

However, Pfizer's real emergence as an industry leader was the result of a daring risk taken by Pfizer executives in the 1940s. In 1928, when Alexander Fleming discovered the germ-killing properties of penicillin, he knew that it could have a profound medical value. Yet, Fleming could not figure out a way to mass-produce the drug. In 1941, following new discoveries relating to this "wonder drug", Pfizer executives put their own stocks at stake and invested millions of dollars in finding a way to mass-produce penicillin. Eventually, they succeeded. The breakthrough came just in time to send penicillin to the front lines of World War II.

From that point forward, Pfizer evolved into an international leader in the pharmaceutical industry, opening facilities around the globe and developing new and effective antibiotics to combat deadly infectious diseases. Pfizer's products, which treat a variety of diseases and disorders, are now available in 150 countries. The company also has thriving consumer health care and animal health care divisions. Pfizer now employs close to 50,000 people in 85 countries, including 4,939 employees in their Groton research facility, which lies in my home state of Connecticut.

The desire to live a healthy life is universal. But for millions of people around the world, access to high quality health care remains out of reach. Pfizer is committed to bringing its medicines to those in need. Through Sharing the Care, a program started in 1993, Pfizer has filled more than 3.0 million prescriptions—valued at over \$170 million—for more than one million uninsured patients in the United States. The program was cited by American Benefactor, a leading philanthropy journal, in selecting Pfizer as one of America's 25 most generous companies for 1998.

Pfizer today is renowned as one of the world's most admired corporations for the many contributions it has made to our society. I applaud Pfizer on its 150th anniversary for its continued efforts to making this nation and this world a healthier place.●

#### RESIGNATION OF WALLY BEYER

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a true public servant, a fellow North Dakotan, and a man I am proud to call my friend.

Wally Beyer has served this nation as Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service, the former Rural Electric Administration, for 6 years now.

Wally is the 12th administrator of the agency originally created by Franklin Roosevelt; an agency that has developed as we've developed as a nation: from providing basic electric and telecommunications needs for America's rural areas, to making sure rural

America takes its rightful place in the new communication age.

Wally has helped steer the RUS toward not only providing the critical continuing need for clean water and waste water facilities, but into new territory of critical distance-learning and medical links for areas that otherwise might not have access to these important services.

Since he was first nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate in late 1993, Wally's steady hand, professional skill and patience has served our Nation well.

Whether it was to guide the refinancing of electric borrowers through the high interest years of the 1970's and 80's, or to lead the modernization and stream-lining of rules and regulations at the RUA, Wally Beyer managed the agency with a careful balancing of the needs of rural America and the needs of the American taxpayer.

Wally Beyer has served this nation well. As a crew chief for the U.S. Air Force air rescue squadron in the Caribbean in the 50's, as an engineer for the Verendrye Electric Cooperative bringing electricity to north central North Dakota, and as head of the reinvigorated RUS.

Wally plans to return to our native North Dakota, along with his wife Pat. With three married children and three growing grandchildren, he says he will stay active and involved in public service. Washington's loss will be North Dakota's gain as Wally Beyer returns home to the land we both love.

In a recent speech announcing those plans, Wally said, "My season has come. I feel good about it. I've got to get back to North Dakota where the air is sweet. You won't miss me when I'm gone."

Well Wally. Your legacy at the RUS is in tact, and thanks to your hard work is, as you said, "humming along."

But you are wrong to say you won't be missed. Your selfless service to the public good will be missed by many, who will have to continue the restructuring of the electric utility industry without your sure hand.

You will be missed by those electric consumers in 46 States that were well aware that you, as a rural resident, understood their needs.

And you will be missed by those who relied on your friendship and good judgement when seeking to solve the long term problems continuing to plague rural America.

So, as you take your leave, I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in wishing you and your family the very best in what ever path you choose.

You have made a lasting impact and a worthwhile contribution to your country. Wally Beyer, you have made a difference and we are all better for it. Thank you, Mr. Administrator.●

#### IN RECOGNITION OF CAMIE OGREN

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to recognize an outstanding South Carolina athlete, Camie Ogren. In August, Camie brought home gold medals in the tricks event, the jump event and the team overall competition in the 1999 World Disabled Water Ski Championships in Windsor, England. This was her fifth trip to the international competition representing the U.S. Disabled Water Ski Team. In 1998, Camie broke the women's world record for slalom at the National Disabled Championships in Birmingham, Ala., where she also won four gold medals in the leg amputee division.

Skiing has been an important part of Camie's life since her childhood in Windermere, Florida near Orlando, and in the finest athletic spirit, she continued to pursue the sport after bone cancer claimed her right leg more than 10 years ago when she was 15. Two weeks after her leg was amputated, Camie was back in the water and a few months later she competed in her first world championship in Australia where she earned second and third place honors.

She moved to Charleston, S.C. a year and a half ago to work with the Medical University of South Carolina's Anchors Away program. Operated through the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Anchors Away allows people with disabilities and their families access to boats and other recreational activities, mostly on the water. With her expertise, Camie helped Anchors Away form a disabled water ski team that competes in national competitions and has also conducted out-of-town ski clinics in South and North Carolina.

Camie is a remarkable person and athlete whose warmth and dedication to the sport of water-skiing has endeared her to the Charleston community. She serves as a powerful example to persons with disabilities of what they can achieve in the realm of competition. South Carolina is lucky to have Camie Ogren and her limitless energy in advancing her sport and its athletes.●

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL BERNT BALCHEN

● Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, Col. Bernt Balchen, A Norwegian-born pilot, became one of America's great Arctic experts of the 20th Century. A patriotic American, he was also a great friend of the State of Alaska.

Born in Norway on October 23, 1899. Colonel Balchen served in the French Foreign Legion, and both the Finnish and Norwegian Armies in World War I; and became a pilot in the Norwegian Naval Air Corps in 1921.

Throughout the 1920's and 1930's Colonel Balchen participated in numerous

trans-Atlantic and Arctic expeditions. During 1928–1930, Balchen was chief pilot on Admiral Byrd's Atlantic expedition and on November 29, 1929, he piloted the first airplane, a Ford trimotor "Floyd Bennett" across the South Pole. Congress conferred United States citizenship of Colonel Balchen in 1931.

When World War II started in 1939, Colonel Balchen began ferrying airplanes to England and Singapore for the British. In 1941, he joined the United States Army Air Corps at the request of General "Hap" Arnold, and was assigned to Greenland to Supervise the Construction of, and later command, our famous airbase known as "Bluie West 8". His command is credited with numerous rescue missions saving many pilots whose planes had gone down on the icecap.

In 1943, Balchen became chief of allied transportation command for Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and the Soviet Union, operating out of a secret base in Scotland. During that period, his command regularly flew across enemy-occupied territory to rescue downed allied airmen and insert commandos and intelligence agents behind enemy lines. He also led highly secret missions into Norway to resupply underground resistance forces for their operations against the German army of occupation.

After the war, Balchen was recalled to active duty with the United States Air Force in 1948 and assigned to command the 10th rescue squadron at Elemendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. The techniques of Arctic Rescue that Colonel Balchen developed during this assignment continue to save the lives of civilian and military personnel to this day. In May 1949, he flew a Douglas C-54 from Fairbanks, Alaska over the North Pole to Oslo, Sweden, becoming the first pilot to fly over both Poles.

Colonel Balchen was transferred to headquarters, United States Air Force in 1951 to participate in developing the Ballistic missile early warning system (BMEWS). Also, he was instrumental in the establishment of Thule Air Force base in Greenland and blazed airborne trails to assist both commercial and military aviation in the Arctic region. After retiring from the Air Force in 1956, Balchen continued to serve on special assignment and as a consultant to the military.

Col. Bernt Balchen died on October 23, 1973, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His lifetime achievements influenced the course of Aviation, arctic, and military history. His legacy to this country and to my State of Alaska is a strong northern defense, an established transpolar aviation system, a better understanding of the world's polar regions, and, of course, the lives of those rescued by Colonel Balchen and the men and women who continue his work with the United States Air Force Rescue Service.●

#### MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 73, the continuing resolution, which is at the desk. I further ask consent the joint resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 73) was read the third time and passed.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar:

No. 98, Cheryl Shavers, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology; No. 99, Kelly Carnes, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy; No. 133, Lawrence Harrington, to serve on the Inter-American Development Bank; Nos. 244, 245, and 246, three Mississippi River Commissioners; No. 253, Thomas Leary, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner; No. 254, Stephen Van Beek, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation; No. 255, Michael Frazier, for the position of Assistant Secretary of Transportation; No. 256, Gregory Rohde, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications; No. 270, Florence-Marie Cooper, to be a U.S. district judge in the Central District of California; No. 274, Barbara Lynn, to be a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Texas; No. 277, Gerald Poje, to serve on the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; No. 278, Skila Harris, to be on the TVA Board of Directors; No. 279, Glenn McCullough, to be on the TVA Board of Directors; No. 238, Dorian Vanessa Weaver, for the Export-Import Bank; and No. 239, Dan Renberg, to be on the Export-Import Bank; and then Nos. 281 through 290, ten sentencing commissioners; and No. 293, Paul Seave, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. I have a question of the leader. Will the majority leader agree to delete No. 279 from the list of nominations?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I inquire of the Senator, is that Glenn McCullough of Mississippi, my home State, to be a member of the Tennessee Valley Authority board of directors?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. No, I will not agree to that. I should point out there are some 27 nominations—25 nominations plus 2 more on which I was going to ask for agreement on a time limit and a vote, the nomination of Linda Morgan to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board—her nomination has been held up quite sometime, but I have agreement now to proceed to a recorded vote on that one, and also No. 271, the nomination of Ronald Gould of Washington to be a U.S. judge for the Ninth Circuit. We need to request 1 hour of debate and a recorded vote. There are a total of 27 nominations here, including 2 that will have to have a recorded vote. It is a package. They all go or none go.

Mr. GRAHAM. In light of that, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I can be heard briefly on that. I want to emphasize this is a very large package of 27 nominations. Most of them are people who are supported by Democrats, I guess 23, 24, 25 of those. There are two or three that are Republican positions. One of them is for the Tennessee Valley Authority, which I presume is being objected to for an unrelated reason because, clearly, there is no problem with this nominee.

I will be back early next week with additional nominations that will run this package up to, I presume, between 34 and 40 nominations. All I can do is get them cleared and then offer them to the Democrats. If they object, then that is their problem.

I should also note that included in this group was not one, not two, but three judges, two of them women. One of the women is from California and one of them is from Texas. So for one 6-year appointment—I believe it is a 6-year term—to the Tennessee Valley Authority where there is a need for these two directors, they are willing to hold up 27 nominations, including two women nominated to U.S. district courts.

That is not real smart. I do not quite understand it, and I hope the leadership and the President will speak to those who object in this way because I have heard all kinds of rhetoric today about how it is difficult if you are a woman or minority to get your nomination approved. In fact, I believe the record will show over the last 3 years this Congress and the previous Congress has confirmed a higher percentage of women and minorities than any Congress in history.

I do note it is pretty hard to go back and look at all the nominations and determine exactly how many minorities were approved because there is no record. We do not check whether you are a minority—African American or Hispanic or Asian. You are a person. All we can tell by your name is if you