

Mr. Buckles eventually realized that he cared most for the steamship industry. While he was employed by Grace Line, he traveled along the western coast of South America. In 1940, the American President Lines had a task for him in Manila—Mr. Buckles found himself trapped in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded in December of the following year. He spent 3½ years in Japanese prison camps, until on February 23, 1945, a subsection of the 11th Airborne Division freed Mr. Buckles and 2,147 other prisoners in a daring raid on the Los Banos prison camp.

After his liberation from Los Banos, Mr. Buckles returned to the United States. He married Audrey Mayo, a young lady, whom he had known before the war and in 1954, they settled down on the Gap View Farm in West Virginia.

On this same farm, Mr. Buckles has remained mentally sharp and physically active. Up to the age of 105, he drove cars and tractors on his farm. Nowadays, he reads from his vast book collection and enjoys the company of his daughter, Susannah Flanagan, who came to live with him after his wife passed away in 1999.

Today, Mr. Buckles is one of three living World War I veterans in the United States, and his dedication and courage have not been overlooked in our Nation's Capital. In 1999, Mr. Buckles was presented with the French Legion of Honor at the French Embassy in Washington, DC. On May 28, 2007, Mr. Buckles will represent his fellow World War I veterans as a Grand Marshal at the National Memorial Day Parade.

We must cherish our last links to World War I. In the same vein, we owe Mr. Buckles and all the men and women, who have served our country, a great debt of gratitude.

I ask the Senate to join me today in commending Frank Buckles, an American whose service to our country deserves recognition.●

RECOGNIZING CASTLEWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Castlewood, SD. The town of Castlewood will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Hamlin County, Castlewood was founded in 1882 when the Chicago and Northwestern railroad placed a turntable near the location of the present day town. According to the town's folklore, the first train that passed through had an engineer named Castle and a conductor named Wood, hence the town was named "Castlewood." Since its beginning, Castlewood has been a successful and thriving community and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Castlewood on

this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING ESTELLINE, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Estelline, SD. The town of Estelline will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Hamlin County, Estelline was founded in 1882. The community's folklore explains that the town was named after the daughter of one of its early resident's; however, they just do not know which one. It was either the daughter of a prominent landowner, D.J. Spalding, or of Judge Granville Bennett. This story is just another example of the rich history that can be found in South Dakota's rural communities. Over the past 125 years, Estelline has been a successful and thriving community and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the citizens of Estelline in celebrating their 125th anniversary and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING ONAKA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Onaka, SD. The town of Onaka will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Faulk County, Onaka was founded in 1907. Onaka has been a successful and thriving community for the past 100 years and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for many years to come.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Onaka on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING PHILIP, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Philip, SD. The town of Philip will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Haakon County, Philip was founded in 1907 with the arrival of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. It was named after James "Scotty" Philip, a local rancher who was known for his efforts to preserve the buffalo population from extinction. Philip has been a successful and thriving community for the past 100 years and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 100 years.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Philip on this milestone anniversary and wish them

continued prosperity in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 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. 67. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 612. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the period of eligibility for health care for combat service in the Persian Gulf War or future hostilities from two years to five years after discharge or release.

H.R. 1100. An act to revise the boundary of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in the State of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1252. An act to protect consumers from price-gouging of gasoline and other fuels, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1427. An act to reform the regulation of certain housing-related Government-sponsored enterprises, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1470. An act to amend the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Programs Enhancement Act of 2001 to require the provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans at all Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

H.R. 1660. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the southern Colorado region.

H.R. 2199. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain improvements in the treatment of individuals with traumatic brain injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2239. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for vocational rehabilitation benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 2429. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an exception to the 60-day limit on Medicare reciprocal billing arrangements between two physicians during the period in which one of the physicians is ordered to active duty as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces.

The message also announced that pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 51312(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following