

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE ON ITS 209TH ANNIVERSARY SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the U.S. Customs Service as it celebrates its 209th anniversary today.

As our young nation was on the verge of economic despair and in search of revenue, the First Congress passed and President George Washington signed into law the Tariff Act of July 4, 1789, which authorized the collection of duties on imported goods. This, the fifth act of the 1st Congress, established Customs and its ports of entry as the collector and protector of the revenue on July 31, 1789, essentially creating what we now know as the U.S. Customs Service.

For approximately 125 years, until the passage of the Federal Income Tax Act in 1913, Customs provided our federal government with its only source of revenue. During this time, the incoming revenue from Customs funded the purchases of Alaska and Florida, and the territories of Louisiana and Oregon. In addition, Customs collections built Washington, D.C., the U.S. military and naval academies, and many of the nation's lighthouses from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. Most impressively, by 1835, Customs revenues alone reduced the national debt to zero.

Customs offices first appeared in Minnesota around 1851, seven years before Minnesota achieved statehood. Minnesota's geographical layout as head of three great navigation systems—the Red River to the North, the Mississippi to the south, the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence River to the east, and 395 miles along the Canadian border to the north—was a key to handling the traffic of people and goods that passed through these ports.

In its first year of existence, Customs collected \$2 million in revenue in 59 ports of entry. Today, the U.S. Customs Service has a total of 301 ports of entry which collect over \$20 billion annually in revenue. In addition, Customs processes over 450 million persons entering the United States each year. As for Minnesota, there are 14 ports of entry throughout the entire state. These ports of entry collected nearly \$2 billion in revenue for the U.S. Customs Service during FY 1997. Besides all the products that are processed, many people enter the United States through Minnesota. An estimated 1.1 million people have entered through Minnesota's ports of entry since last October alone. This number continues to grow at an increasing rate over previous years.

The U.S. Customs Service has grown from being the chief collector of revenue on imports into what has become our nation's first defense against the threat of terrorism, combatting the illegal drug trade, and ensuring that all imports and exports comply with U.S. laws and regulations.

Mr. President, I commend the U.S. Customs Service for its long history protecting the American public. But most of all, I want to pay tribute to the many men and women who continue to stand as symbols of national pride and enforce the mission of the U.S. Customs Service: to ensure that all goods and persons entering and exiting the United States do so in accordance with all United States laws and regulations.●

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PURPLE HEART

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to say "Happy Birthday" to the Purple Heart. The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the country, and it turns 216 years old on August 7th.

The Purple Heart honors combat-wounded veterans who have given their blood for their country. It is the only medal which is earned, not awarded. It is earned by being wounded by an enemy during a hostile action toward the United States or an ally.

I want to thank my friend, Jim Wendt of the Purple Heart in Minnesota, for bringing my attention to this important occasion. The Purple Heart was created by George Washington on August 7, 1782, almost 216 years ago, and the first three medals were awarded during the Revolutionary War.

On the Purple Heart's 216th birthday, I want to thank Jim and all my friends at the Purple Heart for all their great work. Thank you, and Happy Birthday.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. KARL K. WALLACE, JR.

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate a devoted and energetic physician for his tireless service to his patients, students, and fellow radiologists. On September 12, 1998, the American College of Radiology (ACR) will bestow the 1998 Gold Medal to Karl K. Wallace Jr., MD at their annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The prestigious Gold Medal is ACR's highest award, and will honor this distinguished doctor as a national leader as well as a dedicated servant for Radiology.

K.K., as he is known to those in medicine and Radiology, was a long time community hospital clinician at the Virginia Beach General Hospital. After 28 years as the director of the Virginia Beach General Hospital Department of Radiology, Dr. Wallace made an unusual career move. He undertook a "second career" as a professor at the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, where he is currently co-director of thoraco-abdominal imaging and the medical director of chest diagnosis.

Dr. Wallace's active commitment to medicine has been characteristic ever since his career began. Two years after starting his practice, he became an officer in the Virginia Beach Medical So-

ciety. One year later he was elected to the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of Virginia where he was speaker from 1977 to 1980. His history of service to the American College of Radiology goes back to 1967 where he was elected secretary/treasurer of the Virginia Chapter. Six years later, he served as its president and held a number of key leadership positions for the following 14 years, including speaker of the council and chairman of the Board of Chancellors.

During those 14 years, Dr. Wallace continued to lead Radiology in its efforts to work on national health policy such as physician payment reform and the Mammography Quality Standards Act. He worked with members of the U.S. Senate to develop reasonable approaches to legislation in our rapidly changing health care system. He provided honest, fair and meaningful input efforts. I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating my fellow Virginian, Dr. Wallace, on being chosen as a recipient of the Gold Medal.●

LEO B. FLAHERTY, JR.

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute a good friend to me and my family, and a pillar of the Connecticut legal and political community: Leo Flaherty of Vernon, Connecticut. Sadly, Mr. Flaherty recently died at the age of 75.

Leo Flaherty was Vernon's elder statesman. For years, young attorneys and political aspirants in town have looked to Leo Flaherty as a role model and for his advice and leadership. He was respected by all who knew him for his integrity as a lawyer, his instincts as a politician, and, in general, his strong moral character.

While remembered as possessing a great legal mind, Leo's intelligence was not limited to any one discipline. In 1942, he left Connecticut to attend Georgia Tech. A year later he received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where he was a classmate of President Jimmy Carter. After graduating from the Academy, he earned a degree in engineering from the University of Connecticut, and he worked at both Pratt & Whitney and Hamilton Standard.

But despite his ventures into engineering, there was always something drawing him to politics. It was in his blood. His father, Leo, Sr. served as a Rockville city alderman and Democratic Town Committee Chairman—a position that Leo, Jr. held for 10 years.

He held several positions in Rockville from tax collector to a member of the State Board of Education. In 1960, he became Rockville's mayor. The most significant accomplishment of his tenure in the mayor's office was managing the consolidation of Rockville with the neighboring, more rural town of Vernon. This was a controversial proposal, but Rockville had one of the worst urban poverty rates in the state, and he saw the merger of the two cities as key to Rockville's future prosperity.