

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO NICK WALTERS

• Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to take a moment and wish best of luck to a accomplished, young and promising Mississippian who is leaving Federal service to pursue private sector opportunities.

Nick Walters, originally of Wiggins, MS, was appointed as Mississippi's USDA rural development director by President George Bush in 2001. Since then, Nick has done a great job supporting Mississippi's communities, helping to secure resources needed for public facilities, utilities and for economic development.

This is a key Federal position for my State. As Nick likes to say, this is the "non-farm," or "non-food" part of USDA. It's about new water and waste water systems, so people can have clean, dependable running water. It's about new community centers, town halls, and even high-tech or educational assets like broadband service, telemedicine and long-distance learning.

Since taking office, Nick has presented scores of oversized checks, in countless photos for local papers telling stories about a new water tower or a new police car or fire truck.

Some people might think these things are small, and they often are in terms of Federal dollars. But these modest services will reverberate for years to come. As Nick says: USDA rural development is really about economic development, helping to encourage and sustain job creation—paving the way for communities to grow.

Nick has helped administer more than \$100 million to Mississippi's cities and towns through this agency. He hasn't sat on laurels waiting for mayors, supervisors, town aldermen, or CEOs to approach him. Nick has been proactive, innovative, and he is actively sought cases and ways to meet individual community needs through USDA's various rural development programs.

We have all heard the old saying: "Don't tell me what you can't do, tell me what you can do." That is been Nick Walters' approach to public service. His first inclination is to act. That is something we Mississippians appreciate. After Hurricane Katrina, we saw many Federal bureaucrats in FEMA and elsewhere strapped by indecision, blinded by tunnel vision, stuck on what they could not do, obsessed with the word "no" when they should have been saying "yes." Nick isn't that type. He has provided a great example of what someone in this office can do using its authority to the utmost, and we're working hard to find a successor who will continue this strong leadership.

Nick Walters will be missed but my guess is that he will be back in public service one day. In what capacity? I don't know. That is a decision for him, his wife Lisa, and his young children, Porter and John Garrett.

But now with this success behind him and given his previous experience in the private sector, his work with former Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice, his stint as chief of staff for the Mississippi Public Service Commission Nick Walters will be successful in wherever his endeavors may lead.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Nick Walters for his exemplary service to the Federal Government and, more importantly, to America as Mississippi's USDA rural development director.

MURRAYHILL LITTLE LEAGUE  
ALL-STAR TEAM

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Oregon's Murrayhill 11 and 12-year-old Little League All-Star team. They recently placed second in the U.S. Little League World Series Championship, and third in the World Little League Championship.

On August 26, 2006, at Howard J. Lamade Stadium in South Williamsport, PA, Murrayhill capped a remarkable postseason, losing the United States Championship to Columbus Northern Little League from Georgia. Murrayhill was the first Oregon team in 48 years to qualify for the Little League World Series, and the first to ever reach the U.S. Championship game. On their road to the championship, they won the District 4, Oregon State, and Northwestern Regional Baseball Tournaments.

Murrayhill displayed great heart, outstanding teamwork, dedication, resilience, character, and sportsmanship throughout the tournament while achieving one of the highest honors in Little League Baseball.

This team of 11 and 12-year-olds brought pride to the State of Oregon with their remarkable run during this year's postseason. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all the players involved in a hard-fought U.S. Little League World Series.●

## TRIBUTE TO MONROE SWEETLAND

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life of Monroe Sweetland—a visionary, a patriot, a statesman, and the father of the modern Democratic Party of Oregon. Monroe passed away Sunday, September 10, at the age of 96, having lived a very full life in pursuit of a better Oregon and a better Nation.

An Oregon native, Monroe was born in Salem in 1910. After attending law school, he returned to Oregon, and, following the Second World War, he worked tirelessly on behalf of the Democratic Party of Oregon, rebuilding the party from the ashes. Monroe was a strong Democrat, a proud partisan who stood with his party not out of any desire for influence or power but out of a belief in the values espoused. He seemed to know instinctively that if the party was strong in its values,

then electoral success would follow. And on that basis, he worked to rebuild our party from the ground up.

A tireless worker on behalf of others' campaigns, he also held elected office, serving for 10 years in the State legislature, first as a member of the Oregon House of Representatives and then as a member of the Oregon Senate. Prior to that, in 1948, he was elected to the Democratic National Committee.

Given his strong partisan politics, some might think his most notable feat was converting U.S. Senator Wayne Morse, whose seat I now hold, to the Democratic Party—helping Senator Morse to see the light, as it were. But Monroe considered the passage of the Bilingual Education Act of 1968, a product of his work at the National Education Association, his most important accomplishment. What I will remember most about Monroe is the way he lived: his boundless optimism, his energy to get things done and his smile that would warm even the coldest room.

When I spoke with Monroe a few weeks ago, he was still the activist we all knew so well. The last thing we discussed was the November 2006 elections, and, since Monroe was constitutionally incapable of being anything other than optimistic, he did not want to discuss what-ifs about the outcome of the election; he only wanted to talk about the good that the Democratic Party will accomplish when it wins back the majority in Congress this fall.

Oregon and the Nation are better for having had Monroe Sweetland in the world. For 96 years, we were blessed with his presence on this small planet. Although life seems a little dimmer without him, I know my life is better for having known him.

I know Monroe is in heaven, and if I had to guess, I would say it is likely he is up there right now organizing the angels for further good deeds. Nothing on this Earth slowed him down and I don't expect that to change now that he has gone ahead to a better place.

A giant of politics in our State, and an even greater human being, Monroe will be sorely missed by all who knew him, and even more sorely missed, though they may never know it, by those who never had that opportunity.●

## 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.)