

school's reputation as a national and international leader in the field of medical education. His loyalty to generations of students, combined with his respect for them as adult learners, is truly commendable. In addition, Dr. Obenshain's commitment to education is evidenced in his pioneering work to improve learning by creating a curriculum that is student-centered and problem-based.

The leadership that Dr. Scott Obenshain has demonstrated at the University of New Mexico School of medicine has also had a wide impact on the quality of undergraduate medical education. Students are treated with the highest respect, and Dr. Obenshain has set a tone of excellence in the education of our students. His example has left a lasting impression on innumerable graduates of our medical school. The innovations he began at the University of New Mexico have served as models for other schools both in the United States and around the world, and many institutions have benefited from the leadership that Dr. Scott Obenshain has provided over the years.

Finally, Dr. Obenshain has demonstrated continuing dedication to meeting the needs of poor, rural, and underserved communities in New Mexico, and has steadfastly achieved this by including such populations in the primary care curriculum. For example, he implemented the rural clinical practice component for fourth year medical students in 1974, which became a requirement for all students soon thereafter.

Dr. Scott Obenshain is honored today in the Senate because he has served selflessly and widely, and because he has led with distinction.●

OREGON HEALTH CARE HERO

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, in every sense of the word, Dr. Allen Merritt is a true health care hero for the State of Oregon. Dr. Merritt is not only a caring and compassionate pediatrician, but also a tireless and dedicated volunteer. His work to serve the physical and mental health needs of children, as well as his work to help enact important state initiatives on behalf of children, serves as an inspiration to us all.

Dr. Merritt has practiced medicine at St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, OR, for the last 7 years. Although Dr. Merritt received his medical degree from the University of Kansas, his entry into the Oregon medical community began at Lewis and Clark University where he received a Certificate in Health Care Administration. Dr. Merritt later received a Masters of Public Administration in Health Care Administration at Portland State University.

In Bend, Dr. Merritt serves multiple organizations dedicated to the well-being of children in Deschutes County and throughout the State. Most notably, Dr. Merritt serves on the Oregon Commission for Children and Families and is a reviewer for the Oregon Board

of Medical Examiners. Besides serving children as a pediatrician and respected state leader, Dr. Merritt has also dedicated his time and effort to numerous community charities including Project Stepping Stones, which promotes infant hearing screenings; The Boys and Girls Club; and, Deschutes County Children's Foundation.

As the 2003 recipient of the Oregon Medical Association's Doctor-Citizen of the Year Award, Dr. Merritt was recognized for his immeasurable contributions to health care in the state of Oregon. For dedicating his life's work to the improvement of health care I would like to again recognize Dr. Allen Merritt as an Oregon Health Care Hero.●

TRIBUTE TO STAFF OF THE DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight a small band of employees in my home State who deserve special recognition for the consistent high quality work they do. I am proud and pleased to honor Michelle Thibodeau, Chief of the Disability Determination Services office in Helena, MT, and her entire staff. Special recognition must also go to Cathy Surdock who works on youth claims and has been singled out for her excellence.

My constituents who face disabilities depend on those at the Disability Determination Services office to evaluate their claims and issue a fair and timely decision. Issuing these decisions quickly is of the utmost importance and makes a real difference to a lot of Montanans. The regional Social Security Administration Commissioner in Denver has recognized Montana's Disability Determination Services office for having the Nation's best processing time for claims. The Helena office averages 68 days processing time as compared to the national average of 110 days. This important honor is for work accomplished during Federal fiscal year 2002. This office won the same award for fiscal year 1999. Additionally, in 2001, they were awarded the Commissioner's Citation for Quality. Michelle's office reviews about 12,000 claims for benefits each year, 2000 of which involve children.

This award recognizes the staff "for exemplary performance in accuracy, timeliness and productivity in providing exceptional service to Montana's citizens with disabilities." Montanans that find themselves physically and mentally challenged are grateful for the heroic steps that Michelle's staff has taken to address their needs in a timely fashion. The professionalism, compassion and technical expertise exhibited by the dedicated staff at the Disability Determination Services office is an example for us all.

In closing, I would like to offer my congratulations to Michelle, Cathy and the entire crew at Disability Deter-

mination Services and also my thanks for the good work you do daily. This is just another example of neighbor helping neighbor in the great State of Montana.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3. An act to prohibit the procedure commonly known as partial-birth abortion.

S. 1591. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 48 South Broadway, Nyack, New York, as the "Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building".

The enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on today, October 23, 2003, by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1781. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 23, 2003, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1591. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 48 South Broadway, Nyack, New York, as the "Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building".

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-4882. A communication from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers,

and Stockyards Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Official Performance Requirements for Grain Inspection Equipment" (RIN0580-AA57) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4883. A communication from the State Director, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and the Regional Forester, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the environmental impact statement for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument in Riverside, California; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4884. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Anti Deficiency Act, case number 02-02; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4885. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "31 CFR Part 575—Removal of Certain Provisions of the Iraqi Sanctions Regulations; Interpretive Guidance" received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4886. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reporting, Procedures and Penalties Regulations; Iraqi Sanctions Regulations; Foreign Terrorist Organizations Sanctions Regulations; Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Sanctions Regulations" received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4887. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Coast Guard, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety/Security Zone Regulations: [COTP Prince William Sound 03-002], [CGD09-03-270], [COTP Western Alaska 03-003]" (RIN1625-AA00) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4888. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Coast Guard, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations: [CGD05-02-108] Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, South Branch of the Elizabeth River to the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, Chesapeake, VA" (RIN1625-AA09) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4889. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Coast Guard, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety/Security Zone Regulations: [CGD05-03-153] Cove Point Liquefied Gas Terminal, Chesapeake Bay, Maryland" (RIN1625-AA00) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4890. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Coast Guard, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Regulations: [08-03-041] Lower Grand River (Alternate Route), Gross Tete, LA" (RIN1625-AA09) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4891. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, the Commission's monthly status report on licensing activities and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4892. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Modifications to the Attainment Plans for the Baltimore Area and Cecil County Portion of the Philadelphia Area to Revise the Mobile Budgets Using MOBILE6" (FRL#7578-1) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4893. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Oregon; Grants Pass PM-10 Nonattainment Area Redesignation Area to Attainment and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes" (FRL#7572-7) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4894. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Oregon; Klamath Falls PM-10 Nonattainment Area Redesignation to Attainment and Designation of Area for Air Quality Planning Purposes" (FRL#7568-7) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4895. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Ada County/Boise, Idaho Area" (FRL#7568-9) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4896. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Non-attainment New Source Review (NSR): Equipment Replacement Provision of the Routine Maintenance, Repair and Replacement Exclusion" (FRL#7575-9) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4897. A communication from the Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, a copy of Council Resolution 15-249 relative to budget autonomy; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4898. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on direct spending or receipts legislation dated October 22, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4899. A communication from the Assistant Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Signatures; Electronic Submission of Forms (200R-458P)" (RIN1513-AA61) received on October 23, 2003; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. McCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1400. A bill to develop a system that provides for ocean and coastal observations, to implement a research and development program to enhance security at United States

ports, to implement a data and information system required by all components of an integrated ocean observing system and related research, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-171).

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with amendments:

S. 269. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to further the conservation of certain wildlife species (Rept. No. 108-172).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 239. A resolution designating November 7, 2003, as "National Native American Veterans Day" to honor the service of Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces and the contribution of Native Americans to the defense of the United States.

S. Res. 240. A resolution designating November 2003 as "National American Indian Heritage Month".

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1194. A bill to foster local collaborations which will ensure that resources are effectively and efficiently used within the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1743. A bill to permit reviews of criminal records of applicants for private security officer employment.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER from the Committee on Armed Services.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Robert T. Clark.

By Mr. SHELBY for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Paul S. Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2008.

*Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2004.

*Roger Walton Ferguson, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

By Mr. McCAIN for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Karen K. Bhatia, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

*Gwendolyn Brown, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

*Charles Darwin Snelling, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 30, 2006.

Coast Guard nomination of Capt. John C. Acton.

Coast Guard nominations beginning Capt. Arthur E. Brooks and ending Capt. Timothy S. Sullivan, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2003.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to