

robot that has the capability to detect environmental hazards, thereby protecting first responders and potentially saving lives.

A retired Navy officer who served in Vietnam, CAPT Ann S. Yahner helped found Pen Bay Media in 1999, along with current partners Stuart Rich, David Berez, and her husband Frank, a retired U.S. Marine. Today, Mrs. Yahner serves as president and general manager. I will never forget when, in response to her concerns over a "brain drain" in Maine, Mrs. Yahner sent a letter to MG John Libby, the adjutant general of the Maine National Guard, offering to employ qualified returning veterans from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan at Pen Bay. Overall, Pen Bay employs 28 people, and has nearly doubled its workforce since the beginning of 2006. Mrs. Yahner's determination to hire and partner with veterans is a solid example of the kind of consistent opportunity we need to extend to those who protect us so admirably.

Pen Bay Media has a long history of successful project experience with government clients. It is one of 45 prime companies in the United States, and the only New England company to be awarded the Veterans Technology Services Government-wide Acquisition Contract. As a result of this esteemed designation, Pen Bay Media will be eligible to compete for a share of contracts worth \$5 billion over the next 10 years. In addition, Pen Bay has received countless awards and accolades since its inception. Most recently, the Environmental Systems Research Institute, ESRI, honored Pen Bay with its prestigious Special Achievement in Geographic Information System's award. For embracing GIS technology through its work with the New York City Bureau of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, ESRI recognized Pen Bay for its "extraordinary contributions to our global society." According to ESRI, Pen Bay stood out from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide that use GIS software to enhance its clients' safety.

In its 8 years of operation, Pen Bay Media has excelled, finding a creative niche within one of the Nation's fastest-growing industries. What makes Mrs. Yahner's accomplishments all the more impressive is that, according to the Small Business Administration, only 32 percent of disabled veteran business owners are women. Ann Yahner's courageous military service and tremendous contributions to small business are commendable and a great lesson that we can all succeed. I thank Ann Yahner and everyone at Pen Bay Media for the crucial work that they do, and I wish them continued success and prestige in the years to come. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 928. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker reappoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. Joseph Cooper of Baltimore, Maryland.

At 4:23 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 resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. Con. Res. 49. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2740. An act to require accountability for contractors and contract personnel under Federal contracts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3246. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide a comprehensive regional approach to economic and infrastructure development in the most severely economically distressed regions in the Nation.

H.R. 3648. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, 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. 694. An act to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 928. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to enhance the independence of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3246. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to provide a comprehensive regional approach to economic and infrastructure development in the most severely economically distressed regions in the Nation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3432. An act to establish the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3527. An act to extend for two months the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 3540. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3648. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principal residences from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2828. An act to provide compensation to relatives of United States citizens who were killed as a result of the bombings of United States Embassies in East Africa on August 7, 1998.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1154. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 2740. An act to require accountability for contractors and contract personnel under Federal contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 2152. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, October 4, 2007, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 474. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.

S. 1612. An act to amend the penalty provisions in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 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-3546. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Ronald A. Route, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3547. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, an inventory of the Commission's activities for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3548. A communication from the Director, Executive Resources Management Division, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of action on a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs), received on October 2, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3549. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a navigation improvement project for Haines, Alaska; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3550. 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 "Mercury Switches in Motor Vehicles; Significant New Use Rule" ((RIN2070-AJ19)