It is my privilege to recognize Carl Tubbesing for his diligent commitment to federalism and dedicated service to the National Conference of State Legislatures, and to congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3092. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5070 Vegas Valley Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada, as the "Joseph A. Ryan Post Office Building".

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-4984. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tomatoes Grown in Florida; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket Nos. AMS-FV-09-0063; FV09-956-2 FIR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 8, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4985. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4986. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4987. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4988. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations (75 FR 7956)" ((44 CFR Part 65)(Docket No. FEMA-2010-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4989. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management