Tribute to Dr. Ronald Davis

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I have a truly great man and a good friend, Dr. Ronald Davis, who died on November 6, 2008 at his home near East Lansing, MI.

Dr. Davis was an outstanding physician, a great leader, and an effective, impassioned advocate for the uninsured. As President of the American Medical Association, Ron helped focus our attention on making sure health care was available and affordable for all Americans.

We worked together earlier this year on the Farm Bill—an unusual issue for physicians to get involved in—but Ron and I were committed to making sure our Federal farm policy promoted health and nutrition. With his help, we passed a truly groundbreaking farm bill that increased the Federal commitment to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Last February, Ron was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. This cancer, which affects over 37,000 Americans each year, is unfortunately one of the hardest to treat. But Ron didn’t see it that way. He told his fellow doctors, ``Never take away someone’s hope,” and he lived by those words.

Even while undergoing painful and difficult cancer treatments, Ron was on the front lines, educating the public about support Web sites for cancer patients that allow families to stay informed while building a support network for the patient.

A champion for preventative medicine and public health, Dr. Davis was a leading advocate for healthier lifestyles. He traveled the country urging Americans to quit smoking, exercise more, and eat better.

He also led the effort for the historic apology by the AMA to African-American doctors for the organization’s past exclusion of Black physicians. He believed that “by confronting the past we can embrace the future,” and pushed to increase enrollments by minorities in medical schools and health professions.

I want to express my deepest sympathies to his wife Nadine and his three sons, Jared, Evan, and Connor. America has lost a great doctor, and his family has lost a great man. Ron’s extraordinary record of community service, dedication, and courage should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Messages from the President

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, 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 a treaty 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 3:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 129(c)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–343), 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 Congressional Oversight Panel: Mr. HENSARLING of Texas.

At 5:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 129(c)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–343), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Minority Leader appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Oversight Panel: Mr. WELLS of Texas.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 602. An act to develop the next generation of parenteral control technology.

S. 1193. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 2 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5714. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in American society, from the Colonial period to today.

H.R. 6887. An act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

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–8736. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Walnuts Grown in California: Increased Assessment Rate’’ (Docket No. AMS–FV–08–0054) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8737. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘National Organic Program (NOP),’’ (RIN0585–AB24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8738. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Cotton Program Changes for Loans, Loan Deficiency Payments, Upland Cotton, and Extra Long Staple (ELS) Cotton’’ (RIN5660–AB11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–8739. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Third United States Army, U.S. Army Central Command, and has been assigned case number 06–17; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8740. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred in the Department of the Treasury in the Direct Loan Financing Account; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–8741. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘Special Working Group on Reserve Component Members Returning from Deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom’’; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8742. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘Pet Ownership for the Elderly and Persons With Disabilities’’ (RIN2501–AA92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8743. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a quarterly report entitled ‘‘Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account’’; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8744. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stephen G. Wood, U.S. Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8745. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the notification of the decision to cancel the Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 public-private competition for the Commander, Navy Installations Command Emergency Management Dispatch Support Services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–8746. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8747. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12398 on November 14, 1994; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8748. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13388 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8749. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8750. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Ireland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8751. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to The Netherlands; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8752. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘‘Iranian Transactions Regulations’’ (31 CFR Part 560) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8753. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled ‘‘Pet Ownership for the Elderly and Persons With Disabilities’’ (RIN2501–AA92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8754. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Design and Construction Requirements; Compliance With ANSI A117.1 (1992 Edition) Amendments’’ (RIN2529–AA17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8755. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations’’ (Docket No. FEMA–B–1011) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–8756. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘‘Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations’’ (44 CFR Part 67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.