

for the increased spending by cutting a corresponding amount of Federal spending. Rather, it raises the filing fees imposed on litigants.

The sponsors of the legislation have argued, based on caseload statistics, that these districts have some of the highest caseloads in the country. That may be true if you believe that the caseload statistics accurately describe how busy a particular district is. I am not arguing, today, that these statistics are necessarily inaccurate, but I would simply note that there have been some questions raised over the years regarding how well those statistics describe the caseloads. Regardless, based on those same statistics, there are other districts that are slow and getting slower.

If we conclude that some districts are disproportionately busy, and therefore conclude that we should increase the number of judgeships in those districts, then it only makes sense to offset the increase in judgeships by reallocating judicial resources away from districts that are slow. For this reason, I offered an amendment in the Judiciary Committee that would have reduced the number of judgeships in other districts by a total of 10. I will not take the time here to go through the statistics in each of the districts where I proposed eliminating judgeships. Suffice it to say, in each district slated for a reduction, the caseloads have decreased over the last 5 years, with the exception of 1 district, where the caseload has remained flat. And, even after you reduce the number of judgeships in these districts, they would still have caseloads that are well below the national average, across all 94 districts. If we are going to add judgeships, I believe this is the most appropriate way to do it.

The amendment I proposed in committee would also have delayed the effective date for the creation of the new judgeships until after the next Presidential election. Because none of us knows for certain who will be sworn in as President in January 2013, delaying the effective date would remove politics from the debate. Not only would it remove politics from the discussion, but it is consistent with how this issue was handled in the past. For instance, when the chairman of the committee introduced legislation to create additional judgeships during the 110th Congress, this is the approach he embraced.

Finally, I would note that the sponsors of the bill agreed to adopt a separate amendment I offered in the Judiciary Committee that would extend Whistleblower protection to Judicial Branch employees. This is an improvement. My amendment ensures that Judicial Branch employees are not simply left without redress when they face retaliation for blowing the whistle on fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. While I appreciate the bill's sponsors' willingness to adopt my amendment, and I believe it is an im-

provement, the underlying legislation remains deeply flawed for the reasons I have discussed. Therefore, I must oppose it. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BRUCE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, John Bruce will retire as the associate director for the Support Equipment Product Support Integration Development on December 3, 2011, his 94th birthday. His retirement is particularly noteworthy because John enjoys the distinction of being the oldest and longest-serving employee of the U.S. Army. This momentous occasion will be fittingly marked by a celebration in his honor with his colleagues, family and friends in Warren.

John Bruce began his service in the U.S. Army in 1942 during World War II as a member of the Army Signal Corps. He was stationed in the South Pacific as an intercept operator. After being honorably discharged in 1946, John began his civilian career at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI as a cost/price analyst. In the ensuing decades, Mr. Bruce has held a number of positions of increasing responsibility at the Detroit Arsenal. He was an integral contributor to the reorganization of the Defense Department and helped to consolidate and centralize the Military Services field activities, which later became the Defense Logistics Agency.

John Bruce has dedicated his life to serving our country and has accomplished much in his long and illustrious career. John's accomplishments throughout his career have been publicly recognized through a number of citations and awards, including the 1975 Secretary of the Army Award; 1983 Commanders Award for Exceptional Civilian Service; 1990 Meritorious Civilian Service Award; 1991 Achievement Medal for Superior Civilian Service; and 2002 Department of the Army Decoration for Exceptional Service.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating John Bruce and honoring his distinguished record of service to our country as he retires on his 94th birthday. John has left a lasting impact on our Nation's security, and he will be deeply missed by his colleagues. I wish him the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. VIVIAN PINN

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, please allow me to join with family, friends, and colleagues in extending my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Vivian Pinn on her retirement as Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health after two decades of exceptional service for women in our Nation.

First and foremost, let me say it has not only been a privilege to work with

her over the years to advance women's health policy, but to call her my friend as well. In fact, just this past February, Vivian was in my office where I had the extraordinary honor of receiving the prestigious Women's Health Research Visionary Award. As one of two recipients this year the other being my good friend and colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland, one of the Senate's greatest advocates and indeed voices for women, I can tell you this is an accolade I will cherish forever. And that it was presented to me by such a remarkable woman made the occasion all the more poignant and special.

Indeed, Vivian is as phenomenal as she is inspirational—and her monumental legacy at the National Institutes of Health and across the country will reverberate for generations. Nearly 20 years after she first took the helm of the Office of Research on Women's Health and a career later, it is incredible to see how far we have come due in no small part to her indelible efforts as a legendary and tireless advocate.

Simply put, Vivian paved the way in America for women's health research and continues to be an unrivaled force for the greater good. In addition to her many accomplishments at the Office of Research on Women's Health, her numerous awards and honors—including her induction as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1994, the Elizabeth Blackwell award from the American Medical Women's Association, and her election to the Institute of Medicine in 1995, just to name a few—are truly indicative of her selfless and boundless commitment. And we couldn't be more grateful.

The timeline of America's consciousness about women's health fittingly parallels Vivian's unmatched trajectory of public service in medicine. In 1990—with Vivian's help and my strong support in close bipartisan, bicameral collaboration with Representative Pat Schroeder—with whom I cochaired the Congress—Caucus for Women's Issues, Representative Connie Morella who succeeded me as co-chair, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI—our vital compatriot in the Senate, as well as dedicated patient advocates across the country, the groundbreaking Office of Research on Women's Health was established at the National Institutes of Health, with Vivian as the first full-time director in 1991.

Throughout her tenure, she worked endlessly to ensure that women's health became a priority at the National Institutes of Health, and have helped increase the number of women in leadership roles in research and academic institutions. Working with Vivian, our allies in Congress, leaders at the National Institutes of Health like Dr. Bernadine Healy, the former director who sadly passed away in August, as well as many other stakeholders nationwide, we secured more funding and greater attention to breast cancer, osteoporosis, ovarian and cervical cancer research through groundbreaking

programs like the Women's Health Initiative.

Vivian, you are a trailblazer, a pioneer, a visionary, and frankly, an icon of medicine. You saw what others could not see and led where others would not act, and for that we are forever in your debt. You have my very best wishes and my profound gratitude for all you have achieved for women and the Nation.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts as Vivian embarks on this next chapter in her life.●

RECOGNIZING ISLANDPORT PRESS

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, small businesses are the backbone of America's economy. These small firms, which number over 27 million, endeavor to create jobs and bring a sense of fiscal security into their local communities. That alone is commendable, but what is truly rare among small businesses is the one that seeks to promote their home State's vast historical and cultural heritage, igniting a sense of deep pride in the community and sharing this pride with others. With this rare quality in mind, today I recognize and commend Islandport Press, an independent book publisher, located in the coastal Maine town of Yarmouth.

Eleven years ago, Dean Lunt had a dream of publishing books which detail the historical and cultural riches of Maine and New England. Growing up in Maine, Dean's grandmother encouraged him to write and share, with the rest of the world, the history of their own Long Island, a small island located off the coast of Maine. This inspired Mr. Lunt to write and publish Islandport Press's first book "Hauling by Hand: The Life and Times of a Maine Island." This first book sold 3,000 copies, and inspired Mr. Lunt to continue publishing several books, always with an eye on increasing awareness about this historic region of our country.

In its efforts to continually develop and grow, Islandport Press has expanded into the ever vast literary world, publishing several categories of books that reflect the vast diversity of New England's people and places, and has simultaneously established itself as an award-winning publisher for children's books. In 2010, Islandport Press was honored with its first Moonbeam Children's Book Award, receiving the gold medal award in the category of Picture Book, All Ages, for "The Fish House Door" by Robert F. Baldwin and illustrated by Astrid Sheckels. Moonbeam Children's Book Awards honor exemplary children books with the goal of increasing childhood literacy and inspiring life-long reading. There are 38 award categories, ranging from Pictures Books, to Pre-Teen Fiction, to Best Book By A Young Author.

This year, Islandport Press was again honored with three books receiving awards. "Mercy" by Sarah Thompson was awarded the silver medal for Young Adult Fiction-Horror/Mystery;

"Farmyard Alphabet" by Dahlov Ipcar was awarded the bronze medal for Best Board Book; and "My Cat, Coon Cat" by Sandy Fuller and Jeannie Brett, was awarded a silver medal in Best Picture Book for Ages 4-8. While these awards are certainly remarkable accomplishments for the individual authors and illustrators, they are also a testament to the keen eye that Dean has for promising and talented authors who offer substantive new literature.

Islandport Press is uniquely dedicated to promoting Maine and New England as part of its mission. Each Moonbeam award is a well-deserved reminder of the hard work and tireless effort of a dream that Dean Lunt had, to share his piece of Maine with the world. I am proud to extend my congratulations to everyone at Islandport Press for their dedication to excellence, and offer my best wishes for their continued success.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:49 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1280. An act to amend the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, the development of a sexual assault policy, the establishment of an Office of Victim Advocacy, the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1002. An act to restrict any State or local jurisdiction from imposing a new discriminatory tax on cell phone services, providers, or property.

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

H. Con. Res. 13. Concurrent resolution reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States and supporting and encouraging the public display of the national motto in all public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following con-

current resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a correction in the enrollment of S. 1280.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 368. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify and improve certain provisions relating to the removal of litigation against Federal officers or agencies to Federal courts, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1002. An act to restrict any State or local jurisdiction from imposing a new discriminatory tax on cell phone services, providers, or property; to the Committee on Finance.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 13. Concurrent resolution reaffirming "In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States and supporting and encouraging the public display of the national motto in all public buildings, public schools, and other government institutions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and ordered placed on the calendar:

S. 1786. A bill to facilitate job creation by reducing regulatory uncertainty, providing for rational evaluation of regulations, providing flexibilities to States and localities, providing for infrastructure 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-3720. 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 "Salvage Discount Factors for 2011" (Rev. Proc. 2011-54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3721. 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 "Unpaid Loss Discount Factors for 2011" (Rev. Proc. 2011-53) received during adjournment of the Senate