

for her fellow persons, giving herself fully to their care, and shall forever be remembered as one of the world's most generous and inspiring human beings.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, on the occasion of Taiwan's National Day on October 10, 2003, I wish to pay tribute to Taiwan's many achievements and to wish Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian and Ambassador C.J. Chen my very best wishes.

The Republic of China on Taiwan is a major trading partner of the United States and it subscribes to human rights, the private enterprise system, freedom and democracy. Taiwan has become a model of economic and political success. We are very proud of the achievements of the free people of Taiwan.

I am honored to serve as the cochair of the Senate Taiwan Caucus, which was officially kicked off on September 17 with 11 members. We now have 14 members, and I hope more Senators will join this caucus and further strengthen the relationship between the U.S. Senate and Taiwan's Parliament and the people of America and Taiwan.

Again, my congratulations to Taiwan and its people on their National Day. May you remain the land of freedom.

JENNIFER JACQUES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of an outstanding young woman. On October 8, 2003, Jennifer Jacques of Chelsea, VT, received an award from the Vision, Strength and Artistic Expression Arts Program's national contest for students with disabilities: Roadtrip: A Journey of Discovery. National recognition alone is deserving of applause and praise, but Jennifer's represents a very special and unique achievement that reaches far beyond her accomplishments in art.

Born with severe cerebral palsy, Jennifer is confined to her wheelchair. Able to control only her head and neck, she controls her wheelchair and computer, as well as her communication device, through a switch placed under her chin. A bright young woman of 18, Jennifer attends public school in Chelsea, where she is enrolled in classes with her peers.

Jennifer's art is not only a reflection of her talents, but also of her great ability to overcome the disabilities that have faced her. Working with her teachers and instructors, Jennifer directed the placement of paint on paper placed on the floor. By repeatedly driving her wheelchair over the paint, she was able to create textured paintings with striking color and design. Jennifer recently sold all of her abstract pieces that were displayed at an art show in Montpelier.

These accomplishments are a tribute to this exceptional young woman, her

family and friends, her educators and instructors. Jennifer Jacques embodies what Vermont has done, what it can do, and what the future holds.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NANCY GARDNER SEWELL

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Nancy Gardner Sewell, a library media specialist/coordinator and head librarian at Selma High School in Selma, AL. After 36 years of exemplary commitment and dedicated service to the Selma City school system, Mrs. Sewell plans to retire on October 18, 2003.

Mrs. Sewell is an educator, media specialist, civic leader, and strong advocate for children. Since 1993, she has tenaciously served the City of Selma, AL, as the first black female elected to its city council. Mrs. Sewell is multi-talented and has excelled in every avenue of her life, as indicated by the numerous honors and awards bestowed upon her by her peers and community. She has never been content with the status quo. Each endeavor throughout her rich life has been met with new and innovative ideas, insurmountable energy, and the ability to motivate people.

Born and raised in Alabama, Mrs. Sewell married her college sweetheart, retired Coach Andrew A. Sewell, and became the mother of three children, Terri, Andrew, and Anthony. Her distinguished educational background includes a bachelor of science degree from Alabama State University, a masters degree from Purdue University, and advanced course work in other graduate studies at Atlanta University and the University of Alabama.

Among many of Mrs. Sewell's outstanding achievements and honors, she pioneered the development of elementary libraries in the Selma City Schools, was instrumental in maintaining accreditation status for their libraries, implemented the "Accelerated Reader's Program," revitalized the Selma-Dallas Youth and Government Council, and lobbied for grants to improve literacy through school libraries, just to name a few.

Alabama is honored to be home to Mrs. Sewell. It is no secret that she is a woman who, day in and day out, goes above and beyond the call of duty. She is to be commended for all of her extraordinary efforts on behalf of Selma, AL, and everyone whose life she has touched.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:33 a.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 bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

H.R. 408. An act to provide for expansion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

H.R. 708. An act to require the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in Mendocino National Forest, California, to provide for the use of the proceeds from such conveyance for National Forest purposes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1303. An act to amend the E-Government Act of 2002 with respect to rulemaking authority of the Judicial Conference.

H.R. 1900. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of the Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

H.R. 1985. An act to amend the National Housing Act to increase the maximum mortgage amount limit for FHA-insured mortgages for multifamily housing located in high-cost areas.

H.R. 2264. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2297. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2452. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 339 Hicksville Road in Bethpage, New York, as the "Brian C. Hickey Post Office Building".

H.R. 2655. An act to amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998.

H.R. 2755. An act to authorize the President to issue posthumously to the late William "Billy" Mitchell a commission as major general, United States Army.

H.R. 2998. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide permanent authority for the exemption for certain members of the uniformed services from an otherwise-applicable requirement for the payment of subsistence charges while hospitalized.

H.R. 3054. An act to amend the Policeman and Firemen's Retirement and Disability Act to permit military service previously performed by members and former members of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, the United States Park Police, and the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division to count as creditable service for purposes of calculating retirement annuities payable to such members upon payment of a contribution by such members, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3062. An act to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3108. An act to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and