

Mrs. Cromwell believed very deeply in the value of political participation and believed that it was essential for Americans from all backgrounds to become involved in the democratic process in order to reach their fullest potential. Growing up in Hartford, she saw that there were various obstacles preventing African Americans and other minorities from being involved in the political process, and she dedicated her life to helping people overcome those obstacles.

Through her hard work with both the Hartford Democratic Town Committee and the Hartford chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, of which she served as second vice president for many years, Mrs. Cromwell played an active role in helping African Americans develop a stronger voice in the city's politics. A master of both grassroots and retail politics, she was able to quickly increase her influence in Hartford politics, and helped to elect African-American candidates to local and State level offices. In many ways, her home in Hartford served as a kind of political club, where prospective candidates would come seeking her support and advice. It was well known that her support could be extremely helpful for any candidate.

Also, as a member of the Connecticut Democratic State Central Committee for 38 years, right up until her death, she made certain the interests of her community were represented at the State level as well. Almost every democratic candidate for statewide office would have to pay a visit to Ella Cromwell.

Rarely does an individual have such a meaningful and lasting effect on her community, but whether with the NAACP or the Democratic State Central Committee, Ella Cromwell never failed to touch the lives of the people around her. What is truly remarkable is the faith she continued to show in the power of the political process to effect change in her community, and the way in which she would continue to engage in the hard, sometimes thankless, work of grassroots campaigning even after she had achieved considerable political influence. Even at the age of 76 she would campaign door-to-door at the same brisk pace she had employed years earlier as young women first getting involved. Ella Cromwell truly embodied the democratic spirit upon which our country was founded.

With this in mind, I bid a sad farewell to Ella Little Cromwell, and I will keep her friends and family in my thoughts and prayers. May her commitment to the well-being of others continue to serve as an inspiration for all who knew her.●

CHIEF ROB STONE: IN MEMORIAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of a dedicated public servant, battalion chief Rob Stone of the California Department of For-

estry. From the time he became a seasonal firefighter at the age of 18, Chief Stone devoted his adult life to providing the citizens of California with safety and service. On September 6, 2006, while assessing a fire from the air and coordinating ground firefighting efforts, Chief Stone was tragically killed in the line of duty when the spotter plane crashed in the rugged forest of the Mountain Home State Park.

Upon graduation from high school, Chief Stone attended the California Department of Forestry Firefighting Academy to pursue his lifelong goal of becoming a firefighter. His prodigious talents were evident as Chief Stone moved in rank from firefighter to become one of the youngest engineers ever in the California Department of Forestry. He was then promoted to captain, and his most recent assignment was battalion chief of the Porterville Air Attack Base. Chief Stone's commitment to excellence, coupled with his passion for his profession, enabled him to become a model member of the California Department of Forestry. Chief Stone's colleagues shall always remember him for his leadership and commitment to his job.

Chief Stone is survived by his wife Randi, son Wil, and daughter Libbie; parents Cliff and Janet; sister Melissa Martin; brother Marty; and his grandmother Louise Lyons. When he was not on duty or spending time with his family, Chief Stone was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed gathering cows, hunting, fishing, and camping. Chief Stone served the State of California with honor and distinction and fulfilled his oath as a firefighter. His contributions and dedication to firefighting are greatly appreciated and will serve as a shining example of his legacy.

We shall always be grateful for Chief Stone's exemplary service and the sacrifices he made while serving and protecting the people and the land that he loved.●

SIERRA OAKS SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate the Sierra Oaks Senior and Community Center for 20 years of dedicated service to the seniors in the communities of Tollhouse, Auberry, Shaver Lake, and Prather. Since opening their doors in 1986, this regional asset has made significant contributions to improving the lives of northeastern Fresno County's senior community and their families.

For the past two decades, the Sierra Oaks Senior and Community Center has provided a myriad of important social services and activities to help seniors live more independent and active lives. Whether it is providing free health assessments, offering classes in quilting, painting, and computers, or holding a stroke survivors support group, the center upholds the principle that seniors should be afforded the opportunity to live independently and

thrive in their own communities. The dedicated staff and outstanding group of senior volunteers work diligently to ensure that those who are in need of their support are treated with the care and respect that they deserve. Through the center, many seniors have acquired invaluable tools to help them lead more active and enjoyable lives.

I congratulate the Sierra Oaks Senior and Community Center on its 20th anniversary and wish its staff, volunteers, and sponsors even greater success as they continue to provide important services to the seniors of Tollhouse, Auberry, Shaver Lake, and Prather. You have not only been a pillar of support for your clients, but you have performed a great service for the communities that you serve.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I recognize the University of Redlands. This academic year, the university celebrates its 100 anniversary.

The University of Redlands was originally chartered in 1907 on a tract of donated land by individuals associated with the American Baptist Church. It admitted its first student in September 1909 and in 1910 proudly celebrated its first graduating class of three students. Throughout the next century, the University of Redlands has become a pre-eminent institution and today celebrates a century of contribution and service through education.

With today's growth in population, there is an ever-present strain on our Nation's university systems and the ability of students to receive meaningful direct contact with university faculty. The University of Redlands has successfully maintained personal instruction throughout the years and continues today to maintain a student to faculty ratio of 12 to 1. There are currently over 200 full-time faculty and a core of 200 adjunct faculty who are selected for their expertise and experience in their fields. Throughout these past 100 years, the university has also maintained a high level of faculty quality, with 88 percent of the full-time faculty holding a Ph.D. or terminal degree.

The University of Redlands has successfully met the ever-changing needs of a diverse population. Over one-third of the university's students are members of historically underrepresented groups, and the student body represents all corners of the world and draws students from across the United States. Most recently, the entering class of 2006 saw 40 percent of its students from outside of the State of California.

The university's success contributes significantly to the growth of the local community. Its faculty and staff make the University of Redlands one of the largest employers in the region, helping to maintain a strong local economy. In the past decade, the university

has invested over \$140 million in its physical plant, employing many local craftsmen and laborers. In addition to investing in the local economy and construction, the university invests significantly in its students, with over \$28 million of university funds budgeted for need-based, merit-based or talent-based awards. This contribution has produced an alumni which has made a lasting impact on America, with 45,000 alumni currently contributing to the betterment of society throughout the world.

The University of Redlands' commitment to community outreach is seen most noticeably in its students' service and contributions. Over 80,000 community service hours are provided annually by University of Redlands' students to help meet local, national and international needs. Meeting these needs has been a fundamental tenet in the university's educational philosophy for many years, as it was one of the first educational institutions in the Nation to require community service as a condition for graduation.

On its centennial, the University of Redlands looks back on a proud history of growth and contribution in inland California and the world. I applaud the service and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students of the University of Redlands as they celebrate 100 years of improving lives and education.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN UNITT

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize inland southern California attorney Brian Unitt as he receives the San Bernardino County Bar Association's Florentino Garza Fortitude Award. Mr. Unitt is a community leader and an example to us all.

The Florentino Garza Award is given to exceptional individuals who overcome significant obstacles and achieve success in the legal field. This prestigious award takes its name from inland attorney Florentino Garza, who overcame a childhood as an orphan and a life as a migrant farmworker to graduate from college and law school and eventually gain prominence in the legal profession.

Today I recognize the exceptional work of Brian Unitt, who has overcome blindness to achieve outstanding success in the legal field. Brian Unitt was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa at a young age. This debilitating condition begins with a degeneration of cells in the eye's retina, producing reduced vision and eventual loss of sight.

Brian Unitt received his law degree from the University of California, Davis, in 1983. Throughout his undergraduate years and in law school, he took class notes in Braille using a slate and stylus, and he typed examinations using an electric typewriter. He passed the California State bar examination on his first attempt and began practicing law shortly thereafter in Riverside, CA. In 1996, Brian Unitt became partner at that same firm, now known as Holstein, Taylor, Unitt and Law.

As an attorney, Mr. Unitt practices personal injury law, focusing particularly on appellate work. His experience and dedication over the years has allowed him to be a tremendous advocate for injured individuals, assisting others who have suffered a physical loss. Other attorneys who have had the opportunity to know or work with Brian Unitt have described him as "brilliant in his legal work," "a true scholar of the law," "a superb lawyer," "a wonderful, wonderful, brilliant plaintiff's attorney," and "civil, professional, and ethical."

Today I salute the life and service of Brian Unitt. His life story is a true portrayal of a man who overcame tremendous physical adversity to assist others in their battle with physical adversity. I applaud Brian Unitt and look forward to what I hope will be many years of service to the people of inland California. Please join me in honoring a true hero.●

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 and withdrawals 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 11:30 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4583. An act to amend the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939 to revise the requirements for labeling of certain wool and cashmere products.

H.R. 5295. An act to protect students and teachers.

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

H. Con. Res. 210. Concurrent resolution supporting the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015.

H. Con. Res. 317. Concurrent resolution requesting the President to issue a proclamation annually calling upon the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 386. Concurrent resolution honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first professional trained African-American nurse.

H. Con. Res. 415. Concurrent resolution condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

H. Con. Res. 419. Concurrent resolution recognizing and supporting the efforts of the State of New York to develop the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York, and for other purposes.

At 1:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 503. An act to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4583. An act to amend the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939 to revise the requirements for labeling of certain wool and cashmere products; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5295. An act to protect students and teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 210. Concurrent resolution supporting the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H. Con. Res. 386. Concurrent resolution honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first professionally trained African-American nurse; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H. Con. Res. 415. Concurrent resolution condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 419. Concurrent resolution recognizing and supporting the efforts of the State of New York to develop the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 503. An act to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 2912. A bill to establish the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, to establish the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109-338).

S. 3551. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey the Tylersville division of the Lamar National Fish Hatchery and Fish