Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and remember the full life of Marlene “Linny” Fowler for her exceptional service to her community, commonwealth and country.

Marlene was born in New York City, the only child of Harold and Miriam Oberkotter. Though she was raised in Harrington Park, NJ, Marlene spent her adult life living in Pennsylvania. Marlene, known affectionately as Linny, was a renowned philanthropist, artist and a pillar of her adopted community. Today I wish to honor her as such.

As a philanthropist, her influence can been seen across Northeast Pennsylvania, particularly in Bethlehem, the city she had called home since 1965. Upon the passing of her father Harold, a late UPS chief executive, Marlene became one of the wealthiest individuals in the Lehigh Valley. Choosing to eschew large homes or fancy cars, Marlene instead gave generously to support the arts, education and children. She helped to establish a childcare center and Hispanic Youth Center at Northampton County Community College as well as the college’s Southside campus, which proudly bears her family name. Her generosity also helped send hundreds of students to colleges and universities that they would otherwise have been unable to afford to attend. Even with her health failing, Marlene worked hard to maintain her involvement with the community up until her passing. Although she kept the total of her generosity a secret, by her own admission she gave away tens of millions of dollars over the course of her life.

As an artist, Marlene was trained in the art of stained glass, which she taught throughout her life. She also maintained a studio at the Banana Factory in Bethlehem, an institution she helped fund. As a pillar of her community, Marlene made sure her philanthropic efforts always had a human touch. She mentored with needy families and non-profit directors in the living room of her own home, investing herself as much as her money. Even as recent economic difficulties forced her to scale back some of her giving, she still continued to keep track of all the youth she helped send to school.

As Marlene’s family and friends mourn her loss, I pray that they will be comforted by the knowledge that this great Nation will never forget the generosity of Marlene “Linny” Fowler. May she rest in peace.

Afterschool and summer programs are a vital part of our country’s education tapestry. They provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences that stimulate student interest, develop crucial skills, and drive home the relevance of STEM to our daily lives. Out-of-school learning opportunities help children develop the academic and life skills, such as problem-solving and determination, which are crucial in STEM fields. Additionally, these programs offer unique opportunities for mentors and role models to engage with children.

High-quality afterschool STEM learning programs are having a significant impact on the youth people who participate in them. A recent study shows participants in afterschool and summer programs have improved attitudes toward STEM fields and careers, increased STEM capacities and skills, and performance in STEM fields. Additionally, these programs allow participating students to cut-edge STEM activities, including robotics. This highly engaging program allows students to configure high-tech robotics, enhancing their STEM skills, unlocking their imaginations, and exposing them to real-world problem-solving situations. Afterschool and summer programs are uniquely positioned to deliver valuable enrichment activities like robotics that help children gain valuable life skills, critical thinking, and team-building skills.

In addition to programs that serve children and youth directly, organizations such as the Afterschool Alliance are working to advance policies, research and partnerships so that all children can access rich STEM education experiences through out-of-school programs.

Private companies are also embarking on new initiatives. Time Warner Cable’s Connect a Million Minds, CAMM, initiative, to promote youth interest and performance in STEM fields during out-of-school time. Businesses like Time Warner Cable know that investing in STEM education now helps ensure a robust workforce in the future, and they know that afterschool, summer, and other out-of-school programs are key venues for students to develop problem-solving, team-building, and creative thinking skills necessary for a strong STEM workforce.

I applaud the afterschool and summer learning programs, advocacy organizations, and community partnerships across the country that are working to advance our students’ achievement and our country’s future through enriching out-of-school learning. To support the work of these organizations, I hope that the Senate can come together to reauthorize the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program—the only Federal program dedicated to supporting afterschool and summer learning.

STRICTED STATEMENTS

STEM EDUCATION

- Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the great work that afterschool and summer learning programs in California and around the country are doing to teach children and youth in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, STEM, education.
country. While these comments mark his retirement from the practice of law, I'm confident that he will continue to be a bright light of intellect, humor, and friendship for many years to come in our Nation's Capital.

I ask that the Senate join me in honoring Jim Symington on the occasion of his retirement from the practice of law.

ALASKA LEGISLATURE CENTENNIAL

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I rise today to mark a significant event in Alaska's history as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the convening of the Alaska State Legislature.

Compared to the States that my colleagues represent, Alaska is a relatively young State, so it is remarkable that our legislature has existed for only 100 years. However, creating our State wasn't an easy process. Secretary of State William H. Seward acquired Alaska from Russia for $7,200,000 on March 30, 1867. The First Organic Act of 1884 established the District of Alaska and provided for a Governor and territorial branch but no legislative body to be the people's voice. It was not until after several petitions by Alaskans of all backgrounds that Congress passed the Second Organic Act giving Alaska territorial status and a legislative body. Our first elections were held November 12, 1912. They produced the first of many civil servants who would have the honor to serve in the Alaska Legislature. We did not yet have a capitol building, so eight senators and 16 representatives convened at the Elk's Lodge in Juneau, AK. That year, the first territorial legislature passed 83 laws—laws that began building our State and uniting us as Alaskans.

While Alaska may have been just a territory and seen by many as a vast wilderness separated from the rest of the country, our territorial legislature led the Nation in passing the first law in the Nation giving women the right to vote. This was 1913. The 19th amendment wouldn't be ratified for another 7 long years. The great Nell Scott was the first woman to serve in the first territorial legislature, way before other daughters of this country would.

This past January, the 28th Session of the Alaska State Legislature convened, consisting of 20 senators and 40 representatives. Under house speaker Mike Chenault, and senate president Charlie Huggins, they continue to provide representation to an estimated 731,449 residents of Alaska. The Alaska Legislature has worked for the past 100 years to give Alaskans the opportunity to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and they will continue to do so for the many years to come. I extend my congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to the senators and representatives as well as all support staff to our legislature on this special anniversary.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:18 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 bill, without amendment:


The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Co-Chairman.

The message further announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. PETRI of Wisconsin, Mr. CRENshaw of Florida, Mr. LATTA of Ohio, Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama, and Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 3166(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law 112–239), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Individual Members of the House of Representatives to the Congressional Advisory Panel on the Governance of the Nuclear Security Enterprise: Ms. Heather Wilson of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

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–505. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Applicable Federal Rates—March 2013 (corrected)” (Rev. Rul. 2013–7) received in the Office of the President on February 26, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–506. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Dual-Use Notice” (Notice 2013–13) received in the Office of the President on February 13, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–507. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary Shelter Assistance for Victims of Hurricane Sandy” (Notice 2013–9) received in the Office of the President on February 13, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–508. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2013 Census Counts for Sections 42(h) and 146” (Notice 2013–15) received in the Office of the President on February 13, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–509. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2013 Census Counts for Individual Disadvantaged Areas and Average Segment Rates and Adjusted 24-Month Average Segment Rates Used for Pension Funding for Plan Years Beginning in 2013” (Notice 2013–12) received in the Office of the President on February 14, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–510. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Permitted Disparities in Employer-Provided Contributions or Benefits” (Rev. Rul. 2013–2) received in the Office of the President on February 14, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–511. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exemptions for Individuals Disadvantaged by Average Segment Rates” (Rev. Rul. 2013–8) received in the Office of the President on February 14, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–512. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Applicable Federal Rates—June 2013” (Rev. Rul. 2013–6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President on February 20, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–513. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Update to Notice 2000–45” (Rev. Proc. 2013–20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President on February 20, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–514. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Tax Credit-Eligible Start-Up Costs for Individuals; Effective Period for Such Plant” (Notice 2013–18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President on February 20, 2013, to the Committee on Finance.

EC–515. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revised Exhibit: