

the best of luck in an enjoyable retirement and thank him for his distinguished service.●

RETIREMENT OF JOE ALSTON

● Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service of the Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent, Joe Alston, who is retiring this week. Joe is a man of considerable integrity, ability, and achievement, and his presence at the Grand Canyon will be deeply missed.

After 31 dedicated years, Joe Alston is retiring from the National Park Service. He has spent the last 6 years serving as the superintendent of the Grand Canyon National Park, the crown jewel of Arizona and one of the Nation's oldest and most heavily visited National Parks. Joe has held a wide variety of positions in the Park Service beginning with his first job as a seasonal firefighter on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. In the years that followed, Joe worked as a concessions specialist at Yellowstone National Park and later became the chief of the Concessions Management Division in the Alaska Regional Office. More recently, Joe Alston was the assistant superintendent of Yellowstone National Park and eventually served as superintendent at several major National Park units such as the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, the Curecanti National Recreation Area, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Rainbow Bridge National Monument.

We are very fortunate to have benefited from the passion and expertise that Superintendent Alston brought to the Grand Canyon. Joe was challenged with many complex issues and longstanding conflicts ranging from park transportation to aircraft overflights, yet he has managed them all with foresight, thoughtfulness, and resolve. Under Joe's leadership, the Park Service saw the completion of the Colorado River Management Plan, which protects park resources by implementing a new river permitting system that balances competing commercial and recreational interests. Despite its highly contentious nature, it was Superintendent Alston's desire to hear and understand the views of river runners and other constituents by affording the public every opportunity to provide input during the CRMP planning process. Few superintendents in National Park Service history have undertaken such an open nationwide approach that concluded with such remarkable success.

The Grand Canyon has received many honors during Superintendent Alston's tenure. In 2004, Grand Canyon National Park was recognized for a number of environmental accomplishments by EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, including having the first EPA certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design "green building" owned and operated in a National Park. Joe

was the driving force behind the implementation of new training programs that led to the reduction of visitor and employee injuries which earned the Park the Regional Director's Safety Excellence Award and the Director's Safety Excellence Award for Public Safety Achievement in 2005. Among the many accolades Joe has received over the years, perhaps the most noteworthy came in 2005 when Secretary Gale Norton awarded him the Meritorious Service Award, the second highest honorary recognition granted to Interior Department employees.

Joe Alston's ties to the Grand Canyon extend beyond his outstanding professional career. Indeed, the Grand Canyon also happens to be where he met his wife, Judy, who is a teacher with the Grand Canyon Public Schools System. Joe is regarded by those living in northern Arizona as an individual deeply connected to the community. Just last month, he accepted the Community Person of the Year award from the Grand Canyon Rotary Club for ushering in a new era of partnership between the communities of Tusayan, AZ, and Grand Canyon National Park.

My son and I had the distinct pleasure of hiking the Grand Canyon rim to rim last year with the accompaniment of Joe Alston. I can think of few others alive today who are as knowledgeable and devoted to the history and culture of the Grand Canyon than Superintendent Alston. I wish Joe the very best in his future goals and ambitions.●

SAINT PHOTIOS NATIONAL SHRINE

● Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, today I honor the 25th anniversary of the Saint Photios National Shrine, the only Greek Orthodox National Shrine in the country, located in Saint Augustine, FL.

As early as 1768 and under the leadership of Dr. Andrew Turnbull, Greek immigrants traveled to America to seek a better life in Florida. Many of these early Greek Americans migrated to Saint Augustine, where, over time, a strong Greek community has formed. Greek immigrants found refuge there as many gathered for solace, fellowship, and worship at the historic Averos House built in 1749 on Saint George Street. The Averos House was purchased by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in 1965, and in 1982, was opened as a National Greek Orthodox Shrine named after Saint Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople.

The Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine gives honor to the memory of the first colony of Greeks in the Americas and the succeeding generations of Greek immigrants; it now serves as a connection and pilgrimage point for Greek Americans and the Greek Orthodox Church in America. It also serves to preserve, enhance, and promote the ethnic and cultural traditions of Greek heritage and the teachings of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

The Shrine continues to be faithful in maintaining and perpetuating the Greek Orthodox faith and Hellenic Heritage through its programs and activities to all who pass through its historic doors.

Mr. President, February 4, 2007, will mark the 25th anniversary of the Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the purposeful commitment and achievements of this religious and historical institution.●

HONORING HANLEY DENNING

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I mourn the loss of Hanley Denning, a truly remarkable native of Maine who in word and deed represented the very best of our State and Nation.

Hanley was the visionary founder and executive director of Safe Passage, a Central American-based nonprofit agency which provides children who live in the Guatemala City garbage dump opportunity and hope through myriad forms, including education, nutrition, and health care. Hanley founded Safe Passage in 1999 after having seen children existing amid the squalor and destitution of refuse and trash. But where many would have seen a dead-end marked by desolation, Hanley saw a need which soon after evolved into a calling that required conscience and action. She imagined a pathway out—and possessed the will, determination, and resolve to forge a plan to begin making that route a reality. Hanley took a dilapidated church near the waste dump and developed a drop-in center where children could receive food and a safe haven.

Hanley found that access to education of any kind was not a possibility for children who couldn't begin to afford the enrollment fees, school supplies, and books required by the Guatemalan public schools—not to mention requisite school uniforms and shoes. But thanks to Safe Passage, children have been able to attend a local public school for at least a half-day term. And that experience is complemented by the additional educational reinforcement, care, and supervision received at the center. Whether it is homework, hands-on learning activities, nutrition, medical attention, or a range of other programs, these at-risk youth are recipients of the care they deserve. Today, remarkably, Safe Passage serves as many as 600 children ages 2 to 19 years old.

Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw once famously wrote that "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'" When Hanley saw despair, poverty, and indescribable hopelessness, she must have at first said, "Why?" But she responded to an unforgivable, intolerable situation—not with indifference, resignation, or anger—but by saying, "Why not?" Why not carve out a way forward for these children that leads from an abject condition to

one where the objective is a better way of life.

Hanley's response to the deplorable situation she found at the Guatemalan dump is emblematic of her overall approach to so much of her life—one filled with a selfless care for others and a willful devotion to being an agent of good will and positive change. Although she hadn't created Safe Passage until 1999, Hanley had been offering a kind of safe passage for so many during years prior to her arrival in Guatemala. Along with earning a master's degree along the way, Hanley was also working at a mental health center, assisting children affected by AIDS, and teaching in a Head Start program.

With this shining example of service, it is little wonder Bowdoin College, her alma mater, recognized Hanley's extraordinary contributions by honoring her with its 2002 Common Good Award. What was so exceptional about Hanley was her longstanding dedication and unfailing determination to address and improve the human condition. She truly exemplified words spoken in 1902 by Joseph McKeen, first president of Bowdoin:

... institutions are founded and endowed for the common good and not for the private advantage of those who resort to them for education. It is not that they may be able to pass through life in an easy and reputable manner, but that their mental powers may be cultivated and improved for the benefit of society.

Hanley's greatest legacy and enduring cause will be memorialized in her name and with her spirit—in a thriving center given to helping those who truly cannot help themselves; a center where, according to a Portland Press Herald account, just last year six Safe Passage students were selected to enroll in Guatemala City's foremost private high schools, where the annual budget has grown from funds in the hundreds to \$1.6 million and an employee base of 100, and where more than 500 people from Greater Portland are counted among an emerging force for good of Safe Passage volunteers.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Hanley's parents, Michael and Marina Denning, and her three brothers, Jordan, Seth, and Lucas.

Thank you, Mr. President, for affording me the opportunity to speak about this truly exceptional Mainer and American whose memory will be a lasting inspiration to us all.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:52 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. 49. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 North Frontage Road West in Vail, Colorado, as the "Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 335. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

152 North 5th Street in Laramie, Wyoming, as the "Gale W. McGee Post Office".

H.R. 521. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, Illinois, as the "Lane Evans Post Office Building".

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. 20. Concurrent resolution calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Patrick Finucane, as recommended by Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park Agreement, in order to move forward on the Northern Ireland peace process.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, in addition to Mr. TANNER of Tennessee, Chairman, appointed on January 11, 2007: Mrs. TAUSCHER of California, Vice Chairman, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. CHANDLER of Kentucky, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. BEAN of Illinois.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. GILLMOR of Ohio, Mr. REGULA of Ohio, Mr. BOOZMAN of Arkansas, and Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois.

At 4:01 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 joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 20. A resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

At 4:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 5. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation and goals of "Hire a Veteran Week" and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation supporting those goals.

H. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Perry Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 161(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following

Members of the House of Representatives as Congressional Advisers on Trade Policy and Negotiations: Mr. RANGEL of New York, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. TANNER of Tennessee, Mr. MCCRERY of Louisiana, and Mr. HERGER of California.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 8002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Committee on Ways and Means appoints the following Members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation: Mr. RANGEL of New York, Mr. STARK of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. MCCRERY of Louisiana; and Mr. HERGER of California.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 49. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 North Frontage Road West in Vail, Colorado, as the "Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 335. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 152 North 5th Street in Laramie, Wyoming, as the "Gale W. McGee Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 521. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2633 11th Street in Rock Island, Illinois, as the "Lane Evans Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 470. A bill to express the sense of Congress on Iraq.

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

H.J. Res. 20. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, 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-562. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thiabendazole; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 8111-1) received on January 26, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-563. A communication from the Acting Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Assets Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 500) received on January 29, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-564. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled