Howard will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Miner County, Howard was founded in 1881. Howard was South Dakota's first community to operate its own wind turbines, providing ''green energy'' to residential and commercial customers.

I offer my congratulations to Howard on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

CRESBARD, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Cresbard, SD. The town of Cresbard will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in north central South Dakota, Cresbard, like many rural towns in South Dakota, has its roots in agriculture. Now, 100 years later, the town still relies on agriculture but has also expanded into a hunting destination in the fall. Cresbard continues to be a great example of what makes South Dakota such a great place to live and do business.

I offer my congratulations to Cresbard on their centennial, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

CHELSEA, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Chelsea, SD. The town of Chelsea will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Faulk County, Chelsea was founded as an agricultural town in 1906. Although 100 years has passed since its founding, the city remains a great example of what makes rural South Dakota a welcoming place to live and raise a family.

I offer my congratulations to Chelsea on their anniversary, and I wish them the best in the years to come.●

BRENTFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Brentford, SD. The town of Brentford will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Spink County, Brentford was the last town established in the county and has outlasted many of its neighbors. The town of Brentford has the unique distinction of being the only so-named town in the United States. I am confident that the Brentford community will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 100 years.

I offer my congratulations to Brentford on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

BALTIC, SOUTH DAKOTA, TO CELEBRATE 125 YEARS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Baltic, SD. The town of Baltic will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Minnehaha County, Baltic was founded in 1881 on the banks of the Big Sioux River. Baltic has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

I offer my congratulations to Baltic on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF STRATFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the city of Stratford which is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

Located in Brown County, Stratford was founded in 1906 as an agricultural community. Stratford is a welcoming community that reflects the values and principles that we as Americans hold dear.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the citizens of Stratford to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their fine city.●

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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

NOTIFICATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER BLOCKING THE PROPERTY OF PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITUATION IN BELARUS—PM 50

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631 (NEA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the ''order'') blocking the property of persons in connection with the situation in Belarus. In that order, I declared a national emergency with respect to the policies and actions of certain individuals in Belarus, to address the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and circumstances involving Belarus, as described below. This action follows the issuance of Proclamation 8015 of May 12, 2006, ''Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Responsible for Policies or Actions That Threaten the Transition to Democracy in Belarus,'' in which I determined that it is in the interest of the United States to suspend the entry into the United States of members of the government of Alyaksandr Lukashenka and others who formulate, implement, participate in, or benefit from policies or actions, including electoral fraud, human rights abuses, and corruption, that undermine or injure democratic institutions or impede the transition to democracy in Belarus.

The United States, the European Union, and other allies and partners around the world have repeatedly expressed support for the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people and condemned the Belarusian government's human rights abuses, assaults on democracy, and corruption. The Belarusian authorities have resorted to intense repression in an attempt to preserve their power, including the disappearances of four regime critics in 1999 and 2000, which the authorities have failed to investigate seriously despite credible information linking top government officials to these acts.

The undemocratic 2006 presidential election was only the latest example of the Belarusian government's disregard for the rights of its own citizens. Hundreds of civic and opposition activists were arrested—and many beaten—both before and after the vote for exercising their rights. The authorities forcibly dispersed peaceful post-election demonstrations. There is simply no place in a Europe whole and free for a regime of this kind.

The order also takes an important step in the fight against public corruption, which threatens important United States interests globally, including ensuring security and stability, the rule of law and core democratic values, advancing prosperity, and creating a level playing field for lawful business activities. As noted in Proclamation 8015, the persistent acts of corruption by Belarusian government officials in the performance of public functions has played a significant role in frustrating the Belarusian people's aspirations for democracy. This order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to block the assets of senior-level officials of the Government of Belarus, their family members, or those closely linked to such officials engaged in such corruption.