May 12, 2003

Senator LOTT.

Mr. President, I would like to recognize one of the finest officers in the Navy's history, Rear Admiral William "Bill" Cobb, on the occasion of his retirement on May 15, 2003. Admiral Cobb will leave his current job as Program Executive Officers Ships after over 37 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Navy and our nation. During his time in Washington, he engaged the Congress on numerous issues vital to our national security. Today, it is my pleasure to recognize some of Bill's many accomplishments and commend him and his family for their service to the Navy and our nation.

Admiral Cobb entered military service in 1968 after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the United States Naval Academy. He continued his education at the Naval Post Graduate School where he earned a Master's Degree in Operations Research in 1975. Admiral Cobb also attended the University of Washington's Industrial College of the Armed Forces, ICAF, in 1990; the Defense Systems Management College in 1992; the Executive Program, University of Michigan, Graduate Business School in 1994; and the Executive Program in National and International Security at Harvard University in 2001.

As Executive Officer aboard USS Jouett, CG 29, Admiral Cobb shined as a leader. Even though Jouett started out last in every competitive category, Admiral Cobb's ability to motivate all levels of the chain-of-command catalyzed the ship to the fleet's number one combatant in battle readiness. He later assumed duties as Commanding Officer of USS Coats, ADG 37, where his ship provided the initial response to a distress call after USS Stark was struck by an errant Iraqi cruise missile. During his tour as Commander of Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, National Head, Naval Ordinance Command, and Commander, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Indian Head, Admiral Cobb was responsible for all of the Navy's In-Service Engineering Agents, ISEA.

Admiral Cobb also excelled in a variety of key staff assignments including Chief of Staff and Head, Fleet Introduction and Lifetime Support Division, AEGIS Program Office; a tour in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Head Readiness; Sustainability Team, OP 000; and Chief, Cruise Missile Division, Plans and Policy Directorate, Commander Atlantic Fleet, where he planned all of the Tomahawk strikes for Desert Storm. As Program Executive Officer for Theater Surface Combatants, PEO TSC, he was responsible for the development of the Navy's Theater Ballistic Missile Defense, TBMD, program, and introduction of the Cooperative Engagement Capability, CEC. On the international front, he headed shipbuilding programs with Spain, and Japan, and worked with thirteen of our closest allies on the Standard Missile program. His tremendous effort significantly enhanced our allied forces' defenses against the growing tactical ballistic missile threat. Admiral Cobb was also responsible for the life-cycle support of several ship classes including Ticonderoga Cruisers, Arleigh Burke Guided Missile Destroyers, Spruance Destroyers and Oliver Hazard Perry Frigates.

In conjunction with the Secretary of the Navy's reorganization efforts, Admiral Cobb took on the significant task of reorganizing three major Program Offices into one. Program Executive Officer for the National Defense Enterprise sole responsibility for life-cycle support for all 13 surface ship classes, the heart of our entire Navy. This new Program Office is responsible for the execution of current and future shipbuilding programs that will carry the Navy well into the 21st century including the DDG 51 Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers, the LPD 17 San Antonio Class Amphibious Ships, the Navy's future destroyers, DD(X), and LCS programs, due in large part to Admiral Cobb's leadership, will revolutionize our Navy with the availability of more lethal and agile firepower than ever before seen in history.

We wish our friend the best of luck in his undoubtedly successful future and bid him "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

(At the request of Mr. Reid, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN NICHOLAS PERUGINI

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to express my appreciation and congratulations to Captain Nicholas Perugini of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA. Commissioned Corps on the occasion of his retirement. For more than 26 years, Captain Perugini has dedicated himself to the protection of our Nation's oceans and maritime commerce through his exemplary work in NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration. He has served aboard three hydrographic survey vessels and a shore-based field party. As commanding officer of the NOAA ship Rude, Nick was in charge of the survey investigation into the grounding of the Queen Elizabeth 2. He was also a member of NOAA teams that assisted in the recovery of the TWA flight 800 and John F. Kennedy Jr. crash sites which occurred off the East Coast of the United States. Captain Perugini's commitment to and leadership of these sensitive projects has been an inspiration to the entire Department of Commerce and public service at its best. Nick consistently put aside ego and personal glory to do what is best for the Nation.
Captain Perugini now concludes his career as chief of NOAA’s Marine Chart Division. A direct result of his tenure as chief was a significant advancement in the longstanding partnership between NOAA and the Coast Guard concerning safety of navigation issues. His vision and leadership led to the advances of new technologies, moving paper charting to the electronic world.

Today, mariners know their location, in real time, on an electronic navigation system. This advance was not possible without his efforts.

With his guidance, NOAA and the Coast Guard entered into a Memorandum of Agreement, which pooled agency resources and greatly accelerated the production of Electronic Navigational Charts, ENC. He made the ENC data available to the public free, via the internet. This relationship not only saved tax dollars, but the improved navigational tools have greatly increased the safety of navigation. Captain Perugini’s work has resulted in a significant reduction in marine accidents, which has saved lives, property, and our environment from degradation.

From July 1998 to August 1999, I was pleased to have Nick as a member of my staff, as a legal fellow. His amazing work ethic, interpersonal skills, commitment to the job, knowledge of maritime issues, and gracious humility made him an integral part of my office. I want to thank him for his work and commitment to our Nation.

I congratulate Captain Nicholas Perugini on his exemplary career and wish him, his wife Lisa, their daughter Katie, and their son Nicholas my best. Through his tireless efforts, he has made a difference and has helped to protect the marine environment and promote safe maritime commerce that is vital to our Nation’s prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT NO. 70

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the dedication and service that the American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 70 has provided to Montana’s veterans and their communities. The American Legion Auxiliary was formally founded in 1919 by a group of concerned women who stepped in to offer support for their troops and their family members. 

Mr. President, I thank the women of American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 70 and all the American Legion Auxiliaries for their service to our Nation’s veterans and their families. These women have not only given their time and money in service to our Nation, they have given their hearts as well, and that is the best thing anyone can give.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ELECTRIC’S APPLIANCE PARK

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise to honor the workers of General Electric’s Appliance Park in Louisville, KY, for 50 years of hard work and quality manufacturing of appliances for the world. From producing the first box car in 1953 to the wide array of products GE manufactures today, generations of Kentucky workers have contributed to the success of the economy at GE’s Appliance Park.

The original idea of merging nine plants into one major facility to mass produce GE’s consumer products was initially scrutinized and met with skepticism by nay sayers. Doubters didn’t think and agree that consumers demanded across America and the world such a vast array and selection of quality products. However, the ingenuity and vision of GE’s leadership, behind its strong and committed workforce, considered America’s growing population, rise of per capita income and social changes that occurred during the 1950s as evidence that such mass production was needed and wanted by the marketplace. They were right, and today General Electric is able to please consumers through offering an array of high quality products at an affordable price.

I am proud to have most of the workers at General Electric’s Appliance Park living in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They possess those core American values which have helped to make GE and this country a great success. I give great pride in calling attention to their excellence and work ethic, I know all will agree that for generations these GE Appliance Park workers “bring good things to life.”

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 203 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2004.

EC–2285. A communication from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of all expenditures during the period April 1, 2002, through September 30, 2002, from monies appropriated to the Architect of the Capitol; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–2286. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Odessa TX (MB Docket No. 00-108)” received on May 6, 2003, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2287. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Genoa, Colorado) (MM Doc. No. 01-21)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2288. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, (Bishopville and Lamar, South Carolina) (MB Doc. No. 02-197)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2289. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Traverse City, MI (MB Docket No. 02-20, RM-1090)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2290. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Miami, FL (MM Docket No. 00-125, RM-9908)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2291. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, Stuart, Oklahoma (MB Docket No. 02-207, RM-9907)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 note), the Minority Leader appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission for the 108th Congress: Ms. Slaughter of New York; Mr. Jackson of Illinois.