TRIBUTE TO JOHN CROSIER

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John Crosier for his outstanding service to the State of New Hampshire’s residents and business community.

John retired as president of our State’s largest business organization, the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, in 2004 after 16 years. He has served the residents of my State as a trustee of the University System of New Hampshire, a position which appointed him to, as a member of the board of governors for the New Hampshire Forum on Higher Education, as a member of the executive committee of the Whittemore School of Business and Economics, and as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee representing State chambers of commerce. Before he came to New Hampshire, he worked in Massachusetts as the head of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable and as Commissioner of Employment for our neighboring State. He was appointed to, as a Republican Governor and reappointed by a Democratic Governor.

John has been a board leader at numerous businesses, including the most in his energy, intellect and voice to some of New Hampshire’s most influential and important organizations: the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Junior Achievement, Leadership New Hampshire and the American Cancer Society.

Throughout his years as the head of the Business and Industry Association, and through his nonprofit board leadership, John’s guiding principle has been what’s best for New Hampshire. When I was Governor of New Hampshire, John Crosier was one of my most trusted advisors. A gentleman always, his courage of conviction and pragmatic optimism for our State’s future were always trustworthy. He has been, and continues to be, a role model for civility in public discourse.

John’s commitment to New Hampshire was evident in his visionary work on the State’s most extensive research project, which resulted in a statewide economic strategy in 1996—An Agenda for Continued Economic Opportunity in New Hampshire. That plan set forth by John has been credited with my State’s recent strong economic recovery in the 1990s. Pieces of it are still being used today as a framework for New Hampshire, and it served as the foundation for a similar report by my administration during my second term as Governor. His belief that the health of the business sector is closely tied to issues of education, environment, and the nonprofit sector has contributed to the leadership of our State and will continue to guide our State in the future.

I thank John Crosier for his service to New Hampshire and his preparation for his well-deserved retirement. I am grateful for his friendship, leadership and advice throughout the years.

RECOGNIZING FALCON PERFORMANCE FOOTWEAR

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, in cities and towns all across America, there are businesses that are synonymous with the communities they serve. Maine has historically been home to a number of companies, from local paper mills to Bath Iron Works. In the Lewiston-Auburn region, Falcon Performance Footwear has been part of the fabric since 1963, producing high-quality shoes and boots for generations of firefighters and emergency professionals. Today, August 23, Falcon Performance Footwear will be recognized by the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, or MEP, with its 2011 Manufacturing Excellence Award. I commend Falcon for its fine work and congratulate the company on its recognition.

Falcon Shoe Manufacturing Company got its start in 1963, when Ted Johanson opened the factory’s doors at the Roy Continental Mill in Lewiston. Originally, Falcon manufactured children’s shoes, but over time focused its efforts on manufacturing boots for a number of uses. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, Falcon began implementing a number of forward-thinking and innovative processes, including the first direct-attach polyurethane outer sole for shoes in the country. The company was also the first to make the shoe industry to utilize computerized stitching equipment, as well as the first direct-attach polyurethane outer sole for shoes. Falcon also was the first to make a direct-attach polyurethane outer sole for shoes in the country. Falcon also was the first to make a direct-attach polyurethane outer sole for shoes in the country.

Today, Falcon’s sole focus is on making reliable, sturdy, comfortable boots, particularly for consumers in labor-intensive jobs. The company produces a number of cutting-edge industrial boots, and in 2006 began working with the Maine Firefighter’s Association, a New Hampshire small business, to create a state-of-the-art boot for firefighters designed with an athletic shoe platform rather than a more rigid welted sole to provide added flexibility. Falcon added mining boots to its repertoire in 2009, which feature a type of leather that resists many of the salts and minerals frequently encountered by miners.

Over the past decade, Falcon has worked with the Maine MEP to improve the company’s productivity by 60 percent, retained over 50 jobs, increased its sales, and trained all of its employees in a number of advanced manufacturing techniques. I have long been a supporter of, and advocate for, the MEP program, and recognize the immense value of its services to small and medium-sized manufacturers across the country. Indeed, the result of their partnership with the Maine MEP over the past 5 years, clients have reported increased and retained sales.
Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I will be greatly missed by all. Larry Gerlach was a respected man within the Brown County Fair, as well as made him a greatly appreciated man in the region. His ambition and driven attitude helped develop the Brown County Fair into one of the largest fairs in the region. He was able to book some of the biggest names in country music to perform at the grandstand that is being named in his honor. His friends, family, and coworkers all remember him as having an upbeat and positive attitude, and he was regarded by all as a joy to be around.

Larry received many prestigious awards in his life, among them was the 1996 People’s Choice ABBY Award from the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he served as the president of the South Dakota Association of Fairs from 1997-2001, and in 2003, Larry was inducted into the South Dakota Fairman’s Hall of Fame.

Unfortunately, Larry passed away in February of 2011. Although we are saddened by this loss, Larry’s memory will live on through his loved ones and those who were fortunate to work closely with him. Larry’s sense of determination, ambition, and positive attitude helped made the Brown County Fair successful, and that success will continue today, as well as made him a greatly respected man within the Brown County community and the entire state. He will be greatly missed by all.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Bo Bruinsma, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Bo is a graduate of Elk Point-Jefferson High School in South Dakota. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota, majoring in political science and mass communications with a Spanish minor. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Bo for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3101A(a)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, I hereby certify that the debt subject to limit is within $100,000,000,000 of the limit in 31 U.S.C. 3101(b) and that further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments—PM 17

The following bill was read the first time and referred to the appropriate committees.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:38 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 365. An act to provide for budget control.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. Inouye).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2480. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-2803. A communication from the Regulatory Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Export Inspection and Weighing Waiver for High Quality Specialty Grain Transported in Containers” (RIN0580-AB18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2804. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Operations and Maintenance Army account and was assigned Army case number 10-12; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-2805. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Launch Safety: Lighting Criteria for Expendable Launch Vehicles” (RIN2120-AC85) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0381) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2806. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulated Navigation Area; Chelsea Street Bridge Construction, Chelsea, MA” (RIN1625-A11) (Docket No. USCG-2011-