

well being of everyone. For example, rural America produces the food and the fiber that our country needs to survive. Young farmers and their families will not come back to live and work in an area where they cannot receive health services should an accident or sickness occur. The farming profession is already a gamble and not having access to health care is something most people aren't willing to risk. If people are forced to leave rural America due to lack of health care, then a whole new set of challenges will arise that we are not currently prepared to address. Any health care solutions or reforms must account for current rural health care system realities and future challenges.

I have long said that the best solutions originate outside the beltway, the same holds true with health care. Blanket policies crafted from within the DC beltway do not always meet the needs of Nebraskans. In fact, they often add additional burdens onto the current system and compromise the ability to access quality health care.

That is why I encourage my colleagues crafting health care reform legislation to incorporate the solutions offered in the Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Provider Equity Act. I am a sponsor of this legislation and look forward to a number of its provisions being enacted.

Additionally, I hope any health care reform will offer critical access hospitals flexibility in determining their bed count to account for seasonal and emergency situations which might affect admissions rates. Any comprehensive legislation must address the unique payment issues facing rural hospitals like reimbursing them for lab services provided in nursing homes and rural health clinics, and increasing Medicare payment rates for rural health clinics. Finally, legislation should extend the rural community hospital demonstration project and provide incentives to encourage providers to practice in physician scarcity areas.

The health care delivery system in rural America is already stressed. We cannot afford a big mistake with health care reform, because if we get it wrong, the fragile rural health care delivery system may never recover. Mark my words; if we enact policies that drive providers and facilities out of business, no one is waiting in the wings to take their place. Therefore, I urge caution and thorough debate of all health care reform proposals as unintended consequences must be minimized.

COMMENDING SENATOR NORM COLEMAN

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to our former colleague, Norm Coleman.

Norm once said, "It is easy to criticize, particularly in a political season. But to lead is something altogether dif-

ferent. The leader must live in the real world of the price that might be paid for the goal that has been."

Norm Coleman is a leader. Norm or, more importantly, his character endured one of the most difficult elections in the history of the Senate, and came out standing taller in the eyes of many. It is not easy to lose. But it is so much harder to maintain your dignity in the face of defeat, which Norm has done.

Having spent most of his life as a Democrat, Norm is what we would call a "late bloomer." I also started out as a Democrat and voted for Jimmy Carter in 1976. In 1996, Norm realized that the path of the Democrat Party was paved for other people, not him. He joined the Republican Party to share in our vision to keep taxes low, reform education, and grow jobs.

Norm more than adhered to this vision while in the Senate; he became a powerful voice on these issues. He also established himself as a fierce advocate for renewable energy. Norm fought for tax incentives that would strengthen the development of renewable energy across our country. He saw renewable energy as the key to greater national security and economic stimulus.

Norm also introduced legislation that would wean our Nation off our dangerous reliance on Middle Eastern oil by placing a greater emphasis on increasing renewable fuel infrastructure and alternative fuel technologies. His legacy will continue to thrive as we move our country closer to energy independence, through innovation, not government handouts.

Norm's leadership did not end at the shores of our Nation. He established himself as a true voice in foreign policy issues by exposing the corruption that was rife throughout the U.N.'s Oil for Food program and becoming a fierce advocate for our servicemen and women.

However, all of this pales in comparison to the legacy that he will leave in Minnesota. Throughout his entire Senate career, he never lost track of the voices of his constituents and the promises he made to them on the campaign trail.

His greatest legacy, perhaps, will be bringing hockey back to Minnesota. Minnesota will enjoy the fruits of his labor for years to come.

I consider Norm a friend and someone whom I respect and admire.

Norm, we will miss you dearly. I wish you much success in the future knowing that great things lie ahead of you.

COMMENDING BILL ANTON

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a brave American, William Anton. As a man of remarkable courage, strength, and conviction, Bill is receiving an extraordinary honor in the U.S. Army Ranger community by being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Bill will go down in the history books as the first Ne-vadan to ever receive this recognition.

As the son of an Army officer, Bill found his choice to continue the family tradition quite natural, but fate was needed to further solidify his commitment.

An ROTC scholarship to the University of Nebraska put Bill on the football team, but a football-ending knee injury put Bill right where he was supposed to be, as a fulltime Army cadet. Bill was soon promoted to cadet major general, making him the highest ranking ROTC cadet in the United States with over 20,000 cadets under his command.

According to Bill, life has been a constant pursuit of challenging endeavors saying, "In everything I've done, I always wanted to challenge myself to see if I could accomplish the most demanding tasks or courses—whether it was in the Army or in my academic pursuits."

And challenge himself he did. As a defender of our Nation's freedom in the Vietnam war, Bill guided the most decorated combat Ranger unit in Vietnam, Company H, Ranger, 75th Infantry, Airborne. While Vietnam was seen as a controversial war back home, Bill's role to defend freedom was never a doubt in his mind.

Bill joined the Rangers because they are one of the toughest military organizations in our Nation's history, and as a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame, history will remember Bill as one of our greatest warriors. For it was the Rangers that accomplished some of the most demanding and impossible tasks, and as a member of this elite group of soldiers, Bill exemplified their requirements of high intellect, physical strength, stamina, and bravery.

Bill's own words describe him the best: "My entire career was full of fond memories. I sought demanding assignments to challenge myself. Serving my country as a professional soldier and Officer is the highest form of public service. It is full of selfless duty and devotion to our nation—defense of our people and the supreme document—the Constitution. When we take our oath, it is to the Constitution first, then the President, and then to the other officers appointed over us. This is not lost on any Officer or soldier."

When asked what Bill would like the world to remember about his fallen comrades, he had this to say: "The American military fights only when diplomacy fails. We enforce the policies of our great nation. Our fallen comrades do not die in vain. They are remembered by their comrades, families, and most of the citizens of our great nation."

We all know that Bill Anton is an extraordinary soldier, but now America will know that above all else, he is an American that truly embodies the spirit and freedom of this great Nation.

REMEMBERING JAMES O. "JIM" INGRAM

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this morning I was saddened by the news

that my friend Jim Ingram, who served so well and courageously as commissioner of the Department of Public Safety of Mississippi, had passed away. He lost a long battle with cancer.

Jim was a retired FBI agent who was in charge of the civil rights unit that supervised the investigation and assisted in the prosecution of crimes by Klansmen and others who were charged with violence and murder in our State during the civil rights movement. He was a man of great courage, with a strong sense of purpose, whose warm and friendly personality make him easy to like and respect. The people of my State will long remember and appreciate his valuable contributions to peace and public safety.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of his obituary, as it appeared in today's Clarion-Ledger, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

James O. "Jim" Ingram, retired FBI agent and former Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, passed away at Hospice Ministries in Ridgeland, Mississippi on Sunday, August 2, 2009, after a long battle with cancer.

Visitation will be held at Christ United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi on Wednesday, August 5, 2009, from 5 pm until 7 pm and from 9 am until 10:30 am on Thursday, August 6, 2009. Reverend Vicki Landrum will officiate over the service, which will be held at Christ United Methodist Church on Thursday at 10:30 am. The burial service will follow at Parkway Memorial Cemetery on Highland Colony Parkway in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements. Born January 22, 1932, in Henryetta, Oklahoma, Jim Ingram was a long time resident of the Jackson Metro area. Jim Ingram joined the FBI in 1953, and was with the FBI for over thirty (30) years in several capacities, such as Deputy Assistant Director in Washington, with duties supervising all FBI criminal investigations. He also was Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the New York and Chicago FBI offices. Mr. Ingram traveled worldwide for the FBI to places such as France, Canada, Mexico, and most of Central and South America. Some famous FBI cases which he commanded were: The Guyana Jim Jones case where over 1,000 people committed suicide at the request of their leader, Jim Jones, and the investigation into the assassination of Federal Judge John H. Woods in Texas, where a hired assassin killed the federal judge. Drug lords were arrested for this crime.

Jim Ingram was also in charge of the FBI's Mississippi Civil Rights Unit in the 1960's, supervising the investigation and assisting in the successful prosecution of Edgar Ray Killen and other Klansmen who killed the three civil rights workers in the "Mississippi Burning Case" in Neshoba County, Philadelphia, Mississippi. Mr. Ingram also supervised the investigation and assisted in the prosecution of James Ford Seale for violent deaths committed in Mississippi. In June 1996, Mr. Ingram represented Mississippi in a meeting at the White House hosted by the President and Vice President on church burnings.

After retiring from the FBI, he served ten (10) years as Senior V.P., Director of Security for Deposit Guaranty National Bank. He

served as Commissioner of Public Safety for eight years commanding the Mississippi Highway Patrol, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, and six other divisions. He served the State's second longest tenure in this capacity and said "these were some of the happiest times of my life." He was well known throughout the U.S. in law enforcement receiving several awards such as being honored with the Civil Rights Award in September 2006 in Boston, Massachusetts by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for the solution of the "Mississippi Burning Case" and was appointed as a Member by the Harvard University Associates in Police Science. Jim was active in the business community having served as President of the Jackson Rotary Club, the largest civic club in Mississippi.

Jim Ingram is survived by his loving wife, Marie, of 58 years; his three sons, Steven W. Ingram and his wife, Brenda, Madison, Mississippi, Stanley T. Ingram and wife, Terri, Edwards, Mississippi, and James M. Ingram and wife, Janice, Madison, Mississippi, and fifteen (15) grandchildren and great grandchildren, all of whom have given him the love of his life.

His three sons, Steve, Stan and Jim, stated their dad enjoyed helping others. They have been amazed over the years of the caliber of people across the U.S. that sought his advice and wisdom. Their dad would tell them "Kindness is something you cannot give away. It always keeps coming back."

Before his death, Jim Ingram stated that he could never repay the kindness shown to him, his wife Marie, and family from neighbors, Peter DeBeukelaer and wife, Mireille, Dr. Greg Fiser and wife, Robin, Billy Powell and his wife, Barbara, Rusty Fulton and his wife, Sandy, Bob Lunardini and his wife, Susan, and Federal Judge Neal O'Lack and his wife, Rebecca.

Mr. Ingram gives special thanks to Dr. Cindy Wright and her husband Sam Wright for their kindness and support. Special thanks to the men and women of the FBI across the country and to former SAC Joe Jackson, Col. Mike Berthay and Charlie Saums and the men and women of the Mississippi Highway Patrol who have made his life so enjoyable.

Memorials may be made to Christ United Methodist Church Youth Ministry Program, 6000 Old Canton Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39211, or Hospice Ministries of Ridgeland, 450 Towne Center Boulevard, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of an Oregon icon the Tillamook County Creamery Association, makers of Tillamook Cheese.

Since 1909, this world-famous, farmer-owned cooperative has been dedicated to producing the highest quality cheeses and other products from local dairies that have thrived in the lush coastal valleys around the community of Tillamook, OR. Tillamook Cheese is not just a commercial enterprise. It is the proud symbol of a way of life that has been passed on for generations.

The members of the Tillamook County Creamery Association have been

mainstays of the local and state dairy industries and committed stewards of the environment. They employ more than 600 people at two factories in Oregon and have annual sales of nearly \$400 million.

With all due respect to my colleagues from the great State of Wisconsin, Tillamook is cheese. Over the years, the Tillamook County Creamery Association has won hundreds of awards, including six at the 2009 Oregon Dairy Industries products contest and six at the 2008 National Milk Producers Association. It has also been recognized by the Portland Business Journal for the third year in a row as one of Oregon's "Most Admired Companies."

For decades, the Tillamook Cheese Factory has been a must-see stop for millions of tourists who travel highway 101. In recent years, the creamery association has expanded to other parts of the State, but its traditions are deeply rooted in the pastures and dairies that make Tillamook County and Tillamook Cheese what it is.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 3435. An act making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1572. A bill to provide for a point of order against any legislation that eliminates or reduces the ability of Americans to keep their health plan or their choice of doctor or that decreases the number of Americans enrolled in private health insurance, while increasing the number of Americans enrolled in government-managed health care.

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-2587. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,