

prompting the tuition decision. Michigan Tech's new policy would allow this student, along with many others, to receive in State tuition if admitted. Hopefully this decision will be followed by other colleges and universities as well.

The university's fight song, "Fight Tech, Fight!" includes the line: "From Northern hills we'll sound our cry, we'll ring your praises to the sky!" This is an important decision by Michigan Tech that deserves praise and, from the hills of Michigan's upper peninsula, it is a decision that will undoubtedly be heard and appreciated by military families across the country and our brave men and women stationed around the world.

#### U.S. WITHDRAWAL OF LETTERS TO CUBA

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, with Florida's marine environment and tourism economy threatened by potential drilling a mere 45 miles off its coast, and a communist regime ruling Cuba, we find ourselves in a difficult situation. We must do all that we can to protect our Nation's natural treasures while at the same time emphasizing that the undemocratic Castro government has no right to speak for the people of Cuba.

That is why I have asked President Bush to withdraw the letters that the United States exchanges with Cuba every 2 years. This exchange of letters is the only thing enforcing the 1977 Maritime Boundary Agreement between the United States and Cuba, and incidentally, one of the only rationales the Castro government has for drilling just 45 miles off of our pristine coast.

We have seen what oil spills have done in other parts of the country and around the world. I am not prepared to take chances with Florida's coral reefs and other marine life, nor with the livelihoods of millions of Floridians who depend on tourism for their economic well-being. The continued exchange of these letters leaves the door open to economic and environmental disaster and the enrichment of the Castro regime.

And so, I urge the administration to join me in closing this door on disaster and to protect Florida by withdrawing these letters now. Should Cuba gain a democratically elected government as envisioned by the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity—or LIBERTAD—Act of 1996, we could consider renegotiating our boundary agreement so that it clearly protects the environment. Until that time, however, withdrawing these letters is the best and first step towards protecting the people and environment of Florida.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF EASTLAKE

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate Leon N.

Weiner & Associates for their success with the Village of Eastlake in Wilmington, DE. For almost 60 years, Leon N. Weiner & Associates has been doing outstanding work for the housing industry in Delaware and surrounding areas. Their work on the Village of Eastlake has made such a positive impact that the readers of Affordable Housing Finance Magazine recently named it the Nation's best affordable home ownership development.

The Eastlake neighborhood, which was built in 1943, was locally known as "the Bucket," meaning if people lived in Eastlake, they had hit the bottom of the bucket. The 267-unit public housing development, one of many in a crime-ridden neighborhood, became dilapidated despite the best efforts of the Wilmington Housing Authority. Violent crime and drug abuse grew to proportions exceeding some of the worst per capita crime rates in the Nation. In 1997 alone, Wilmington police were called to Eastlake over 5,000 times.

After a decade of work, Leon N. Weiner & Associates transformed the site, which is about the size of three city blocks, into the Village of Eastlake, an affordable housing project consisting of 70 rental and 90 home ownership units. Furthermore, their work here has helped jumpstart additional affordable housing projects in the city of Wilmington. A nonprofit and a for-profit firm have teamed up to build 72 town homes in the neighborhood, as well.

All 90 units—62 town homes and 28 duplexes—at Eastlake consist of three bedrooms. The homes are reserved for households with widely varying incomes—as low as 26 percent of the area median income up to a high of 115 percent. Fifty-nine homes are reserved for households earning between 26 percent and 80 percent of the area median income.

The success of Eastlake could not have been reached without the added help and efforts of many other entities, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, PNC Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, and the State of Delaware, which provided much needed funds.

Once again, I wish to recognize Leon N. Weiner & Associates. Their work in the Eastlake community is commendable and most deserving of Affordable Housing Finance Magazine's Reader's Choice Award. They are an invaluable asset to our community, and I wish them all the best.

On a point of personal privilege, Leon Weiner, who passed away in 2002, was a personal friend of mine for over three decades. In fact, he was one of the first people I met after enrolling in the University of Delaware's MBA program in 1973. More importantly, throughout his life he was one of the strongest voices in this country calling for the creation of affordable housing for all Americans. He fervently believed that all families need and deserve a decent place to live, and he worked tirelessly

to ensure that government, the private sector, and nonprofits work together in pursuit of this goal. Unfortunately, he did not live to see one of his last dreams Eastlake become a reality, but it serves as a fitting memorable to him and to the team of dedicated men and women he led at Leon N. Weiner & Associates. Together, they demonstrated and continue to demonstrate that it is possible to do good and do well at the same time.●

#### RETIREMENT OF COLONEL BARBARA BRUNO

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a great American and a true military hero who has honorably served our country for 26 years in the Army and Army Nurse Corps: COL Barbara J. Bruno has a true passion for nursing and served in a variety of clinical nursing and leadership positions at various Army medical facilities.

Her tremendous leadership skills led to her selection for long-term schooling to obtain an advanced degree in nursing and subsequent selection for director of the operation room nurse course. Colonel Bruno served with distinction in a series of senior leadership positions as Army nurse corps staff officer, AMEDD personnel pronopency directorate, chief nurse, 30th Medical Brigade deputy commander for nursing, chief nurse 67th Combat Support Hospital personnel management officer, and chief, perioperative nursing services. In every circumstance, Colonel Bruno was recognized for her clinical excellence and loyal, dedicated, and stellar leadership.

In 2004, Colonel Bruno was appointed the deputy chief of the Army Nurse Corps. As deputy chief, Colonel Bruno developed and implemented policies and procedures that affected nearly 35,000 nursing personnel throughout the Army. She spearheaded several recruitment and retention initiatives to include the Funded Nurse Education Program, the Professional Nurse Education Program, the Registered Nurse First Assist Program, and increased capacity for the Army Enlisted Commissioning Program. Her tenacity also led to additional recruitment options and incentive pays to retain our highly qualified nurse officers. As chair of the Federal Nursing Service Council, she sponsored the development of a Federal nursing research model that focused on improved soldier readiness and patient care outcomes.

Colonel Bruno's accomplishments are eloquent testimony to her talent, dedication, loyalty, and determination to see that the best possible nursing care is always available to our soldiers, their family members, and our deserving retirees. Colonel Bruno has established a legacy of superior performance to be emulated by all, and her performance reflects greatly on herself, the U.S. Army, the Department of Defense, and the United States of America. I extend my deepest appreciation on behalf

of a grateful nation for her dedicated service.

Congratulations to COL Barbara J. Bruno. I wish her Godspeed.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE VANDERVLIEET FAMILY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor the 2008 Agri-Business Farm Family of the year. This award goes to the VanDerVliet family: Rod and Lois VanDerVliet and their children, Ryan and Sarah VanDerVliet, Lisa and Jamie Johnson, and Lori and Ryan Fods; and their grandchildren Rhegan Oberg, Tyson VanDerVliet, Weston VanDerVliet, Parker Johnson, Devin Fods, and Clara VanDerVliet.

For over 30 years the VanDerVliets have raised livestock and grain on their farm west of Colton, SD. Today, Rod's son Ryan, daughters Lisa and Lori, and son-in-law Ryan are an important part of the farm operation. Over the past several years the family has navigated the quickly changing farm industry and successfully utilized technology to ensure that the farm stays competitive and productive.

Although Rod VanDerVliet sees farms becoming more business oriented than ever, he and his family love the farming lifestyle. Rod enjoys it because of its flexibility, connection to nature, and most importantly, because it is something that involves the whole family. Ryan shares his dad's love of farming and says he "like[s] being around the animals and the farming lifestyle." Both men would like to pass this way of life on to the next generation. And, with six grandchildren under the age of six, there shouldn't be any shortage of help.

The family's hard work has passed beyond the farmyard and into the community. The children grew up participating in 4-H and FFA. Rod has served on the Colton Farmers Elevator Board for more than 20 years and the MCWC Rural Water Board; Ryan serves on the township board, and the entire family is involved in numerous community organizations and activities.

The VanDerVliets are an example of families that embody South Dakota values and form the bedrock of our great State. I am very proud to see a family-run farm successfully evolving in the changing industry while maintaining a commitment to their community and family. I commend them for this award, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY HEALY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor Larry Healy, who has been named the 2008 Agri-Business Citizen of the Year. Larry has been employed by Campbell Supply Company for 20 years, and currently manages one of its Sioux Falls stores. He is also actively engaged in community activities and embodies the true spirit of the American farmer.

Larry grew up in Montrose, SD, where he first worked in his father's welding and repair shop before becoming employed in the farm department at Campbell Supply in Sioux Falls. In 1990, he was promoted to store manager at the Rock Rapids, IA, store, a position in which he proudly served for 11 years.

In 2001, Larry transferred back to Sioux Falls where he continued to serve as store manager. Since then, Larry has become involved with the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Division, where he has served on the Agri-Business Division Council and volunteers with Agri-Business activities.

Larry chaired the Ag Appreciation Day for 2 years and has worked with the chamber and hundreds of volunteers on events such as an event during the Sioux Empire Fair that provided a complimentary meal to approximately 5,000 area farmers. He also chaired the Ag Division in 2006-07.

Larry is proud to work for Campbell Supply Company, which has been family owned since its founding. The Campbell family believes in giving back to the community and supporting local agriculture, something Larry sincerely appreciates because he understands the important role farmers play in American cities and towns.

Larry sets a fine example for all involved in advancing our Nation's great agricultural foundations. I commend him for this award, and I wish him continued success in the years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3432. An act to establish the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

H.R. 4986. An act to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect to the attachment of property in certain judgements against Iraq, the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 1:33 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3873. An act to expedite the transfer of ownership of rural multifamily housing projects with loans made or insured under

section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 so that such projects are rehabilitated and preserved for use for affordable housing.

H.R. 3959. An act to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the phase-in of actuarial rates for certain pre-FIRM properties.

H.R. 3971. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3992. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illness, and for other purposes.

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

H. Con. Res. 282. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3873. An act to expedite the transfer of ownership of rural multifamily housing projects with loans made or insured under section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 so that such projects are rehabilitated and preserved for use for affordable housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3959. An act to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the phase-in of actuarial rates for certain pre-FIRM properties; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3971. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3992. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illnesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2556. A bill to extend the provisions of the Protect America Act of 2007 for an additional 30 days.

#### 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-4660. A communication from the Director, Supplemental Foods Program Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children: Revisions in the WIC Food Packages" (RIN0584-AD77) received on January 8, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.