

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, on Saturday, November 10, the Environmental Defense Center will celebrate its 25th anniversary of action to protect the environment in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. I would like to take this moment to reflect on EDC's wonderful work.

For the past quarter century, EDC has served as a powerful voice for the environment. We can look to natural places like the Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary and the Los Padres National Forest to see the impact of EDC's work. It has fought for clean air and water, the preservation of our precious wild heritage, and the clean up of military bases and toxic waste sites. It has also played a crucial role in the fight to stop oil drilling off our coast, an issue so important to California.

As a longtime supporter of our nation's environment, I know how crucial it is to protect our natural resources. We must continue to work to both safeguard our environment and maintain a healthy economy. EDC has helped us work toward this goal.

I am pleased to congratulate EDC on this important milestone and wish the staff continued success.●

THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT RAYMOND GRIFFITH

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to take this moment to reflect on Lieutenant Raymond Griffith's outstanding service on the occasion of his retirement from the Cathedral City Police Department. The Department will honor him on November 8, 2002.

Lieutenant Griffith has had a career devoted to public service spanning more than 33 years. After graduating as Valedictorian from the Los Angeles Police Academy, he began his career at the Orange Police Department and remained there for 15 years. He served the department in many areas, including patrol, training, internal affairs, detectives, juvenile, and nine years in the special weapons unit.

Lieutenant Griffith's expertise equipped him well for the next step in his career, Sergeant of the then-new Cathedral City Police Department. As one of the first employees of the department, Lieutenant Griffith helped get the operation off to a good start. He played a key role in developing policies and procedures, hiring staff and obtaining facilities and equipment. Throughout the agency's 18-year history, Lieutenant Griffith has been seen as a "founding father" of the department and an important leader in its operation.

In addition to serving on the police force, Lieutenant Griffith has served as a valued law enforcement instructor and trainer at the College of the Desert, Riverside Community College and at the Police Academy. He has also

served our Nation in the United States Marine Corps and the Coast Guard Reserves.

It is clear that Lieutenant Griffith deserves the praise he has received from his colleagues and peers. I extend to him my sincere congratulations for his service to the force, broader community and to our Nation. Although his presence will be missed, he has left a legacy of leadership that will be long remembered.●

OREGON HERO OF THE WEEK

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a community's extraordinary effort to improve their situation. In the past year, Oregonians have faced innumerable economic challenges. With unemployment rates surpassing all other States, Oregonians have been pushed to the limit. But in the relatively small eastern Oregon community of Baker County, the citizens refused to give in to economic pressures. The Baker Enterprise Growth Initiative, BEGIN, is helping Baker County grow, one business at a time.

BEGIN has helped community Entrepreneurs realize their dreams of running successful small businesses. BEGIN uses simple, yet effective models to help business owners understand the importance of a balance between product, marketing and financial stability. Management becomes a team effort and people are able to succeed at their strengths while relying on others as well.

BEGIN is a community effort and its successes lift the entire region. In August of 2001, the BEGIN Program was awarded the Kaufmann Foundation Pioneer Award for Leadership in Entrepreneurial Promotion at the National Association of Development Organizations' Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX. Members of the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District were also able to present the BEGIN program and accomplishments to the over 200 economic development professionals from across the Nation.

BEGIN has not only provided much needed economic development in Baker County, but has also shown Oregonians, and the entire Nation, that we will overcome this period of economic hardship. BEGIN truly exemplifies the pioneer heritage and nature of Baker County in searching for its own solutions to problems rather than waiting for someone else to come solve their problems for them. I am proud to salute the Baker Enterprise Growth Initiative as the Oregon Hero of the Week.●

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 and a withdrawal which were referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 11:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 3295. An act to establish a program to provide funds to States to replace punch card voting systems, to establish the Election Assistance Commission to assist in the administration of Federal elections and to otherwise provide assistance with the administration of certain Federal election laws and programs, to establish minimum election administration standards for States and units of local government with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5010. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5011. An act making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res 123. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

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

The following enrolled bills and joint resolution, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on today, October 17, 2002, by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

S. 1339. An act to amend the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000 to provide an asylum program with regard to American Persian Gulf War POW/MIAs, and for other purposes.

S. 2558. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the collection of data on benign brain-related tumors through the national program of cancer registries.

H.J. Res. 113. A joint resolution recognizing the contributions of Patsy Takemoto Mink.

At 12:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the Senate amendment to House amendment to Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 3253) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment within the Department of Veterans Affairs of improved emergency medical preparedness, research, and education programs to combat terrorism, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the