

Houston. She has been an integral part of the fine work being done at Angel View Crippled Children's Foundation, the Palm Springs Art Museum, the Palm Springs International Film Festival, the Palm Springs Opera Guild of the Desert, the Stroke Recovery Center, and Desert AIDS Project. Houston is also the sponsor of the "Jackie Lee Houston Scholarship," offering support to residents of the region hoping to pursue post-graduate training in design.

It is especially fitting that the new Jackie Lee Houston Plaza will offer an entry to the Palm Springs Convention Center because every year the Palm Springs International Film Festival opens there. It is a project that has had Houston's full support. It is also fitting that the plaza will offer visitors a desert landscape where they cannot just enjoy the native plants, but also help to build a sense of community that is so important to Houston.

I am delighted that the amazing community and philanthropic work of Jackie Lee Houston will be memorialized with this plaza in Palm Springs. I commend Mayor Pougnet and the members of the Palm Springs City Council for their efforts in this regard and, of course, send my very best regards to Jackie Lee Houston.●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL MELISSA A. RANK

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I join Senator INOUE in recognizing a great American and true military heroine who has honorably served our country for 30 years.

Major General Rank was born in Frostburg, MD, and entered the Air Force Nurse Corps in 1978. She earned her BSN from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1975, and worked for Baltimore City Hospitals, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and Center for Disease Control prior to entering the Air Force. She also completed a master's in nursing administration from University of Texas in 1990, and a master's in strategic studies from Air War College in Alabama in 1999.

Major General Rank's military education includes the Air War College; the Air Command and Staff College, Squadron Officer School, Flight Nurse School, and Nursing Service Management.

Major General Rank became the Assistant Air Force Surgeon General for Medical Force Development and Assistant Air Force Surgeon General, Nursing Services in 2005. She established policy for 34,000 active-duty and enlisted medical personnel. She also created nursing policy for 19,000 active-duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel.

Major General Rank's past military assignments include serving in the Office of the Surgeon General as executive management fellow for services, chief of plans, policies and programs for nursing services in the directorate of work force management, and deputy

assistant surgeon general for health care operations. She also served as United States Air Force Surgeon Chair to Air University and has commanded an aeromedical evacuation squadron in Southwest Asia and a medical operations squadron and two medical groups.

Throughout her career Major General Rank has served with valor and profoundly impacted the entire Air Force Medical Department. Her performance reflects exceptionally on herself, the United States Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. We extend our deepest appreciation to Major General Rank on behalf of a grateful nation for her more than 30 years of dedicated military service.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN-REX SPIVEY

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I wish to honor John-Rex Spivey, who recently attained the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 122 in Rogers, AR.

This is a great accomplishment that requires years of devoted service and leadership. The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest level a Boy Scout can achieve and reflects John's dedicated effort and commitment to service.

Young Arkansans like John set a positive example for our youth, and I am confident that this award is one of many more that John will attain in the future.

Mr. President, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating John-Rex Spivey for this outstanding achievement.●

MEASURES REFERRED ON JUNE 27, 2008

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

H. R. 2245. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Wenatchee, Washington, as the Elwood "Bud" Link Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 4264. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord injury center in Tampa, Florida, as the "Michael Bilirakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 4918. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Miami, Florida, as the "Bruce W. Carter Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 6052. An act to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

H. Con. Res. 163. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of further research and activities to increase public awareness, professional education, diagnosis, and treatment of Dandy-Walker

syndrome and hydrocephalus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H. Con. Res. 195. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that a National Dysphagia Awareness Month should be established; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H. Con. Res. 370. Concurrent resolution expressing support for designation of September 2008 as "Gospel Music Heritage Month" and honoring gospel music for its valuable and longstanding contributions to the culture of the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H. R. 6377. An act to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded, and to eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately.

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-6807. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accounting Requirements for RUS Electric Borrowers" (RIN0572-AC02) received on June 30, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6808. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asian Longhorned Beetle; Additions to Quarantined Areas in New York" (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0104) received on June 7, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6809. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sweet Onions Grown in the Walla Walla Valley of Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0157) received on June 27, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6810. A communication from the Administrator, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-FV-07-0159) received on June 27, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6811. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and