The small investment a mentor makes in the life of a child exponentially increases the success of a child's future and the success of the community. National Mentoring Month is particularly significant for Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City because it offers a special opportunity for the organization to raise awareness of the power of mentoring and recruit volunteer mentors, which are critical to its mission of providing children with caring adult role models. By upholding the principles of volunteerism and academics, we continue creating positive opportunities for the next generation.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the month of January as National Mentoring Month so we may continue to honor the important work that organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City play in making our Nation a better and more prosperous place.●

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.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2041. A bill to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project and provide for environmental protection and government oversight.

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–4786. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Suspending Random Row Diversion Regulations Under the Marketing Order for Tart Cherries'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–11–0047; FV11–930–1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4787. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 1 (Scotch) and Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2011–2012 Marketing Year'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–10–0094; FV11–985–1A IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4788. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–11–0057; FV11–906–1 FR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4789. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''United States Standards for Grades of Frozen Okra'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–07–0100; FV11–327) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4790. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico; Decreased Assessment Rate'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–11–0077; FV11–983–2 IR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4791. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Direct Single Family Housing Loans and Grants'' (RIN0575-AC81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4792. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals)'' (FRL No. 9329–9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–4793. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Final Flood Elevation Determinations'' ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA–2011–0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4794. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4795. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–4796. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and Delisting Branch, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revising the Listing of the Gray Wolf (Canis lupus) in the Western Great Lakes'' (RIN1018-AX57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4797. 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 Disapproval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Infrastructure and Interstate Transport Requirements for the 1997 Ozone and the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS'' (FRL No. 9613–7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4798. 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; Oklahoma; Interstate Transport of Pollution'' (FRL No. 9613–2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4799. 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 Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Mexico; Albuquerque/Bernalillo County; Prevention of Significant Deterioration; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule Revisions'' (FRL No. 9613–3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4800. 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 State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of Florida; Control of Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerator (HMIWI) Emissions from Existing Facilities'' (FRL No. 9611–8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4801. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units and Standards of Performance for Fossil-Fuel-Fired Electric Utility, Industrial-Commercial-Institutional, and Small Industrial-Commercial-Institutional Steam Generating Units'' (FRL No. 9611–4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 12, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4802. 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 ''Damages on Account of Personal Physical Injuries or Physical Sickness'' (TD 9573) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 26, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.