

Sacramento and El Dorado, as well as Oregon and Washington, before they were transferred to 1 of 10 internment camps throughout the Western States.

Today, the former site of the Pinedale Assembly Center is a California Registered Historical Landmark. The Remembrance Plaza, a striking 7,000 square-foot memorial that features a fountain, a concrete plaza, Japanese landscaping, an interpretive wall, and ten prominently displayed story boards, will stand tall to tell the Japanese American story of internment and redress. The Remembrance Plaza is a testament to the determination of a generation of Japanese Americans and to the value of civil liberties, justice, and equality in our democracy.

I would like to thank the Pinedale Assembly Memorial Project Committee, the Central California District Council of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Central California District Nikkei Foundation, the city of Fresno, and the many friends and supporters of this important project for their determined efforts to help make this beautiful and fitting memorial a reality.

I am keenly aware of the historical significance of the Japanese American experience during World War II and this is why I was proud to introduce legislation with my colleague, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, that would authorize a study that could result in the Tule Lake Segregation Center's designation as a national historic site. I am hopeful that this measure which passed the Senate in January will soon become law.

The Remembrance Plaza provides a window for future generations to see the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II. As supporters of this most worthwhile and fitting memorial gather to commemorate its dedication, I thank them for their support and wish them a successful and enjoyable experience.●

CONGRATULATING THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS OF THE ERICKSON SCHOOL

● Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I congratulate the first graduating class of the Erickson School at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, UMBC. In December 2008, the Erickson School awarded degrees in the Management of Aging Services to 4 bachelors and 24 masters candidates.

In just 4 years, the Erickson School has grown from a vision of its founding benefactor, John Erickson, to a fully operational professional school addressing the leadership needs in the burgeoning arena of aging services. With the graduation of its first class, the school has begun to establish a community of change agents dedicated to improving the lives of older Americans.

Our Nation faces an urgent need for qualified professionals in the public and private sectors of health care and

aging services to deal with our growing aging population. Every 8 seconds, a U.S. resident turns 60 years of age. By 2030, Americans 65 and over will increase from 12.5 percent to 20 percent of the population. Of particular significance is that the fastest growth is among those ages 85 and over. Between today and 2040, this group will increase by another 258 percent, a tribute to improvements in medicine and public health.

The job of caring for an aging population is one that cannot be outsourced. The demographic shift we are witnessing will demand the development of innovative and entrepreneurial services and products. Every aspect of our society will likely be transformed, from the workplace, to the way in which we provide health care, to the assumptions underlying fundamental Government programs.

The Erickson School's first graduates are positioned to respond to the urgent challenges and opportunities presented by the speed and scale with which the U.S. population is aging. This class includes the CEO of a Maryland retirement community, the executive directors of the Baltimore City and County departments of aging, and other experienced aging services professionals from across the Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the leadership of Dean J. Kevin Eckert and congratulating the graduates. They are: Jessica Hallis, Tara McDonnell, Jena Rathell, Juliet Strachan, Eleanor Alvarez, Brenda Becker, Rebecca Bees, Mimi Burch, Richard Compton, Benjamin Cornthwaite, Seth Dudley, Christopher Emmett, Arnold Eppel, Diana Givens, Christopher Golen, Steve Gurney, William Holman, Jennifer Holz, Dorothea Johnson, Waclawa Kludziak, Susan Kraus, Jonathan May, Christine Mour, Margaret Mulcare, Elizabeth O'Connor, George Pasteur, Jr., Judith Shapiro, Chris Stewart, John Stewart, Nathaniel Sweeney, and Leonard Weiser.

The Erickson School will be a world leader in meeting the demands for new human capital, as well as policy analysis, research, and executive education. Erickson School alumni are at the leading edge, a new group of professionals that will revolutionize not only the field of aging services but also the way society views aging. They are part of a transformative force that will steer the field of aging services in new directions, and I am pleased to honor them today.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES S. BROWNE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, on February 11, 2009, Mountain Home Air Force Base, AFB, in my home State of Idaho will bid farewell to COL James S. Browne and his wife Alison. Colonel Browne has been the Mountain Home AFB 366th Fighter Wing Commander, and Commander of the base, since September 15, 2007.

Under Colonel Browne's exemplary leadership, the Gunfighters of Mountain Home AFB have excelled in their respective missions no small feat considering that the 366th Fighter Wing consists of 24 squadrons and over 5,000 personnel—and that doesn't include family members. A base commander is a little like a mayor. Along with military mission responsibilities, a base commander is ultimately held accountable for community well-being, infrastructure and services, and serves as the liaison with local, regional and State civilian government officials. Military families tend to move more often than the civilian population. As such, base services are critical both when families first arrive, and the military member is adjusting to a new job, and throughout their time as they make new friends and carve out a niche in what they know will be a long-term temporary living situation. Furthermore, when deployments occur, it is the responsibility of base leadership to make sure that families are taken care of in their loved ones' absence. Colonel and Mrs. Browne worked in their own capacities to help ensure that facilities, services and community outreach efforts came together to make these life transitions easier. In fact, during his time at Mountain Home AFB, Colonel Browne oversaw the completion of 318 new base housing units.

When it came to the mission of the wing, Colonel Browne excelled in promoting and achieving excellence, turning challenge into success along the way. As a testament to his remarkable leadership capabilities, in March of 2008, the wing achieved the first passing grade for a combined phase I and II operational readiness inspection in 3 years in all of Air Combat Command. That success at the base translated into success in the global war on terror. Colonel Browne oversaw numerous worldwide Air Expeditionary Force deployments of the 72 F-15 aircraft operating from the base. During his tenure, over 5,200 people and over 1,500 tons of cargo were deployed to 18 locations worldwide. Colonel Browne's gunfighters demonstrated skill and precision in their outstanding contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom. In October of 2008, the 391st Fighter Squadron deployed to Afghanistan, flying over 1,700 combat sorties for an incredible 98 percent hit rate in support of coalition forces. Colonel Browne also oversaw the successful implementation of a strategic training partnership program with the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

Colonel Browne's leadership tenure has been characterized by optimism, a firm commitment to the gravity of the mission and a dedication to the notion of team dynamics. He maintained a comprehensive view of the wing's mission within the context of the broader mission of the Air Force and the U.S. Military. His goal-oriented, vision-

driven approach made him a particularly outstanding Commander. By putting people first, Colonel Browne inspired excellence and achievement in others.

My staff and I have enjoyed an extremely positive working relationship with Colonel Browne and his staff, on issues such as the training range, Indian affairs, infrastructure and ensuring that Mountain Home AFB not only retains critical missions, but is considered for others as it possesses one of the top training ranges in the nation and has the strong support of the local community and the State. Colonel and Mrs. Browne have been exemplary representatives of the Air Force and good friends to Idaho. On behalf of the State of Idaho, I wish Colonel and Alison Browne well as they move back to Washington, DC, and thank them for their continued service to our nation and for their time as gunfighters in the great State of Idaho. They will be missed.●

REMEMBERING KAREN RAE FORD

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I note the passing of a long-time friend and native Iowan, Karen Rae Ford. Karen passed away last week after a difficult battle with liver disease. I knew Karen well through her work as the executive director of the Food Bank of Iowa, a position she held for over a quarter of a century. Karen was a founding force for the creation of the food bank, where she dedicated herself to improving the lives of countless thousands of low-income families in Iowa.

Let me start by expressing my deepest sympathies to Karen's family and friends. It is never easy to lose a loved one, and particularly hard when the loss is due to a medical illness that cuts that loved one's life short. In times of mourning, words fall far short of the comfort we wish we could provide, but hopefully words let those who were close to Karen know that our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Karen has played a leading role in the fight against hunger in Iowa for many years. In the last several years the Food Bank of Iowa distributed nearly 5 million pounds of food a year to almost 300 partner agencies. Just think of all the hungry, low-income families that have benefited directly from Karen's work during her nearly 30 years of work at the Food Bank of Iowa the parents that were able to put food on the table for their children so that they did not have to go hungry.

Though I am sure Karen would never say so, these families owe her an incalculable debt of gratitude for the hard work and devotion she has shown to the cause of improving their lives over her professional career. And her impact extended far beyond the State of Iowa. On more than one occasion Karen testified before the Congress to advocate for improvements to our food assistance laws and policies so that the programs

upon which low-income families depend for a safety net in tough times are as effective as possible. That testimony was always received with the recognition and respect that it came from an advocate who was in the trenches every day fighting to provide food to hungry people.

Though the Food Bank of Iowa will continue to operate, and the families that depend upon it will continue to be well served, we have all suffered a loss with Karen's passing. Her activism and leadership over a lifetime of work in the anti-hunger community is a testament to her tremendous spirit and dedication to helping those less fortunate.●

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. MENENDEZ:

S. 392. A bill to protect consumers, and especially young consumers, from skyrocketing credit card debt, unfair credit card practices, and deceptive credit offers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 393. A bill for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. INOUE:

S. Con. Res. 5. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts in Hawai'i; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 227

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 227, a bill to establish the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park in Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties, Maryland, and for other purposes.

S. 343

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 343, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage services of qualified respiratory therapists performed under the general supervision of a physician.

S. 371

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as co-

sponsors of S. 371, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State.

S. 388

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 388, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

AMENDMENT NO. 126

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 126 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 145

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 145 proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 155

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 155 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 169

At the request of Mr. BAYH, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 169 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1, a bill making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.