

Sundlun, appointed George and a handful of other stakeholders to a task force that was given a bold directive: Reduce the cost of the system without reducing benefits. As Governor Sundlun's legal counsel at the time, I had the honor of leading the task force, but I relied greatly on George for his expertise on the system. Working together with our colleagues, we were able to develop a plan that protected workers, reduced costs, eliminated pending rate increases, stabilized the workers' compensation market, eliminated fraud, and prevented a collapse of the system.

One of the hallmarks of the reform was the creation of the Workers' Compensation Court, which hears and decides all disputes involving an injured employee and an employer relating to workers' compensation benefits. Governor Sundlun appointed George to be among the inaugural class of the court's judges after its creation in 1991. George was then appointed chief judge by Governor Don Carcieri in 2004.

Now, as George Healy looks back on his career, I hope he will rule it a success. I certainly do. The reforms he helped lead reduced average claim costs in Rhode Island from \$12,638 in 1991 to just \$5,179 in 2007. The reduction came about not from benefit cuts but from system reforms, quick court action, injury prevention, and getting people quickly back to work. A 2009 report by the International Workers' Compensation Foundation put it this way: "When both claim frequency and severity are considered (taking into account all employees, whether or not injured) . . . Rhode Island stands out as the state with the lowest average medical cost per employee per year in the entire country." Because of George's work, Rhode Island is now a model system for the rest of the country.

In short, thanks in large part to George's hard work and his years of service on the bench, Rhode Island workers can rest assured that, if they get hurt on the job, their State's insurance program will be there for them. That is a proud and meaningful legacy to leave behind. In addition to all of George's accomplishments on the bench, I will always remember him for his humility, gentle demeanor, and respect toward those who appeared before him. I will also be grateful for his friendship through the years, and I hope George enjoys many peaceful years of retirement, knowing that his efforts have improved the lives of countless others. I wish him the best as he enjoys much deserved family time with his lovely wife Ruth, his son Tim and his wife Jewel, his son Paul and his wife Meghan, and George's three grandchildren, Quinn, Jack, and Charlotte. Godspeed, my friend.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the title of the bill (H.R. 22) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, further, that the House insists upon its amendment to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints the following Members as managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House amendment and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SHUSTER, DUNCAN of Tennessee, GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Messrs. CRAWFORD, BARLETTA, FARENTHOLD, GIBBS, DENHAM, RIBBLE, PERRY, WOODALL, KATKO, BABIN, HARDY, GRAVES of Louisiana, DEFAZIO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Messrs. CUMMINGS, LARSEN of Washington, CAPUANO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Messrs. LIPINSKI, COHEN, and SIRES.

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-3480. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acetamidiprid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9936-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3481. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2015-0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3482. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Ef-

iciency Standards for New Federal Commercial and Multi-Family High-Rise Residential Buildings' Baseline Standards Update" ((RIN1904-AD39) (Docket No. EERE-2014-BT-STD-0047)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3483. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting proposed legislation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3484. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Control of Petroleum Liquid Storage, Loading and Transfer" (FRL No. 9936-72-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3485. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; North Carolina Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9936-60-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3486. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Major Source Permitting State Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9936-45-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3487. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 9933-71-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3488. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Test Methods; Error Correction" (FRL No. 9936-54-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3489. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; TN; Knox County Emissions Statements" (FRL No. 9936-57-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3490. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; TN; Reasonably Available Control Measures and Redesignation for the TN Portion of the Chattanooga 1997 Annual PM2.5 Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9936-55-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.