

makes it clear we have been doing very important and serious work.

For instance, we have already repealed the telephone excise tax, a tax that was put on temporarily to help pay for the Spanish-American War. That was a part of one of the bills we passed a week or so ago. That has been repealed.

We passed the Safe Drug Reimportation Act as part of one of the bills that passed last week.

We passed permanent normal trade relations with China, legislation I am sure most people would describe as important trade legislation, whether they disagree or agreed with it.

We passed the H-1B visa bill which certainly has a very important effect on small businesses and high-tech industries in the United States, as well as other bills related to children's health, breast and cervical cancer prevention, rural schools and community self-determination, and Aimee's law wherein a State can require or use law enforcement funds in relation to the release of a convict who commits a crime in another State. That information can be provided to the other State.

The Violence Against Women Act was passed; victims of terrorism legislation; the Water Resources Development Act, including the very important Everglades provisions. We passed portions of the conservation bill called CARA, and perhaps even more of it will pass before we leave. We passed the intelligence authorization bill; the NASA authorization bill; and the Department of Defense authorization bill just last week, very important legislation for the future of our military men and women, not only in terms of their readiness and modernization of their equipment, but also a pay raise of 4.8 percent for our military men and women, and the strongest health care package for our military men and women, their families, and our retirees in the history of the country.

In addition, we have passed seven appropriations conference bills. There have been questions about the tax bill. I do not think there is any big secret about it. All you have to do is look at bills that have passed the House or the Senate or the Finance Committee, and you will see that there is the community renewal legislation, which has the support of the President, the Speaker of the House, and a number of Senators. There has been an expectation that it would be done in some form before we leave; the very important improvements in pensions and IRAs, as well as 401(k)s, so that a greater amount can be put into these IRAs and 401(k)s.

Then, since we have not been able to overcome objections from some of the Senators—I think Senator WELLSTONE, Senator KENNEDY, and maybe others—the small business tax relief package, which is attached to the minimum wage, would be something that we want to get done before we leave here.

Finally—certainly not least—I have tried to move, several times, the Foreign Sales Corporation legislation re-

ported overwhelmingly by the Finance Committee—very important for our ability to do business in the trade area with Europe. We have not been able to clear it from an objection.

So the expectation is that several of these bills that have broad bipartisan support would be joined together and passed before we leave at the end of the session. So I want the RECORD to reflect a portion of what has been done since Labor Day—not exactly an inactive period of time.

Mr. President, so that this will be made a part of the RECORD, I ask unanimous consent that my entire list be printed in the RECORD.

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

LEGISLATION CLEARED BY CONGRESS, SIGNED INTO LAW OR ENROUTE TO PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE JUST SINCE LABOR DAY

Telephone Excise Tax Repeal (to fund Spanish-American War).

Safe Drug Re-Importation Act.

Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China.

H-1B Visas.

Children's Health Act.

Breast & Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act.

Internet Alcohol.

TREAD bill.

Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act.

Intercountry Adoption Act.

Aimee's Law (state can lose law enforcement funds if release convict early who commits crime in another state).

Violence Against Women Act.

Sex Trafficking.

Victims of Terrorism.

Water Resources Development Act (including the Everglades).

CARA provisions of Interior.

Wildland Fire Management (part of Interior).

Intelligence Authorization.

NASA Authorization.

DOD Authorization (including help for workers at nuclear plants like Paducah, KY).

Appropriations: Interior Conference Report; Transportation Conference Report; Energy & Water Conference Report Post-Veto Bill; Treasury/Postal Conference Report; Legislative Branch Conference Report; VA/ HUD Senate Bill (may face conference with House).

3 Continuing resolutions.

FINAL WEEK EXPECTATIONS

Restoration of payments to medicare providers so seniors—especially in rural areas—will continue to have a choice of medicare plans.

Appropriations remaining: Agriculture Conference Report; DC Conference Report; Labor/HHS; Foreign Operations; Commerce/ State/Justice.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WRECK OF THE EDMUND FITZGERALD

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on the morning of November 11, 1975, the Mariners' Church of Detroit sat empty save for its Reverend, Richard Ingalls, who prayed alone in the sanctuary, ringing the church bell 29 times as he did so. Rev. Ingalls rang the bell in tribute to the crew of the *Edmund Fitz-*

gerald, who had lost their lives the previous evening when the legendary ship sank during one of the fiercest storms Lake Superior has ever produced. November 10, 2000, marks the 25th Anniversary of this tragic event, and I rise today not only in recognition of this anniversary, but also in memory and in honor of those 29 brave men, as well as the thousands of other mariners who have lost their lives on the Great Lakes.

Mr. President, few states have as rich or as successful a maritime tradition as does the State of Michigan. Michiganians initiated the iron ore trade 150 years ago, and men and women of the State continue to be leaders in Great Lakes trade. Virtually every region in the Nation benefits from this shipping. More than 70 percent of the Nation's steelmaking capacity is located in the Great Lakes basin. Coal from as far away as Montana and Wyoming moves across the Lakes on a daily basis. This year alone, ships bearing the United States flag will haul more than 125 million tons of cargo across the Great Lakes.

Amidst this success, it is unfortunately all too easy to overlook the tragic losses that have occurred throughout the maritime history of the Great Lakes. Over 6,000 shipwrecks have occurred on the Great Lakes, and over 30,000 lives have been lost. Many of these shipwrecks have occurred in November, the Month of Storms on the Great Lakes. In November of 1913, 12 ships were lost and 254 people killed during the Great Storm. In November of 1958, 33 men died when the *Carl D. Bradley* sank on Lake Michigan. And in November of 1966, the *Daniel J. Morrell* sank in Lake Huron, killing 28 members of her crew.

The wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, though, remains the most remembered tragedy in Great Lakes maritime lore. Built in River Rouge, Michigan in 1957 and 1958, the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, at 729 feet long, was the largest ship on the Great Lakes until 1971. She was nicknamed "The Pride of the American Side," and was the first ship to carry one million tons of ore through the Soo Locks in one year. The *Edmund Fitzgerald* also set the record for a single trip tonnage, carrying over 27 tons of ore on one excursion. Unfortunately, the ship is best remembered for what happened to her on the night of November 10, 1975.

This is in part because it remains unclear precisely what forces caused the *Edmund Fitzgerald* to sink that evening. The boat departed from Superior, Wisconsin, headed for Detroit, on the afternoon of November 9th, and was joined shortly thereafter by the *Arthur M. Anderson*. The two boats quickly ran into wicked seas, and Captain McSorley of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* and Captain Cooper of the *Arthur M. Anderson* agreed to take the northerly

course, where they would be protected by the highlands of the Canadian shore, across Lake Superior.

By the morning of November 10th, gale warnings had been increased to storm warnings, and by early evening the two boats were facing 25-30 foot waves, brought about by nearly 100 mile per hour winds. The *Edmund Fitzgerald* experienced difficulties throughout the day, and in a communication with Cpt. Cooper, Cpt. McSorley reported that he had "a fence rail down, two vents lost or damaged, and a list." The two captains agreed to seek protection and safety in Whitefish Bay, located just off the coast of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. At 7:10 p.m., as the ships neared Whitefish Point, Cpt. McSorley, in a conversation with Cpt. Cooper, said this of he and his crew: "We are holding our own." Approximately five minutes later, for reasons still unknown, the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, without so much as a cry for help, sank to the floor of Lake Superior. She remains there today, 535 feet below the surface of the great lake, and only 17 miles from the relative safety of Whitefish Point.

Mr. President, proper closure does not exist in a situation like that of the wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*. The event lingers on not only in the memories of the families of crew members but in the memories of all Michiganians. In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the sinking, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point will hold a ceremony during which the ship's original bell, recovered on July 4, 1995, will be rung 29 times for each member of her crew, and a 30th time for the many other men and women who have lost their lives on the Great Lakes. And, on November 12, 2000, for the 25th time, the Rev. Ingalls will ring the bell of the Mariners' Church of Detroit in tribute to the men of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*.

What this clearly illustrates, Mr. President, is that the spirit of these men still lives on in Michiganians, and particularly in those involved in the maritime industry. Perhaps, then, in a situation where closure is so difficult to find, recognition, at least to some degree, can be an adequate substitute. To know that the lives of these men have not been forgotten but are still cherished, lives unfortunately cut short but with spirits that remain, spirits that continue to live on in all of our lives. ●

TRIBUTE TO THE MIDGARDEN FAMILY

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I pay tribute today to a North Dakota family whose heritage not only spans the history of our state—and then some—but which also exemplifies the spirit of rural life and all that it contributes to our Nation.

Nils and Inger Midgarden started their family as homesteaders in North Dakota in 1874. That was 15 years be-

fore North Dakota become a state. They raised seven children, built a successful family farm, and just like thousands of other North Dakotans at that time, did the hard work that carved hardy communities and, eventually, a state from the prairie.

I have a letter I would like to share with my colleagues, written by one of Nils and Inger's great-grandchildren. It tells us a great deal about the founders of this family. It says:

Nils was a successful farmer and his sons greatly expanded the farming operation. When his children married, they built farms within sight of the homestead. Each one of those farms are today owned and occupied by the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Nils and Inger Midgarden.

Let me tell you, that's quite an accomplishment. As anyone who knows much about it will tell you, farming is hard work. When you consider that this family managed to survive everything from the Great Depression to droughts, floods and grasshoppers over the span of more than a hundred years—while raising a family that has remained across the generations a close knit one—you understand why their's is such a remarkable accomplishment.

The letter goes on:

The farm, while a potent symbol of the pioneer spirit my great-grandparents embodied, is not the greatest legacy they left behind. "Nils' and Inger's great grandchild writes. "Nearly everyone who know me and my family remarks on our closeness and old-fashioned values, characteristics fewer and fewer families seem to share these days. What Nils and Inger gave to their children—to us—was the gift of family. Through bountiful harvests and times of drought, through births, deaths, and marriages, joy and sorrow, the Midgardens have always stood together. Older cousins taught younger ones to swim, uncles pulled wayward nieces and nephews out of snowy ditches, and Sundays brought the family together in worship, meal, and play. Once during a tornado sighting, all the Midgardens in Walsh County drove out to the homestead to stand on the road, as if sheer will power and their bodies alone would protect the place Nils and Inger made home.

Today, Midgardens still live on those family farms, and while not all family members remain on the farm, those who moved away to pursue other livelihoods continue to draw on the basic strength that came from the farm: they remain a close knit family, wherever they are, wherever they go.

Those who moved away contribute to our state, regional and national life in a variety of ways. They became veterinarians, lawyers, advertising executives, architects, doctors, teachers, nurses, and even congressional staffers.

Families like the Midgardens demonstrate the importance of preserving family farmers and the rural communities they make strong. through the generations, the Midgarden family makes clear what those of us who grew up and live in rural areas know so well: family farms produce much more than the food that feeds this nation and much of the world. They also produce strong, solid families.

In closing, I ask that a tribute to the Midgarden family, written by another descendant of Nils and Inger for a family reunion earlier this year, be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

OUR LEGACY

The Laurel Wreath of Wheat is the symbol of two souls entwined a symbol of victory and triumph; a symbol of Inger & Nels. The Seedling in the center has seven leaves for seven living children—now gone, but very much alive in us all.

Amund, with his quiet contemplation, peace and vision; Alfred, with his forbearance and stoicism; Dewey, for his sparkle skillfully hidden behind the stolid Midgarden work ethic; Marion, for her elegance and grace; Gunder, for his mercurial spirit and sense of humor; Joann, for her boundless energy and endless creativity; and Chris—coming around the corners of life on two wheels; radiating a zest for living, affecting us all.

Inger & Nels and their seven children, eventually fourteen, as each found his or her irreplaceable mate: Bessie, Beulah, Clara, Olaf, Florence, Oscar and Evelyn, whose love and courage and enduring presence we are still blessed with on this day.

Fourteen children, seven couples, seven families forming the foundation of this Midgarden Millennium Celebration, counting over 200 family members gathered here today.

We remember the love, the closeness, the pioneer spirit, the dedication of these parents, and their embracing of not only their own—but us all.

Our memories are many and golden . . . oceans of flax fields in spring; the scent of alfalfa in early summer the heading of wheat in July; the way the grain felt on our skin when we rode in the hopper at harvest; haying time and the Tarzan ropes in Gunder's barn; burning fields in August; oiled wood floors of the Fedje store tracing aisles of supplies and stacks of wonder; the excitement of the first day of school in a one room country school house or a little brick school in Hoople.

Rows of potato sacks stretching endlessly on the autumn horizon; anticipation and humor in the air; Lena Olinger holding court in the cookk; harvest tables and blue tin mugs; excitement when it was our Mom's turn to take lunch to the fields and we could tag along.

Then mercury dipping to unbelievable lows—but our spirits high as the massive snowdrifts; Julebukken and Grandma's Christmas Eve; Uncle Oscar dancing in with potato sacks full of dime store treasures; then months of winter white only to turn once again to Spring.

Seasons of our family—seasons of our lives. Those who stayed here close to this earth, preserving the legacy of this land; and those of us who spread our wings to the four corners now span this wonderful family from coast to coast. Seeking and finding our way; sharing memories with our children and grandchildren; always knowing our roots are here in this blessed place where it all began.

Inger and Nels, their incredible children and the indelible people they found to marry . . . our parents, your grandparents and great grandparents . . . and each and every one of you share in this legacy of love and excellence.

And that is why there is a Laurel Wreath of Wheat with a Seedling in the center. It is our beginnings, our present, our future.

It is the gift that keeps on giving. ●