

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTER ICEBREAKER "MACKINAW" AND HER CREW

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to the United States Coast Guard Cutter Icebreaker *Mackinaw* on her 62 years of exceptional service on the Great Lakes. The Coast Guard's largest cutter assigned to the Great Lakes, the *Mackinaw* will be decommissioned on Saturday, June 10, 2006. The power and majesty of the *Mackinaw* have made her a unique and awe-inspiring cutter, setting a high standard by which other icebreakers are measured.

Construction of the *Mackinaw* began on March 20, 1943, by the Toledo Shipbuilding Company of Ohio. With the Great Lakes serving as a vital link for industry and commerce, the Coast Guard needed a vessel that could accomplish in one pass what took smaller icebreakers three or four passes to accomplish. Out of this need was born the legendary "Mighty Mac." At a length of 290 feet, a beam of 74 feet, a displacement of 5,252 tons, and a maximum speed of 16 knots, the *Mackinaw* was the most powerful icebreaker in the world when she was commissioned on December 20, 1944.

In the years since then, the *Mackinaw* has served proudly on the Great Lakes, with Cheboygan, Michigan, as her home port. In addition to her mission of breaking ice in the fall and spring, the *Mackinaw* has been called upon to serve as a buoy tender, carry fuel and supplies to light stations, serve as a training vessel and assist vessels in distress when necessary. The *Mackinaw* has completed all of these duties with distinction.

Along the way, the *Mackinaw* has captured the imagination of the people of the Great Lakes, and they call her by many names: "The Mighty Mac," "Big Mac," "Ice Cream Machine," "Great White Mother," "Mack Attack," "Guardian of the Eighth Sea," and "Grand Lady of the Great Lakes."

The great success of the *Mackinaw* is due, not only to the capabilities of the vessel herself, but also to her crew. Over the last 62 years, more than 3,000 men and women have served this country aboard the *Mackinaw*. These men and women should be saluted for their dedication, hard work, and tireless efforts in protecting and securing the safe passage of vessels on the Great Lakes.

The crew of the *Mackinaw* is also to be commended for their volunteer efforts. Since 2000, the *Mackinaw* has taken on the special mission of acting as Chicago's Christmas Ship. Each December, the crew makes the 350 mile trip from Cheboygan, Michigan to Chicago, Illinois, bringing Christmas trees to be distributed to disadvantaged families in Chicago. Since its inception, this program has provided more than 6,000 trees to families in need during the holiday season.

On the eve of her decommissioning, I would like to praise the United States Coast Guard Cutter Icebreaker *Mackinaw* for her 62 years of service on the Great Lakes. And I thank the current and former crew of this great ship for their service and commitment. The *Mackinaw* will be long remembered for a job well done.●

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTER "ACACIA" AND HER CREW

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Acacia* on her 62 years of exceptional service on the Great Lakes. The "Ace of the Great Lakes" will be remembered for her strength, integrity, and rich maritime history. The *Acacia* is the last of the Coast Guard's classic World War II era 180 foot buoy tenders, and when she is decommissioned on Wednesday, June 7, 2006, it will be the end of an era.

The *Acacia*, constructed during World War II by the Zenith Dredge Company of Duluth, Minnesota, was launched on September 1, 1944. She was named after the U.S. Lighthouse Service *Acacia*, the only Lighthouse Service vessel sunk during World War II. In the years since her commissioning, the *Acacia* has served proudly on the Great Lakes, calling Charlevoix, Michigan, home port for the last 16 years.

Affectionately known as "The Big A," the *Acacia*'s primary duties have been the maintenance of more than 210 buoys, lighthouses and other navigational aids in the Great Lakes. Servicing these aids to navigation has required travel from as far south as Calumet Harbor to as far north as Little Bay De Noc. The *Acacia*'s icebreaking capabilities were also vital to maintaining the safe passage of coal ships in the channels between Toledo, Ohio and Detroit, Michigan every winter through her participation in Operation Coal Shovel.

In addition, the *Acacia* has assisted in icebreaking and search and rescue operations on the Great Lakes and throughout the world. Internationally, the *Acacia* and her crew took part in operation Uphold Democracy in 1994, supporting the Department of Defense in patrolling the coastline of Haiti. Whether working on the Great Lakes or in international waters, the *Acacia* and her crew have completed all of their missions with class and integrity.

As we pay tribute to the *Acacia*, I want to recognize the contributions of her crew to her great success. The proud men and women who have served this country aboard the *Acacia* over the last 62 years are to be saluted for their commitment, hard work, and impressive skill in protecting and securing the safe passage of vessels on the Great Lakes.

On the eve of her decommissioning, I would like to praise the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Acacia* for her service on the Great Lakes. And I thank the current and former crew of this great ship for their service and commitment. The *Acacia* will be long remembered for a job well done.●

CORRECTED MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE—MAY 25, 2006

The Speaker appointment in the Message from the House on May 25, 2006, did not appear in the RECORD. The appointment is as follows:

The Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3064. A bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 5253. An act to prohibit price gouging in the sale of gasoline, diesel fuel, crude oil, and home heating oil, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5311. An act to establish the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.

H.R. 5403. An act to improve protections for children and to hold States accountable for the safe and timely placement of children across State lines, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5429. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish and implement a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound program for the exploration, development, and production of the oil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain of Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 3274. A bill to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure, 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-6962. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the report of proposed legislation to allow the Governmentwide Service Benefit Plan in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program to offer more than two levels of benefits; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6963. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's calendar year 2005 report on category rating; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6964. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Endowment for the Arts' updated Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2006-2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6965. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Administration and