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 safe chart world. 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. BURNING. 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 fill the role of the men who left home for the battlefields of World War I. These women were driven to service by their compassion, by their sense of civic duty, but, most of all, they were driven by their love of country.

In the more than eight decades since its founding, the American Legion Auxiliary has expanded to include hundreds of chapters in every state and territory. Likewise, their original mission expanded as well to include helping many others in need.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 70 have been particularly active in their community. They have donated funds to veteran’s facilities and programs in Fort Harrison, Miles City, Glendive and Columbia Falls, MT. They are distributing more than 900 poppies in recognition of the service and sacrifice our veterans have given their country. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, they tied hundreds of yellow ribbons across Judith Gap to show their support for our 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 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 American public. History shows 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 2:03 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.

H.R. 2. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 5(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–376).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 5(a) of the Abra- ham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act (36 U.S.C. 101 note), the Majority 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.

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–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. 03-1001)” 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 73.202(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. 02-19)” 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-10398)” 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. 02-20, RM-10207)” received on May 6, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.