

Kentucky students truly exhibited superlative performance." I congratulate these five students for their hard work and their achievement.●

#### CELEBRATING WILLIAM BEAUMONT HOSPITAL'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator STABENOW and myself, I congratulate the William Beaumont Hospital on 50 years of dedicated service to the Michigan community.

William Beaumont Hospital opened its doors in Royal Oak in 1955 as a result of a survey in southeast Michigan which showed an overwhelming need for medical assistance in the area. The survey was quickly proven correct. Within its first week of operation, the hospital performed over 40 major surgeries and delivered over 30 babies. As the need continued to grow, Beaumont opened a second hospital in 1977 in Troy.

In the past 50 years, Beaumont has grown significantly, logging nearly 1.7 million inpatient admissions and nearly 3.3 million emergency visits. It works closely with several universities in Michigan to provide premier residency and fellowship programs and the Beaumont Research Institute conducts more than 800 active studies funded by grants.

Today, Beaumont is ranked among the top hospitals not just in Michigan but in the Nation. With staff representing over 90 different medical and surgical specialties, Beaumont has been honored with numerous awards including AARP's "Top 50 Hospitals," one of "America's Best Hospitals" by U.S. News and World Report, a "100 Top Hospitals—National Benchmarks for Success" by Solucient, and one of Michigan's "Best Places to Work" by Crain's Detroit Business.

Senator STABENOW and I are delighted to have the opportunity to thank the former and current staff of Beaumont Hospital for their enormous contributions to the State of Michigan and to congratulate them on reaching this significant milestone.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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.)

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. CRAIG for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

\*Jim Nicholson, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. DEMINT):

S. 3. A bill to strengthen and protect America in the war on terror; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 6. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide permanent family tax relief, to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and to improve access to quality child care, and to provide incentives for charitable contributions by individuals and businesses, to improve the public disclosure of activities of exempt organizations, and to enhance the ability of low-income Americans to gain financial security by building assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 7. A bill to increase American jobs and economic growth by making permanent the individual income tax rate reductions, the reduction in the capital gains and dividend tax rates, and the repeal of the estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. KYL, Mr. FRIST, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. COBURN, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 8. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 9. A bill to improve American competitiveness in the global economy by improving and strengthening Federal education and training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 11. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that the strength of the Armed Forces and the protections and benefits for members of the Armed Forces and their families are adequate for keeping the commitment of the people of the United States to support their service members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 12. A bill to combat international terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 13. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance health care, mental health, transition, and disability benefits for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INOUE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 14. A bill to provide fair wages for America's workers, to create new jobs through investment in America, to provide for fair trade and competitiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DODD, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 15. A bill to improve education for all students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DODD, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 16. A bill to reduce to the cost of quality health care coverage and improve the availability of health care coverage for all Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 17. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to protect voting rights and to improve the administration of Federal elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DAYTON (for himself, Mr. REID, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DODD, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 18. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to