

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING O'KEEFE FUNERAL HOMES

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize O'Keefe Funeral Homes of Biloxi, MS, on the occasion of their 150 years of service to residents of the Mississippi gulf coast. Since its inception in 1895, O'Keefe Funeral Homes has grown to include six locations throughout South Mississippi.

In addition to meeting the needs of the bereaved for generations, the O'Keefe family has been pivotal to the growth, support, and success of other economic and cultural enterprises across South Mississippi, assisting with the formation of the Walter Anderson Museum and the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum.

This sesquicentennial anniversary of O'Keefe Funeral Homes represents a great milestone for all coast communities and businesses as it is not only one of the oldest recurring businesses in Mississippi but has also survived and thrived in the face of many of our Nation's most devastating natural disasters.

Six generations of O'Keefes have served South Mississippi with grace and valor. The O'Keefe's service has added value to economic sustainability while providing a better way of life for gulf coast residents and businesses.

I am pleased to recognize the O'Keefe family for their 150 years of exemplary service and ongoing devotion to the Mississippi gulf coast.●

REMEMBERING AMMALINE HELEN HOWARD

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Ammaline Helen "Amy" Howard, a beloved member of the Charleston, WV community.

The Howard family is a great, well-respected family in my beautiful State and I am honored to call the members of this family my dear friends. I had the privilege of meeting Amy, who was affectionately known by so many as Aunt Amy, many times. She was always humble, welcoming, and supportive. She was a pillar in the Howard family, standing strong on values with a captivating yet calming spirit. Her nieces and nephews knew if their parents told them "no" to something, that they could go to Aunt Amy and she would find a way to help them out.

Put simply, individuals like Amy stand out. She was the epitome of what West Virginians are all about, with her welcoming nature and unwavering commitment to help those in need. Amy led by example and treated her neighbors as friends and her friends as family. She instilled this same loyal community service mindset throughout her family. She leaves behind her loving brother Victor, sister-in-law Elaine, and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

She was a second mother to many, and truly brought the whole family to-

gether. She made sure a hot meal was ready every evening, and if she saw you, she made sure you were invited to dinner that night.

A native of Charleston, Amy graduated from Charleston High School in 1933 and gave back to her hometown in many ways. She began working at the Naval Ordnance and Armor Plant in South Charleston before joining her brother in his successful grocery business, Sabe Howard's Market. She then worked for many years as a loyal employee of the Kanawha County Clerk's Office before her retirement in 1974.

Among her many roles, she was a member of the Charleston Hightop Club and the West Virginia Woman's American Syrian League. Amy also supported the West Virginia Symphony League and the St. Jude Hospital because she was passionate about investing her time and efforts to helping others in any way that she could.

She was a lifelong member of St. George Orthodox Cathedral, and was also a member of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch and the St. George Ladies Guild, serving as an officer. Amy was fiercely committed to her church family, always willing to lend a helping hand or prepare food for church functions. Every year at the annual dinner she would help prepare food and make sure there were plenty of her legendary cabbage rolls.

Aunt Amy was a model for the ages. She understood what really mattered in life and I enjoyed chatting with her about the jewels in the treasure box of life—family, faith, community, and service. She believed that staying active was the key to living a long, happy life. Amy loved to walk and visit the mall to get her favorite coffee and biscuits, and remained active until her late 90s.

I recall one time being invited to Aunt Amy's basement kitchen where the heavy cooking really took place. It was filled with freezers, refrigerators, microwaves, and every cooking utensil you can think of. Not many people were invited down to her kitchen, so I knew I was really taken in as part of the family. She truly had that effect on people—it was a second home, and you were considered family. And family comes first.

Amy was a beloved aunt, friend, and inspiration to the Charleston community. Her glowing smile and positive attitude were contagious and will live on in the memories and hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing her. Amy's service was greatly appreciated and will certainly never be forgotten.●

RECOGNIZING STANFORD OVSHINSKY

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Mr. Stanford Ovshinsky, on the occasion of his induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Mr. Ovshinsky, the eldest son of working-class Jewish parents in Akron, OH,

displayed an early conviction to improving the lives of all Americans. This conviction inspired a lifelong dedication to advancing labor rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Despite no formal education after receiving his high school diploma, Mr. Ovshinsky became one of the 20th century's most prolific inventors. His vision and concern for the greater good led to over 400 patents, including major contributions to flexible solar panels, computer memory, flat-screen TV displays, and the development of the nickel-metal hydride battery.

Mr. Ovshinsky's belief in the ability of science and technology to advance environmental stewardship and quality of life was rooted in his experience as a member of the Workmen's Circle, a Jewish fraternal organization committed to community, an enlightened Jewish culture, and social justice since it was established in 1900. The Workmen's Circle inspired Mr. Ovshinsky to pursue science and develop advanced technology dedicated to heightening economic opportunity and improving people's relationship with the environment around the world. After starting his career as a toolmaker in Akron, Mr. Ovshinsky moved to Detroit in 1952, where he was director of research at the Hupp Corporation and established General Automation with his younger brother, Herb Ovshinsky.

At General Automation, Mr. Ovshinsky continued his research on intelligent machines, as well as early work on various information and energy technologies. He was invited by Wayne State University to conduct research at the university's neuroscience lab, where he discovered the connection between the amorphous structure of brain cells and amorphous glassy materials. This discovery encouraged Mr. Ovshinsky and his brother to construct the Ovitron, a mechanical model of a nerve cell constructed of thin layers of amorphous material, creating the first nanostructure, and establishing the foundation of his research for decades.

Following his experience at General Automation, Mr. Ovshinsky founded Energy Conversion Devices in 1960 with Iris Dibner, who would become his wife and partner for over 50 years. It was at Energy Conversion Devices that he established Ovonic—the process of turning glassy, thin films into semiconductors with the application of low voltage—and developed new electronic and optical switches, including Ovonic Phase Change Memory and the Threshold Switch. These became the basis for the invention of rewritable CDs and DVDs, as well as the cognitive computer. Mr. Ovshinsky's work also revolutionized the construction of solar panels and resulted in the nickel-metal hydride battery, which became an important power source for electric vehicles, consumer electronics, industrial equipment, and telecommunications.

Time Magazine celebrated Mr. Ovshinsky as a "Hero for the Planet"

in 1991. In 2006, The Economist recognized him as the “Edison of our age.” At the time of his death in 2012, he was credited on more than 300 publications and had received over 20 major awards and honorary degrees. Throughout his life, however, Mr. Ovshinsky displayed as much vigor for fighting for justice outside his laboratory as within. His efforts contributed to the introduction of affordable housing in his affluent neighborhood in Birmingham, MI, and he was a proud member of the Mechanist’s Union, as well as an early supporter of Walter P. Reuther and the United Auto Workers. It is an honor to recognize someone whose work not only helped usher the world into the modern age, but was also based in a belief that each of us has a responsibility to serve our community and leave the world a better place for generations to come.●

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH STEVENS FAMILY REUNION

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize and honor an exemplary Oregonian family who will soon gather for their 125th family reunion. Family reunions are difficult to organize and even harder to make lasting traditions. Nonetheless, since 1891 the children of Hanson and Lavina Stevens have managed to hold yearly family reunions, with the exception of one missed reunion during the First World War—truly an amazing feat.

In many ways, the history of the Stevens family is the history of the State of Oregon. In 1852, the Stevens family decided to take advantage of the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850, which encouraged settlement of the Oregon Territory. Hanson and Lavina Stevens, their eight children and a wagon loaded with vital supplies traveled the treacherous Oregon Trail.

Twenty-two other wagons traveled alongside the Stevens family and undertook the Oregon Trail’s most dangerous migration year ever recorded. While all of the other families decided to stop near Fort Bridger, WY, in search of gold, Hanson Stevens concluded that mining camps were not suitable for raising his family. Instead, the Stevens, like thousands of other pioneers, chose to settle in Oregon. They chose the “Promised Land.” Ever since, the Stevens and their descendants have contributed to the territory and then the State of Oregon.

In June of 1891, the entire family gathered for the birthday of the family patriarch at the time, Isaac Stevens. That tradition continued on each year, and eventually turned from a birthday party into a more formal family reunion.

Today the Stevens decedents are six clans strong, and they rotate the responsibility for hosting their memorable reunions. This year the Ringo Clan will be hosting the 125th reunion on July 19, 2015 at Champoeg Park in St. Paul, OR.

The family tells me that each year the various clans all give a report to the family, and the details are recorded in a leather-bound journal. As you can imagine, this journal traces not just the history of the Stevens family but also provides a view into the history of Oregon and the United States.

And that is part of what makes family reunions so wonderful. They don’t just connect us to the aunts, uncles and cousins we don’t see very often; they also connect us to our past, our heritage. Family reunions are a place to share family lore, shared values, and traditions.

I am thrilled to recognize the Stevens family 125th annual reunion. I hope to see the Stevens family tradition continue for many, many 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 and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:32 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 bill, without amendment:

S. 802. An act to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 336. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska.

H.R. 404. An act to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska.

H.R. 533. An act to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 944. An act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 979. An act to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as “Sky Point”.

H.R. 1168. An act to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention

Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1335. An act to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1493. An act to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 336. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 404. An act to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 533. An act to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 944. An act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 979. An act to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as “Sky Point”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1335. An act to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1493. An act to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk due to political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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-1752. A communication from the Acting Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Approval Threshold for Time-and-Materials and Labor-Hour Contracts” ((RIN0750-AI56) (DFARS Case 2014-D020)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the