

of law. To remain faithful to our pursuit of basic American values, we must seize that opportunity.

SERVICE OF BRETT NILSSON

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Brett Nilsson as he nears the completion of his service as the chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, IIABA.

If I may, let me just start by saying I am proud to count Brett as both a constituent and a friend. Indeed, it goes without saying that for close to 20 years Brett has been a very busy man and is someone who has been dedicated to both our Nation and to Utah through the service he has provided.

On the national level, Brett has served on IIABA's Communications and Finance Committees, the later of which, I might add, he chaired from 1999 to 2003. After his chairmanship of the association's Finance Committee, Brett was then elected to IIABA's Executive Committee in 2003 and then nominated as the association's chairman last September in 2008. In Utah, Brett spent a year serving as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of Utah from 1992 to 1993 and as the national board director from Utah for 9 years. All of this, of course, is in addition to his own personal career where he is the senior vice president for the Buckner Company in Ogden, UT.

Founded in 1896, IIABA is the Nation's oldest association of independent insurance agents and brokers. At last count the association represents an astounding network of more than 300,000 agents, brokers, and their employees. Throughout his tenure as chairman of the association, Brett has been the lead on a number of issues including health insurance reform and insurance regulatory reform. Additionally, Brett has worked assiduously to build the Trusted Choice brand and advance the association's InVEST Program, which is a school-to-work insurance program that partners with community college and high school educators to offer a practical and innovative program of study for students.

Above all, and perhaps most-importantly, Brett has been committed to his family, his business, and our community in Utah. He was a vice president of the Ogden Jaycees, he participated on several chamber of commerce committees, and he is a past president of the Ogden Golf and Country Club. He has served on a number of different insurance company agent advisory councils. He was awarded Utah's Agent of the Year, and Young Agent of the Year and, as if those recognitions were not enough, in 2001 he also received an IIABA Presidential Citation. All of this, however, has only served as icing on the cake when, in 2003, Brett received our State association's highest individual honor, the Burgener Award—a unique distinction awarded only five other times in the history of the association in Utah.

Today, Mr. President, I join with many Utahns and people from across the Nation in thanking Brett for his work with IIABA over the years and for his dedication to his professional career, our community, and our State. His efforts are greatly appreciated and have not gone unrecognized. For that, I wish him, his beautiful wife Nancy, and their four children and eight grandchildren the very best in their future endeavors, adventures, and service to others. I am certain they are looking forward to having a little more free time with grandpa, and I know we are all looking forward to next chapter of Brett's career.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CLARENCE "CAL" W. MARSELLA

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to offer congratulations and gratitude to Clarence "Cal" W. Marsella on the occasion of his retirement as general manager of the Denver Regional Transportation District, RTD.

Under Cal's leadership, the Denver region has become a national model of how effective public transit service can improve the quality of life, environment, and energy efficiency of a region. Cal was able to bring local, State, and Federal officials together behind a shared vision for our region, build a transit system matched to our region's growth patterns, and help us all remain committed to preserving one of the Nation's most unique and precious environments. At the same time, he has been a national champion for the idea that mass transit is the key to our energy independence.

Cal Marsella was hired as RTD's general manager in August 1995. During his service, he oversaw the completion of three new light rail lines on time and on budget, including the T-REX light rail project that opened November 17, 2006. Reflecting his performance and the strong public trust in RTD, metro area voters in 2004 overwhelmingly approved the FasTracks transit expansion program for the entire eight-county metro area. This represents the largest transit-only voter approved program in the entire country. With Cal's skill, determination, and effort, progress on the FasTracks program has moved ahead swiftly, and construction is currently underway on the new West Corridor.

Mr. Marsella began his transportation career in the highway engineering division of the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation in 1974, armed with a masters' degree in public affairs and a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Connecticut. He now serves on the National Academy of Sciences Transportation Research Board and regularly guest lectures at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado master's degree programs in transportation and public

administration. In recent years, Cal has received national honors commensurate with his leadership and achievements. He was selected by the American Public Transportation Association as the Outstanding Public Transportation Manager in 2006 and, under his management RTD, was selected as the Outstanding Transportation Agency in North America in both 2003 and 2008.

I congratulate and extend my sincere gratitude to Cal Marsella for his service to the Denver region and the State of Colorado. I wish him continued success and all good fortune in his work ahead.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of one of South Dakota's great cities, Vermillion. Sitting atop a bluff on the Missouri River in the southeast corner of the State, Vermillion is the county seat for Clay County. With its growing economic development, strong workforce, and diverse demographics, Vermillion has an exceptional quality of life, and I am proud to call it my hometown.

Deriving its name from the Sioux word for "red stream," Vermillion was founded in 1859 after first being visited by French fur traders. Just 3 years later in 1862 the University of South Dakota was founded, making it the State's oldest institution of higher education. After a harsh winter, the city of Vermillion faced what would later become known as the Great Flood of 1881. By the flood's end, over 100 buildings were destroyed, and transportation was stalled for months due to damage to railroads and bridges. The town's businesspeople quickly responded and rebuilt the town on top of the bluff. After relocating, the city continued to flourish with the advance of technological innovations at the turn of the century. In 1895, the Vermillion Milling Company received a franchise to operate an electric utility and provide electric lights. In 1902, Vermillion saw the installation of a city sewer system and steam powered automobiles on its streets. Throughout its rich and colorful history, Vermillion has continued to grow and prosper.

Today, Vermillion boasts a wide variety of educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities. It is home to many places of interest including the Shrine to Music Museum, founded in 1973. This national music museum is one of the greatest institutions of its kind in the world. The facility holds many instruments from renowned collections and has been recognized as "A Landmark of American Music" by the National Music Council. Additionally, the city's attractions include the Austin-Whittemore House, the Oscar Howe Gallery, the Dakota Dome, the W.H. Over Museum, Spirit Mound, and beautiful riverside trails.

Vermillion is celebrating its sesquicentennial with a variety of events including tours of the newly completed Vermillion City Hall, a community barbeque, school reunions and dances, a 5K Fun Run/Walk, an airshow, and a concert by Ratingen Youth Wind Orchestra from Vermillion's Sister City of Ratingen, Germany. These activities will serve as a reminder of the shared history of the community and bring the tight-knit people of Vermillion even closer together. Vermillion is holding a flag design contest to pay additional tribute to this historic milestone. The city has previously unveiled its official sesquicentennial logo, designed by Erin Helsa, a 2006 graduate of Vermillion High School.

As a native of Vermillion, I am pleased to publicly honor the achievements of this wonderful South Dakota community as they reach this juncture. I congratulate the citizens of Vermillion on their accomplishments over the last 150 years and look forward to seeing their future endeavors.●

ANNIVERSARY OF FARMERS STATE BANK IN HOSMER, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, with great honor, I wish to recognize the 90th anniversary of Farmers State Bank in Hosmer, SD.

After being chartered in 1919, Farmers State Bank opened its doors to the public on August 2, 1920. In the following years, Farmers State Bank was able to withstand the Great Depression and operate on a sound basis. In 1931, it consolidated with Hillview State Bank and stayed under the Farmers State Bank name. John, Arthur, and Helen Haerter were among the bank's first stockholders and served as the first president, vice president, and cashier, respectively. Throughout its history, the bank has remained within the Haerter family. Today, the current members of the board of directors are Bruce Haerter, Joyce Haerter, John A. Haerter, Doris Haerter, and John Schwan.

After 90 years of growth, Farmers State Bank still embodies the entrepreneurial health of South Dakota and the spirit of community in our local lending institutions. I strongly commend all the Farmers State Bank's employees on their years of hard work and dedication, and I am very pleased that the institution and its people are being publicly honored and celebrated on this memorable occasion.●

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH WEINSTEIN

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Deborah Weinstein, executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs, for her leadership and commitment to the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations.

On July 29, the coalition will honor Ms. Weinstein for her extraordinary 30-

plus years of advocacy work on a wide range of issues at both the State and Federal level. Throughout her distinguished career, Debbie Weinstein has been a tireless advocate for children, families, and those Americans most in need. She has been an architect of various coalitions, which is essential in promoting and enacting good public policy.

Over the years, I have been proud to work with Debbie and the Coalition on Human Needs on programs of mutual interest and concern like the earned income tax credit, child support enforcement, child nutrition, child care, and temporary assistance for needy families, TANF. The outreach and work of the coalition under Ms. Weinstein's strong leadership has played an important role in educating grassroots advocates and helping them convey their beliefs to policymakers on the Hill. It is an important role that has been done quite well for many years by Debbie Weinstein.

As executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs, Debbie has earned the respect and support of her colleagues. Recognition by ones peers is a strong endorsement indeed. It is my honor and privilege today to recognize Debbie Weinstein's compassion for the most vulnerable among us, and I thank her for that commitment.●

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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:01 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1121. An act to authorize a land exchange to acquire lands for the Blue Ridge Parkway from the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1376. An act to establish the Waco Mammoth National Monument in the State of Texas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2770. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify and update provisions of law relating to nonprofit research and education corporations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3155. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain caregivers of veterans with training, support, and medical care, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3219. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to insurance and health care, 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. 1121. An act to authorize a land exchange to acquire lands for the Blue Ridge Parkway from the Town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1376. An act to establish the Waco Mammoth National Monument in the State of Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2770. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify and update provisions of law relating to nonprofit research and education corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3155. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain caregivers of veterans with training, support, and medical care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3219. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to insurance and health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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-2478. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dichloromid; Time Limited Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8422-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2479. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ethylene oxide adducts of 2,3,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decynediol, the ethylene oxide content averages 3.5, 10, or 30 moles; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8425-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2480. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenpyroximate, Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8420-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2481. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "N,N,N',N'-Tetrakis-(2-