

technical school employing cutting edge technology in five occupational areas.

The Avera Queen of Peace Hospital, one of the most advanced medical centers in the region, is also located in Mitchell. Especially noteworthy is the recently finished Avera Queen of Peace Cancer Center. The hospital employs over 700 people from the Mitchell area.

Even 125 years after its founding Mitchell remains a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am pleased to honor this progressive city and offer my congratulations to the residents of the city on this historic milestone.●

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHOENIX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

● Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to congratulate the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, which will launch the celebration of its diamond jubilee for the 2007/2008 season on December 30, 2006.

The Phoenix Symphony Orchestra is embarking on its 60th year of having a profound cultural and educational effect in the State of Arizona. Founded in 1947, the Phoenix Symphony proudly serves Phoenix and the surrounding metropolitan area, the State of Arizona, and the southwestern United States. What began as an occasional group of musicians performing a handful of concerts each year—in a city of fewer than 100,000 people—today serves more than 300,000 people annually, with 275 concerts and presentations throughout the greater Phoenix area and beyond.

Under the artistic leadership of Michael Christie as the Virginia G. Piper Music Director and administrative leadership of President Maryellen H. Gleason, the orchestra is overseen by the nonprofit Phoenix Symphony Association under Board Chairman Gerald W. Murphy.

The 76-member Phoenix Symphony presents an annual season from September through the beginning of June, featuring full-length classical and pops concerts at Symphony Hall in downtown Phoenix, in Scottsdale, in Prescott, in several Native American communities and throughout central Arizona. The symphony performs for more than 50,000 students and children, representing over 260 different schools, helping to introduce music to new generations through a variety of education and youth-engagement programs including programs at the Salt River Pima Indian Nation, Chicanos por la Causa, and Phoenix Elementary School District No. 1.

Again, I congratulate the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra for its remarkable achievements and contributions to Arizona.●

RETIREMENT OF GEORGE GULSON

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the achievements of

Mr. George Gulson, who spent 43 years working in the Brandon Valley School System, including 13 years as superintendent. Throughout his career, Mr. Gulson has exhibited a true commitment to excellence in education by creating positive learning environments for his students.

Mr. Gulson started with Brandon Valley as the band director, a position he held for 11 years. Though he has always loved music, Mr. Gulson did not originally plan on being a teacher. Initially, he had planned on going into pharmacy, but found that his lab classes at South Dakota State University conflicted with the band schedule. Rather than stop playing in the band, he decided to go into education instead. He had several options following his graduation, but after seeing the Brandon Valley band perform at a contest, he was so impressed that he contacted the superintendent. He signed a teaching contract a few weeks later.

In 1974, Mr. Gulson accepted a position as a junior high school principal in Brandon Valley. Though being an administrator was quite different from teaching, it was a job he came to appreciate. He found that he was able to influence youth at a time in their lives when they were still learning who they are and how to interact with the world. In addition to helping students find themselves, the post also put Mr. Gulson in a position to start thinking about ways to change the school. He spent his last 3 years as principal readying the school to change from the junior high to the middle school philosophy.

Then in late 1993 came the call from the Brandon Valley School Board asking him to become superintendent. It was a job Mr. Gulson would excel at for 13 years. Among the issues Mr. Gulson faced during his tenure were a growing student population, building projects, No Child Left Behind provisions, curriculum, and funding. Brandon Valley's Performing Arts Center was built on his watch, a particularly impressive accomplishment.

George Gulson has shown unequivocal dedication to quality education throughout his stellar career. As a teacher, principal, and superintendent Mr. Gulson has helped generations of students to become lifelong learners. It is my pleasure to publicly recognize such a tireless advocate of education as Mr. Gulson. Though Mr. Gulson's day to day presence will be missed by students, parents, and the community at large, I congratulate him on his years of service and wish him the best in his retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:32 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 122. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Fa-

cilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project.

H.R. 2563. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3462. An act to provide for the conveyance of the Bureau of Land Management parcels known as the White Acre and Gambel Oak properties and related real property to Park City, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3897. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Madera Irrigation District for purposes of supporting the Madera Water Supply Enhancement Project.

H.R. 5061. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey Paint Bank National Fish Hatchery and Wytheville National Fish Hatchery to the State of Virginia.

H.R. 5232. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to initiate and complete an evaluation of lands and waters located in Northeastern Pennsylvania for their potential acquisition and inclusion in a future Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5589. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to transfer to United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement all functions of the Customs Patrol Officers unit operating on the Tohono O'odham Indian reservation.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 427. Concurrent resolution permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 122. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2563. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies to address certain water shortages within the Snake, Boise, and Payette River systems in Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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