

fiercely and bravely. Halina was assigned to duties as a messenger, nurse, and guard. During the resistance, her foot and arm were severely injured by German shells. However, rather than succumbing to her injuries, Halina bandaged herself and returned to her unit. Several times, she and her comrades escaped enemy troops by crawling through sewers and fighting off rats.

Despite their courageous efforts, the Home Army eventually ran out of food, medicine, and ammunition. The Germans captured Halina and her unit and sent them to concentration camps in Germany.

The resistance engaged the German occupiers for 63 days of intense fighting—the longest Polish resistance battle fought during World War II. In addition to its length, the Warsaw Uprising was the greatest military operation undertaken by any resistance movement in Europe at the time. It was an amazing act of courage and overwhelming valor. When it was over, more than 200,000 Polish people had lost their lives fighting for their freedom.

Halina survived the War. She survived the ghetto, the resistance, and a German concentration camp. Throughout this, she also managed to find the love of her life—George Grabowski. They married in England in 1948 after they left Germany. In 1952, Halina and George moved to Cleveland, and although she lived as an American for the next 50 years, her ties to her home country were never severed.

Halina served as an officer in the Polish American Congress, PAC, an umbrella organization of 3,000 Polish-American organizations and clubs. The PAC promotes civic, educational, and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language, and culture, but also to stimulate Polish-American involvement in the United States. Additionally, Halina served as a member of the organization of Polish Veterans Combatants and the SPK Polish service organization.

While much of her new American life was dedicated to Polish causes, Halina was also a devoted mother and wife. She had a daughter and a son, who she raised while working for twenty years in the payroll department of Society National Bank.

Halina lived through one of the most harrowing events the world has ever seen. However, she did not let it overwhelm her. Rather, she courageously fought for her freedom and never gave up. Halina was awarded Poland's A.K. Cross and four other medals for her service in the Home Army. I offer my condolences to her entire family—especially to her husband George; their two children, Theresa and John; and their seven grandchildren.

Halina Grabowski was an amazing woman—we will never forget her.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BIRUTE SMETONA

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to

Birute Smetona—an exceptional woman and an exceptional Ohioan who passed away recently at the age of 91. Birute was a gifted musician, who lived a life of great courage and perseverance. She was a beloved figure and an inspiration to all who knew her in her Cleveland-area community.

Birute, born in Subacius, Lithuania, began her distinguished career as a concert pianist by soloing with the symphony orchestra in Kaunas—then the capital of Lithuania. She went on to graduate from the Lithuanian National Conservatory in 1935, where she met her future husband Julius, an athlete and an assistant law professor who was also the son of Lithuania's President Antanas Smetona. After the start of World War II, she had to leave a respected music conservatory in Paris to return to Lithuania with her husband and infant son, Anthony. During the trip, they sometimes had to get off their train and walk alongside because sections of track had been destroyed as a result of the War.

When they arrived in Lithuania, the Smetona family found their native land changed. Birute's life, which up until that point may have seemed like a modern-day fairy tale to some, was about to be thrown into a state of upheaval. Amidst the ever-present dangers of a war creeping closer and closer to home, Birute and her family made the difficult decision to leave Lithuania—the home they loved so dearly—in search of a better life.

Birute and her family left Lithuania in June 1940, just as the Soviet army was entering the country. While Russian troops initially stopped them at the border, they ultimately allowed them to pass into Germany. From there, the family was constantly on the move, living in Switzerland, France, Spain, and Brazil all in the space of a little over a year.

Eventually, Birute and her family arrived in Chicago in 1941, before finally settling in Cleveland, where Birute's husband found work as a factory laborer for just 65 cents an hour. The Smetona family was living on the second floor of a house on Ablewhite Avenue when a sudden fire consumed it. Tragically, Birute's father-in-law, the former President Smetona, lost his life in the blaze, unable to escape from where he lived in a converted attic on the floor above them.

These were difficult times for Birute and her family. After all that Birute and her family had been through—from having to leave their homeland of Lithuania to losing Julius's beloved father and having their home destroyed—Birute and her family started over yet again. As a testament to her strength of character, Birute endured at a point in her life when many others less determined and courageous than she would have crumbled under the sheer pressure of all the adversity her young family suddenly faced.

Birute held steadfast, however, and truly flourished in Euclid, Ohio. To

help support her family, Birute took buses for a time from her family's public housing in Euclid to homes in Shaker Heights to give piano lessons. But eventually, she was able to build a full schedule at her own home. She soon returned to the concert stage and went on to perform in major cities, including New York, Chicago, and Washington.

In Cleveland, she belonged to and performed for the Fortnightly, Cecilian, and Music and Drama clubs of Cleveland. While living in Cleveland Heights, Birute shared her gift with the community and taught for years at the Cleveland Music School Settlement and Ursuline College. Birute was also a visiting instructor at Youngstown State University, Appalachian State University, and the School of Fine Arts in Willoughby.

While known as a gifted performer, Birute Smetona was also a devoted mother and exceptional teacher. Her two surviving sons, Anthony of Cleveland Heights and V. Julius of Medina, both followed in their mother's footsteps to become concert pianists and teachers. Birute was dedicated to her students. She taught them to avoid a stiff appearance when playing by using a supple, flowing motion of hand, wrist, and forearm. Most of all, Birute was well known for her unique ability to clearly explain difficult musical concepts in a way that even children could understand.

Birute was a strong, courageous, and exceptionally talented mother, instructor, and pianist. She was a vibrant member of the Cleveland community, and I am proud to honor her life—a 91-year journey and adventure. I extend my condolences to her entire family—to her two sons, her nine grandchildren, and to all who knew and loved her. She will be truly missed, but will remain forever a testament to the character and depth of courage of the Lithuanian community in Ohio.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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.)

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2799. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2861. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, 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-3599. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extensions of Principal and Interest" (RIN0572-AB79) received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3600. A communication from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to the Republic of Panama; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3601. A communication from the Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rough Diamonds (Liberia) Sanctions Regulations, Rough Diamonds Control Sanctions" received on July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3602. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Minerals Management Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf" (RIN1010-AC89) received on July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3603. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Montana Regulatory Program" (MT-023-FOR) received on July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3604. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of Obsolete Rulings" (Rev. Rul. 2003-99) received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3605. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "RIC Refunded Bonds" (Rev. Rul. 2003-84) received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3606. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rev. Proc. 2003-69" received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3607. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Ruling: Deductions Related to Compensatory Stock Options" (Rev. Rul. 2003-98) received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3608. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System

and Consolidated Billing for Skilled Nursing Facilities" (RIN0938-AL20) received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3609. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program, Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Prospective Payment System for FY 2004 Rates" (RIN0938-AL95) received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3610. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: Changes to the Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2004 Rates" (RIN0938-AL89) received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3611. A communication from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "12 C.F.R. Part 740, Accuracy of Advertising and Notice of Insured Status" (7535-01-U) received on July 29, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3612. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on Competitive Sourcing dated July 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3613. A communication from the Chair, Office of General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Financing of Presidential Candidates and Nominating Conventions" received on July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3614. A communication from the Chair, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Financing of Presidential Candidates and Nominating Conventions" received on July 31, 2003; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

On request by Mr. WARNER and by unanimous consent, it was

*Ordered*, That the following nominations be discharged from further consideration by the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Foreign Relations:

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Teresa M. Ressel, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Edward Kingman, Jr.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jeffrey A. Marcus, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Belgium.

On further request by Mr. WARNER and by unanimous consent, it was

*Ordered*, That the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider en bloc be laid on the table; that the President be immediately notified of the confirmation of these nominations; and that the Senate return to legislative session.

Nominee: Jeffrey Alan Marcus.

Post: United States Ambassador to Belgium.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform

me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

1. Self—amount, date, donee: \$1,000, 2/21/03, Senator Judd Gregg Committee; \$1,000, 11/14/02, Terrell for Senate; \$1,000, 9/23/02, Forrester 2002; \$1,000, 9/17/02, Friends of Sessions Senate Committee; \$210,000, 7/08/02, Republican National State Elections Committee; \$1,083.68, 6/27/02, John Cornyn for Senate, Inc., In-kind contribution for expenses for in-home fund-raiser in excess of exempt amounts; (\$1,083.68), John Cornyn for Senate, Inc., Reimbursement received on 7/31/02 from John Cornyn for Senate, Inc., for 6/27/02 in-home fund-raiser; \$5,000, 5/01/02, NRCC Trust; \$1,000, 4/30/02, Friends of Jeb Hensarling (General election); \$1,000, 4/30/02, Cantor for Congress; \$2,000, 4/24/02, Thune for South Dakota (Primary and general elections); \$2,000, 2/06/02, John Cornyn for Senate, Inc.; \$1,000, 1/16/02, Friends of Jeb Hensarling (Primary election); \$1,000, 1/11/02, Friends of Katherine Harris; \$1,000, 1/11/02, Tim Hutchinson Senate Committee; \$5,000, 12/27/01, Republican Jewish Coalition PAC; \$5,000, (this contribution was inadvertently attributed to me when it should have been attributed to my wife Nancy C. Marcus. We have contacted KPAC to ask that they correct the error), 8/27/01, KPAC; \$20,000, 5/08/01, Republican National Committee; \$6,468.67, 4/05/01, Republican National Committee, Hosted fund-raiser luncheon, The Crescent Court Hotel, Garden Room, Dallas, TX 75201; (\$6,468.70), Reimbursement received on 4/01/03 from Republican National Committee for fund-raiser on 4/05/01; \$600.00, (the Republican National Committee (RNC) inadvertently reported these sums as contributions to the Republican Party when they were simply payments for hotel accommodations and parade tickets associated with the 2001 Presidential Inauguration. I have requested that the RNC correct their filing), 1/24/01, Republican National Committee State Elections Committee; \$10,879, the Republican National Committee (RNC) inadvertently reported these sums as contributions to the Republican Party when they were simply payments for hotel accommodations and parade tickets associated with the 2001 Presidential Inauguration. I have requested that the RNC correct this filing, 1/19/01, Republican National Committee, State Elections Committee; \$1,000, 9/06/00, Lazio 2000, Inc.; \$12,500, 6/19/00, Republican National Committee Presidential Trust; \$217,500, 6/19/00, Republican National State Elections Committee—Victory 2000; \$1,000, 2/10/00, Martin Frost Campaign Committee (General election); \$500, 2/07/00, Jon Newton for Congress; \$5,000, 1/25/00, DASHPAC; \$10,000, (the ultimate recipients of this contribution were: Arizona Republican Party, \$250; California Republican Party/Team California, \$1690; Illinois Republican Party, \$690; Massachusetts Republican State Congressional Committee, \$380; Michigan Republican State Committee, \$570; New Jersey Republican State Committee, \$470; New York Republican Federal Campaign Committee, \$1030; Ohio State Republican Party, \$660; Republican Federal Committee of Pennsylvania, \$730; Republican Party of Florida Federal Campaign Account, \$790; Republican Party of Iowa, \$220; Republican Party of Virginia, \$410; Washington State Republican party, \$350), 12/20/99, 1999 State Victory Fund Committee; \$1,000, 10/20/99, Friends of Sam Johnson; \$1,000, 10/20/99, Pete Sessions for Congress; \$1,000, 9/02/99, Martin Frost Campaign Committee (Primary election); \$1,000, 7/28/99, Regina Montoya Coggins for Congress; \$1,000, 3/29/99, Governor George W. Bush Presidential Exploratory Committee, Inc.; \$5,000, 1/22/99, Chancellor Media PAC;