

emulate his commitment to our country. Mr. President, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of SSG Lex Lewis. He will be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING BOB STENEHJEM

• Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I honor the life and exemplary service of North Dakota's late Senate majority leader Bob Stenehjem. Bob died last week in a car accident in Alaska on his way back from doing one of the things he loved best when not working: fishing in the great outdoors.

During the 10 years he served as majority leader of the North Dakota Senate and the nearly 20 years he served as a State senator, I counted Bob as a friend, a colleague, and a partner in the important work we were doing to build a stronger, more dynamic North Dakota.

It has been said many times by many people that Bob had the ability to see all sides of an issue and appreciate everyone's interest. That is an invaluable quality for a leader and essential to a good legislator. He worked well with others and considered among his dearest friends many on the opposite side of the aisle who held a different philosophical viewpoint. Bob could disagree without being disagreeable and always respected the opinions of others. It was that ability that helped him to forge good legislation for the people of North Dakota.

As a public servant, as a citizen, Bob's deep love of North Dakota informed every decision he made in the legislature, and his legacy today is a more vibrant and secure State than it was when he was first elected to represent District 30 in 1993. His remarkable service and devotion to North Dakota benefited our State and our people in countless ways over the years, helping to bridge differences and improve the quality of life for all North Dakotans.

Mikey and I extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Kathy and the entire Stenehjem family on this tragic loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them, and we pray that they will take comfort in knowing that he served his State and his fellow North Dakotans well.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. MAX HARRY WEIL

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I wish to note the golden anniversary of an event that has saved thousands and thousands of lives.

It was 50 years ago this year that the Institute of Critical Care Medicine was founded as a nonprofit public foundation at the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

Thus was born the concept that life-threatening patients have a substantially better chance of survival if minute-to-minute care is provided by highly trained physicians and nurses in emergency rooms and in special intensive care, coronary care, and post-operative care units.

This concept that dangerously ill patients have a better chance at recovery under the care of specially trained physicians and nurses in emergency rooms and intensive care units is standard today but it was revolutionary in 1961.

Considered one of the fathers of critical care medicine who founded the Institute of Critical Care Medicine a half century ago, Dr. Max Harry Weil is also the founding president of the Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine that continues to operate in Rancho Mirage, CA.

My colleague, Senator BARBARA BOXER would like to join me in recognizing Dr. Weil and his institute and offer our congratulations on a half century of medical success and best wishes on many more successful years to come.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator NELSON, in recognizing an extraordinary Californian who has done so much, not just to save lives in his community but to advance the practice of medicine in order to save lives around the world.

Recognized as one of the fathers of critical care medicine, 50 years ago Dr. Weil cofounded the Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine, an international center for clinical education and research in Rancho Mirage, CA.

The institute is renowned for conducting groundbreaking research into finding new ways of monitoring and dealing with life-threatening circulatory shock, heart failure, acute lung failure and infections.

In addition to this impressive record, Dr. Weil led the institute's work in training members of the community in CPR, giving thousands of Californians the basic training they need to help save lives.

I know that I join thousands of Californians and patients who have benefited from Dr. Weil's work many of them without even knowing it in thanking him for his dedication and his service to our Nation.●

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 Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS—PM 15

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report and papers; 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 (the "order") declaring a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat that significant transnational criminal organizations pose to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Organized crime is no longer a local or regional problem; it has become a danger to international stability. Significant transnational criminal organizations have become increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the United States, and their activities have reached such scope and gravity that they destabilize the international system. These groups have taken advantage of globalization and other factors to diversify their geographic scope and range of activities. They have increased and deepened their ties to governments and the international financial system, relying not only on bribery and violence, but also more and more on the ability to exploit differences among countries and to create and maintain legal facades to hide illicit activities.

The specific harms that significant transnational criminal organizations threaten today are many. They corrupt—and in some cases co-opt—governments, thereby destabilizing them and weakening democratic institutions and the rule of law. They threaten U.S. economic interests by subverting, exploiting, and distorting legitimate markets, and could gain influence in strategic sectors of the world economy.

Significant transnational criminal organizations that engage in cybercrime threaten sensitive public and private computer networks, undermine the integrity of the international financial system, and impose costs on the American consumer. Those that engage in the theft of intellectual property not only erode U.S. competitiveness, but also endanger the public health and safety through the distribution of tainted and counterfeit goods. Many of them also engage in drug trafficking.

Finally, significant transnational criminal organizations increasingly support the activities of other dangerous persons. Some of these organizations are involved in arms smuggling, which can facilitate and aggravate violent civil conflicts. Others are