When I served with Carl in the 1980s, I was struck, as was everyone who knew Carl Thompson, by his dedication to the great State of Wisconsin, and to the people he served. He was a powerful advocate for veterans’ housing, and was a strong leader in battling the AIDS crisis, and in leading voices on the importance of preserving our First Amendment freedoms. Carl Thompson was also a great storyteller with a wonderful wit and sense of humor. I am deeply saddened by Carl Thompson’s passing, but I know that his leadership will live on in the Wisconsin Democratic Party, and our State. He will be remembered for many years to come.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following enrolled bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2982. An act to authorize the establishment of a memorial to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad.

H.R. 4691. An act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

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


ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 238. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies on water optimization in the Burnt River basin, Malheur River basin, Owyhee River basin, and Powder River basin, Oregon.

S. 1175. An act to modify the boundary of Vickery Veteran’s Memorial Park to include the property known as Pemberton’s Headquarters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 640. An act to adjust the boundaries of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, and for other purposes.

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

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The following joint resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 111. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4600. An act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 3009. A bill to provide economic security for America’s workers.

The following joint resolution was read the first time:

S.J. Res. 45. Joint resolution to authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-308. A House joint memorial that was adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to the National Guard; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4017

Whereas, Within days of September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington D.C., the nation’s governors activated National Guard soldiers and airmen to augment security at the nation’s international airports; and

Whereas, In true state-federal partnership, National Guard forces are providing aerial support under the control of the sovereign states, territories, and the District of Columbia and the federal government is funding such duties “in the service of the United States” under Title 32 U.S.C., Section 502(f), hereinafter referred to as “Title 32 duty”; and

Whereas, Title 32 duty has been used, inter alia, for more than twenty years for National Guard full-time staffing, for National Guard support for local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies under Governors’ Counter-Drug Plans for more than twelve years, for National Guard Civil Support Team technical assistance for local first responders for more than two years, and for aerial port security for the safety and security at all military facilities for the past nine years; and

Whereas, The governors of northern tier border states wrote President Bush in November 2001 offering to provide Title 32 National Guard augmentation for United States Customs, Border Patrol, and Immigration and Naturalization Service activities at United States Ports of Entry; and

Whereas, In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, increased security and inadequate federal staffing have limited the flow of persons, goods, and services across our nation’s borders. These factors have contributed to a serious situation in the American and Canadian economies, especially in states such as Washington; and

Whereas, The governors of northern tier border states wrote President Bush in November 2001 offering to provide Title 32 National Guard augmentation for United States Customs, Border Patrol, and Immigration and Naturalization Service activities at United States Ports of Entry; and

Whereas, There is still no relief at our borders due to inaction on the governors’ offer of Title 32 National Guard assistance, and conflicting Department of Defense proposals to federalize the National Guard or otherwise enhance border security with active duty military personnel instead of Title 32 National Guard members; and

Whereas, Federalizing the National Guard under Title 10 U.S.C. would degrade the combat readiness of units from which Guardsmen would be mobilized, interfere with effective state force management, and prevent personal accommodations for soldiers and their civilian employers; and

Whereas, Stationing federal military forces at the United States-Canada border would be an unprecedented unilateral action by the United States; and

Whereas, The nation’s border states need prompt relief which can best be provided by Title 32 National Guard forces being deployed to assist lead agencies at the borders “in the service of the United States,” but under continued state command and control; and

Whereas, The Washington State Legislature opposes federalization of the National Guard or assignment of federal military forces for United States border security; Now, therefore,

Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress assures prompt augmentation of
lead federal agencies at the borders by accepting the governors’ offer of National Guard forces under state command and control pursuant to 32 U.S.C. Sec. 502(f); be it further Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Alabama, the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-309. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alabama relative to ratifying the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12
Whereas, the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides as follows:

“Amendment XVII.

[Popular Election of Senators]

The United States shall be composed of two senators from each state, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each senator shall have one vote. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any state in the Senate, the executive authority of such state shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: Provided, that the legislature of any state may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointment until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be construed to affect the election or term of any senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.”; and

Whereas, the Seventeenth Amendment was ratified May 31, 1913; Now therefore, be it

WHEREAS, by the Legislature of Alabama, both Houses thereof concurring, That we hereby ratify the Seventeenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Resolved further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Archivist of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress.

POM-310. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alabama relative to ratifying the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13
Whereas, the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States Constitution provides as follows:

“Amendment XXIII

[Section 1]

Section 1. [Popular Election of Senators]

The district constituting the seat of government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct:

“A number of electors equal to the whole number of senators and representatives in Congress to which the district would be entitled if it were a state, but in no event more than the least populous state, they shall be in addition to those appointed by the states, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of president and vice president, to be electors appointed by a state; and they shall meet in the district and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.”; and

Whereas, the Twenty-Third Amendment was ratified April 13, 1961; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of Alabama, both Houses thereof concurring, That we hereby ratify the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Resolved further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Archivist of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress.

POM-311. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alabama relative to ratifying the Twenty-Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 14
Whereas, Twenty-Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides as follows:

“Amendment XXIV

[Power to Enforce Articles and Sections]

The congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”; and

Whereas, Twenty-Fourth Amendment was ratified February 4, 1964; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Alabama, both Houses thereof concurring, That we hereby ratify the Twenty-Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Resolved further, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Archivist of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate of the United States Congress.

POM-312. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to federal funds authorized for highway purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
Whereas, the United States passed with significant bipartisan support H.R. 2000, the “Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century” (TEA-21), which was subsequently signed into law as Public Law 105-178 by the President of the United States; and

Whereas, it is desirable to increase the nation’s awareness of the accomplishments and experiences of the senior citizens of our country; and

Whereas, senior citizens 65 years of age and older are in increasing segment of the population, currently comprising 12% of the nation’s population, and 13% of New Jersey’s population; and

Whereas, Younger generations benefit from the honoring and remembrance of the accomplishments, experiences and wisdom which senior citizens have amassed during their lives; and

Whereas, Senior citizens are deserving of a day of recognition honoring their numerous contributions to society and their survival through war times as well as their endurance of many hardships; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Congress and the President of the United States are respectfully memorialized to enact legislation honoring all the senior citizens of the United States by designating May 15th as National Senior Citizen’s Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
Whereas, it is to desire the increase of the nation’s awareness of the accomplishments and experiences of the senior citizens of our country; and

Whereas, Senior citizens 65 years of age and older are in increasing segment of the population, currently comprising 12% of the nation’s population, and 13% of New Jersey’s population; and

Whereas, Younger generations benefit from the honoring and remembrance of the accomplishments, experiences and wisdom which senior citizens have amassed during their lives; and

Whereas, Senior citizens are deserving of a day of recognition honoring their numerous contributions to society and their survival through war times as well as their endurance of many hardships; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Congress and the President of the United States are respectfully memorialized to enact legislation honoring all the senior citizens of the United States by designating May 15th as National Senior Citizen’s Day.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, and all other Members of Congress.

POM-313. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to designating May 15th as National Senior Citizen’s Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
Whereas, it is desirable to increase the nation’s awareness of the accomplishments and experiences of the senior citizens of our country; and

Whereas, Senior citizens 65 years of age and older are in increasing segment of the population, currently comprising 12% of the nation’s population, and 13% of New Jersey’s population; and

Whereas, Younger generations benefit from the honoring and remembrance of the accomplishments, experiences and wisdom which senior citizens have amassed during their lives; and

Whereas, Senior citizens are deserving of a day of recognition honoring their numerous contributions to society and their survival through war times as well as their endurance of many hardships; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Congress and the President of the United States are respectfully memorialized to enact legislation honoring all the senior citizens of the United States by designating May 15th as National Senior Citizen’s Day.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the United States, the presiding officers of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives, and each of the members of the Congress of the United States elected from the State of New Jersey.

POM-314. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to National Grandparents Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
Whereas, in 1978, Congress approved House Joint Resolution No. 244, which authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating the first Sunday in September of each year as “National Grandparents Day”; and
Whereas, In 1994, Congress approved Senate Joint Resolution No. 196, which recognized that grandparents bring a tremendous amount of love to their grandchildren’s lives, deepen a child’s understanding of a child’s development and often serve as the primary caregiver for their grandchildren by providing stable and supportive home environments. In 1995 as the “Year of the Grandparent”; and

Whereas, In making these designations, Congress acknowledged the important role grandparents play in families and their many contributions which enhance and further the value of families and their traditions, and recognized that public awareness of and support for grandparents and their contributions should be strengthened; and

Whereas, For both “National Grandparents Day,” and the “Year of the Grandparent,” in 1995, Congress called on the people of the United States and interested groups and organizations to observe the day and year with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

Whereas, Despite the acknowledgement of the tremendous contributions grandparents make to their families’ lives, the permanent designation of a day to observe “National Grandparents Day,” the year-long designation of 1995 as the “Year of the Grandparent,” as well as the call for appropriate ceremonies, and activities, who have witnessed the importance of appropriate ceremonies and activities has been lacking; and

Whereas, A wholehearted national effort to encourage people and organizations to celebrate “National Grandparents Day” by planning appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities would go a long way to commemorate and honor the wonderful and vital contributions that grandparents make to the lives of their families: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Congress and President of the United States are respectfully memorialized to make a wholehearted national effort to encourage people and organizations to celebrate “National Grandparents Day” by planning appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities that commemorate and honor the wonderful and vital contributions that grandparents make to the lives of their families.

2. Duty authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of the members of Congress elected from this State.

POM-316. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey memorializes the Congress of the United States to adopt a resolution which designates one day each year as “National Grandparents Day.”

POM-317. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to Clear Air Act requirements; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

Whereas, Studies by the 37-state Ozone Transport Assessment Group have demonstrated that sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide can travel up to 500 miles in the right atmospheric conditions, and the transport of these pollutants, generally in a northeastern pattern, can have significant impacts on the ozone problem in downwind northeast states such as New Jersey;

Whereas, On December 3, 1999, then New Governor Whitman announced that the State would join the federal government and other states in taking legal action to require Midwestern power plants to clean up their emissions; and

Whereas, On February 14, 2002, President Bush announced his Clear Skies and Global Climate Change Initiatives which would replace current federal air pollution control rules with a national emissions cap and trade system that would likely provide Midwestern power plants, refineries and other industrial sources with an exemption from the New Source Review program; and

Whereas, Implementation of the New Source Review program would require installation of air pollution control when older power plants refiners and other industrial facilities are expanded or significantly changed; and

Whereas, Earlier this year, New Jersey’s largest utility agreed to install state-of-the-art pollution controls on two power plants in the State as part of a settlement with the State Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the New Source Review program; and

Whereas, While this action is a significant step in New Jersey’s efforts to control air pollution from in-State sources, there must be strong federal enforcement of clean air standards in order to protect the citizens of New Jersey, and out-of-State power plants should be required to install similar state-of-the-art pollution controls in order to achieve lasting improvements in air quality; and

Whereas, The current proposed federal regulations, to the extent that they fail to impose appropriate penalties in the United States Department of Justice has taken to enforce compliance with federal Clean Air Act requirements, and would be detrimental to the environment and the public health of citizens of this State; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges the President of the United States and the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency to not weaken federal Clean Air Act standards; and

Whereas, The current proposed federal regulations are changes to the Clean Air Act standards which would significantly compromise the gains New Jersey and the nation have made in air pollution control, would undermine the important role of the United States Department of Justice has taken to enforce compliance with federal Clean Air Act requirements, and would be detrimental to the environment and the public health of citizens of this State; Now, therefore, be it

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

Whereas, An obscure 19th Century law requires military retired pay to be offset, dollar-for-dollar, by the amount of disability compensation received from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

Whereas, This longstanding inequity forces thousands of disabled career military retirees to fund their own veterans’ disability compensation from their earned military retirement pay; and

Whereas, Retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation are two entirely different compensation elements—retired pay is provided to recognize a career of arduous, uncomplaining service while Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation is rec-
Whereas, There is significant support in the 107th Congress for this legislation to correct the inequity, as S. 170 has 77 cosponsors and H.R. 303 has 379 cosponsors; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The President of the United States and the Congress of the United States is respectfully memorialized to enact the “Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2001” as embodied in S. 170 and H.R. 303, now pending before the 107th Congress of the United States. These bills would amend Title 10 of the United States Code to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-318. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to noise reduction of aircraft traffic patterns: Whereas, Aircraft noise contributes to the substantial lowering of property values on residences owned by New Jersey residents; and Whereas, The FAA, despite repeated public promises to effect noise reduction as part of the redesign, has refused to include such noise reduction as a primary goal of the redesign: now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The President and the Congress of the United States are respectfully memorialized to direct the Federal Aviation Administration to include the reduction of aircraft noise as a major goal in the redesign of aircraft traffic patterns over New Jersey, and

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and the Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, every member of Congress elected from New Jersey, the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

POM-319. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to the federal court decision ruling that the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional in public schools in unconstitutional; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Whereas, In a 2-1 decision, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on June 26, 2002, that the Pledge of Allegiance cannot be recited in public schools because the phrase “under God” is unconstitutional; and

Whereas, The words of the pledge first appeared in the periodical, The Youth’s Companion in 1892, and the pledge was officially sanctioned by the United States Congress in 1942; and

Whereas, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved additional language “under God” to the pledge on Flag Day, June 14, 1954; and

Whereas, in authorizing the additional words, President Eisenhower wrote that the Pledge of Allegiance “may be recited daily in every classroom, every public, village and rural schoolhouse, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty”; and

Whereas, Circuit Judge Ferdinand Fernandez, in his dissenting opinion, noted that such phrases as “under God” have “no tendency to establish religion in this country except in the eyes of those who most fervently would like to drive all tincture of religion out of the public life of our polity”; and

Whereas, The court decision has been roundly condemned by members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, and the Department of Justice has vowed to fight the ruling: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House strongly condemns the June 26, 2002 federal court decision declaring the Pledge of Allegiance to be unconstitutional and urges the Department of Justice to appeal the decision immediately and without reservation.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the federal Department of Justice, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-320. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to Amtrak; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Whereas, President and CEO of the National Rail Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, has warned that without a loan guarantee of $200 million or similar federal support, Amtrak will run out of operating funds in the near future and will have to shut down operations; and

Whereas, While Federal support appears to be forthcoming to provide a short-term reprise for Amtrak that will permit it to continue operations until October 1, 2002, such short-term support begs the question of the long-term future of the railroad; and

Whereas, The Federal Government under the Constitution of the United States has the responsibility for the regulation of interstate commerce and has taken on the responsibility by legislation for the creation of an Interstate Highway System and a national airport system, both of which receive substantial financial support from federal appropriations; and

Whereas, With the formation of Amtrak, the Congress of the United States has emphasized the importance of a federal commitment to a national rail passenger system, but now the President of the United States and Congress have begun to weaken the federal commitment in favor of actions by the individual states; and

Whereas, The United States is one Nation and can ill afford a fragmented and decentralized national rail passenger transportation system; and

Whereas, The dismantling of Amtrak will not only deprive the Nation as a whole of a national rail passenger system but will create an intolerable burden on the individual states, the Northeast Corridor, and the entire nation; and

Whereas, The continuing commitment to the Northeast Corridor and providing for proper maintenance and repair of its infrastructure is modest compared to the enormous sums spent for the support of the nation’s highways and aviation system; and

Whereas, In a time of national emergency, a national rail passenger system plays an important role in the national security of the United States, as manifested by the fact that during the September 11, 2001 crisis, the rail system was the only functioning practical interstate transportation operation nationally; and

Whereas, The dismantling of the Amtrak system would have a disastrous effect on the greater New York-Philadelphia metropolitan region, leading to the overburdening of an already heavily burdened road system, the paralysis of the local rail system affecting local commuting into and out of New York City, exacerbating problems of air pollution, leading to economic decline or possibly causing communities which would most likely be affected federal tax revenues from one of the most productive and vibrant economic regions of the country; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, for the public policy reasons stated in the preamble of this resolution, memorializes the Congress and the President of the United States to enact a long-term solution to the Nation’s rail crisis by providing for the continuation of national passenger rail service by Amtrak.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority leaders of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives, and all other members of Congress.

POM-321. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to the cable television industry; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Whereas, The “Cable Communication Policy Act of 1992” totally deregulated the cable industry and resulted in a “race to the bottom” that has allowed cable operators to pay only a fraction of the rates they were charged for the same programming. It has been a deceptively short-term act that will cost the States from regulating either cable rates or cable programming; and

Whereas, Subsequent to the 1984 deregulation of the cable industry, rapidly escalating cable rates and declining levels of service led to the passage of the “Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992” which essentially prohibited government rate regulation of the cable industry; and

Whereas, The federal “Telecommunication Act of 1996” was adopted to promote greater competition as a means of addressing the cable industry’s problems and eliminated most of the “Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992” by the end of 1999, including the phasing out of federal price controls over cable rates; and
Whereas, Following passage of the federal "Telecommunications Act of 1996," cable programming service rates have increased by over 60 percent, or of which increase zero percent can be traced to State law, and a federal price controls over most cable rates were terminated on March 31, 1999; and

Whereas, The cable rate increase over the past several years, it is appropriate for Congress to reconsider the deregulation of the cable television industry in order to curtail the anti-consumer practices of the cable company, monopolies; and

Whereas, It is altogether fitting and proper for this House, as representatives of the residents thereof, shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Presiding Officer of each branch of Congress and to the Members of the House of Representatives to the President of the United States, the President of each branch of Congress to the Members thereof from this Commonwealth.

POM-323. A Senate concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of Pennsylvania relative to Federal relief for steel industry retirees; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Whereas, over the past few years there has been an influx of imported seafood being dumped into the United States of America; and

Resolved, Therefore, be it

POM-321. A resolution adopted by the House of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to funding for the National Park Service to purchase the Schwoebel Tract, which lies in the boundaries of the Valley Forge National Historical Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Whereas, approximately 460 acres of the 3,466 acres that comprise the Valley Forge National Historical Park are privately owned; and

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States, George W. Bush; the United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld; the United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell; the United States House of Representatives; and to each member of Colorado's delegation of the United States Congress.

POM-325. A resolution adopted by the House of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to Federal relief for steel industry retirees; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Whereas, The USS Pueblo, though still the property of the United States Navy, has been retained by North Korea for more than 30 years and is subject to exhibition in the North Korean cities of Wonsan and Hungnam, and is now on display in Pyongyang, the capital city of North Korea; and

Whereas, United States Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell recently began a legislative effort in Congress that North Korea return the USS Pueblo to the United States Navy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States, George W. Bush; the United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld; the United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell; the United States House of Representatives; and to each member of Colorado’s delegation of the United States Congress.

POM-322. A House resolution adopted by the House of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to funding for the National Park Service to purchase the Schwoebel Tract, which lies in the boundaries of the Valley Forge National Historical Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Whereas, The USS Pueblo, which was attacked and captured by the North Korean Navy on January 23, 1968, was the first United States Navy ship to be hijacked on the high seas by a foreign military force in over 150 years; and

Whereas, one member of the USS Pueblo crew, Duane Hodges, was killed in the assault while the other 82 crew members were held in captivity, often under inhumane conditions, for 11 months; and

Whereas, The USS Pueblo, an intelligence collection auxiliary vessel, was operating in international waters, outside the territorial waters of the capture, and therefore did not violate North Korean territorial waters; and

Whereas, The capture of the USS Pueblo has resulted in no reprisals against the government or people of North Korea and no military action was taken at the time of the vessel's capture, or at any later date; and

Whereas, Much of the domestic steel industry is heavily burdened by overwhelming retiree health care costs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Whereas, The USS Pueblo, though still the property of the United States Navy, has been retained by North Korea for more than 30 years and is subject to exhibition in the North Korean cities of Wonsan and Hungnam, and is now on display in Pyongyang, the capital city of North Korea; and

Whereas, United States Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell recently began a legislative effort in Congress that North Korea return the USS Pueblo to the United States Navy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States, George W. Bush; the United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld; the United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell; the United States House of Representatives; and to each member of Colorado’s delegation of the United States Congress.

POM-321. A resolution adopted by the House of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to Federal relief for steel industry retirees; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Whereas, The USS Pueblo, which was attacked and captured by the North Korean Navy on January 23, 1968, was the first United States Navy ship to be hijacked on the high seas by a foreign military force in over 150 years; and

Whereas, one member of the USS Pueblo crew, Duane Hodges, was killed in the assault while the other 82 crew members were held in captivity, often under inhumane conditions, for 11 months; and

Whereas, The USS Pueblo, an intelligence collection auxiliary vessel, was operating in international waters, outside the territorial waters of the capture, and therefore did not violate North Korean territorial waters; and

Whereas, The capture of the USS Pueblo has resulted in no reprisals against the government or people of North Korea and no military action was taken at the time of the vessel’s capture, or at any later date; and

Whereas, Much of the domestic steel industry is heavily burdened by overwhelming retiree health care costs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Whereas, The USS Pueblo, though still the property of the United States Navy, has been retained by North Korea for more than 30 years and is subject to exhibition in the North Korean cities of Wonsan and Hungnam, and is now on display in Pyongyang, the capital city of North Korea; and

Whereas, United States Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell recently began a legislative effort in Congress that North Korea return the USS Pueblo to the United States Navy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States, George W. Bush; the United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld; the United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell; the United States House of Representatives; and to each member of Colorado’s delegation of the United States Congress.
Whereas, These layoffs increased the retiree-to-employee ratio to nearly three to one and increased the difficulty for domestic steel producers to maintain benefits for retired steelworkers; and

Whereas, An average of 10% of the costs of a ton of steel goes directly to retiree pension and health care funds for many of the largest producers of steel in the United States; and

Whereas, Approximately 600,000 retirees, surviving spouses and dependents receive health care benefits from domestic steel companies, with the largest and most vulnerable of these companies providing retiree health care benefits to approximately 100,000 retirees, surviving spouses and dependents; and

Whereas, Because 29 domestic steel companies have declared bankruptcy since the Asian financial crisis of 1998, retirees health care benefits are at risk as a cost-cutting measure; and

Whereas, Retirees displaced by plant shutdowns shoulder the burden of their medical costs as they may be unable to afford or qualify for private health insurance programs or may not qualify for Medicare coverage; and

Whereas, The Steelworkers of America, realizing the risk to individuals and families, has called for Federal action to protect the benefits of domestic steelworker retirees: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the State of California urge the President and Congress of the United States to take all necessary action to preserve the health care benefits of steel industry retirees; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each House of Congress, to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-327. A Joint Resolution adopted by the Assembly of the State of California relative to the Mexicali/Calexico border crossing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 35

Whereas, Persons wishing to cross the international border between Mexico and California have traditionally been subject to long wait times during peak periods; and

Whereas, The heightened security regime implemented since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States has increased already long wait times at the border; and

Whereas, The economic well-being of the border regions in both the United States and Mexico is dependent on flows of people and goods across the border with a minimum of delay; and

Whereas, The economy of Imperial County depends heavily on shoppers from Mexico; and

Whereas, Federal officials have successfully implemented reduced wait times for persons applying for use of the Secure Electronic Network For Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI) program, which provides access to a dedicated commuter lane and uses automated vehicle identification technology at a limited number of United States international border crossings, including the Otay Mesa crossing near Tijuana and San Diego; and

Whereas, Persons eligible for the SENTRI program have been previously identified as low risk travelers who regularly use the border crossing; and

Whereas, The SENTRI program provides law enforcement with good, solid information about participants, allowing the need to continuously inspect these precleared individuals; and

Whereas, It would be beneficial to commerce and tourism on both sides of the border to implement the SENTRI program at the Mexicali/Calexico border crossing in order to reduce wait times for both United States and Mexican citizens; and

Whereas, The Governor of the State of Baja California has indicated his interest in expanding the SENTRI program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the United States Congress and federal agencies, including the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Customs Service, to authorize the implementation of the SENTRI program at the Mexicali/Calexico border crossing; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit a copy of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairmen of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Customs Service.

POM-328. A Senate Concurrent Resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to the use of Title I funds to address the educational needs of students; to the Committee on Education, Health, Labor, and Pension.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 22

Whereas, Title I of the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act, a federal aid program from which funds flow directly to the states, is a significant funding mechanism of great value to the local school systems in Louisiana that aims to help disadvantaged students in elementary and secondary schools with the highest percentage of children from low-income families to provide additional academic support and learning opportunities to address the academic needs for the benefit of approximately three hundred, eighty-four thousand and five hundred students; and

Whereas, the state education agency is responsible for monitoring the effective use of Title I dollars through compliance reviews, and may pursue actions to prevent and permanently withhold Title I payments to a local education agency if the state finds that a local education agency is in noncompliance with the requirements of the state law or regulation or has been notified of a significant irregularity or problem with the administration of the funds based on a certified audit of such funds; and

Whereas, while a primary goal of Title I is to help disadvantaged students in elementary and secondary schools meet the same high standards expected of all students, continued funding is critical to the academic achievement of all children throughout the state, and any disruption or interruption of implementation of Title I by financially strapped local school systems and may limit the opportunities for at-risk students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Louisiana respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to provide a tax credit to companies for the cost of converting from groundwater to reclaimed water and to provide interest free loans to municipalities to construct waste water treatment/reclamation projects; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 27

Whereas, the Federal Energy Policy Bill is being debated in Congress and energy and electricity production are vital to Louisiana; and

Whereas, merchant power plants and other energy producers currently using groundwater should be encouraged to change to alternative sources; and

Whereas, the largest producers of waste water in the state are municipalities and many of those rural municipalities are facing tougher standards and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to update their waste water treatment systems yet these municipalities lack funding to do so; and

Whereas, by creating a market for the reclaimed water, the municipalities could justly benefit from the ability to build the waste water treatment facilities; and

Whereas, currently, companies have no incentive to spend the money necessary to convert and surface water or waste water because it is cheaper to mine the pure drinking water from the ground and allowing a tax credit to business to convert to reclaimed water would allow the companies to ultimately save money and to update their water collection/cooling systems;

Whereas, updating company technology would benefit the overall efficiency of the industrial facility and the environment; and

Whereas, Louisiana farmers would also benefit from increased water resources necessary for irrigation; and

Whereas, in order for a municipality to get the interest free loan, the municipality must agree to sell the reclaimed water to industry and other buyers at a cost lower than industry pays to mine groundwater: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana hereby memorializes the Congress of the United States to request the appropriate state officials at the United States Department of Education to review the federal laws and guidelines with respect to assuring that the educational needs of students is not jeopardized in cases in which the management and implementation of such funds by a local education agency are being examined; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each member of the Louisiana legislative delegation to the United States Congress and federal agencies, including the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Customs Service, to the Committee on Finance.
Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation of the United States Congress.

POM-331. A Resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Alaska, relative to the Pledge of Allegiance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLVE No. 2

Whereas this country was founded on religious freedom; many of whom were deeply religious; and

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution embodies principles which guarantee freedom of religion both through the free exercise of religion and by prohibiting the government's establishment of a religion; and

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, and was first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of Youth's Companion; and

Whereas, in 1954, the United States Congress added the words “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance; and

Whereas, President Eisenhower, in adding these words, said “These words will remind Americans that despite our great physical strength we must remain humble. They will help us to keep constantly in our minds and hearts the spiritual and moral principles which alone give dignity to man, and upon which our way of life is founded,”; and

Whereas, for nearly 50 years, the Pledge of Allegiance has included references to the United States flag and the country; which our way of life is founded. Whereas the Congress expects that the pledge of allegiance include references to the United States flag and country; this Congress hereby expresses its support for legislation which would include references to the United States flag and the country in the Pledge of Allegiance; and

Whereas patriotic songs, engravings on federal buildings, and the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States also contain general references to “God”; and

Whereas, in accordance with decisions of the United States Supreme Court, public school students cannot be forced to recite the Pledge of Allegiance without violating their First Amendment rights; and

Whereas Congress expects that the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will rehear the case of Newdow v. U.S. Congress, en banc, and resolves to intervene in the case to defend the constitutionality of the Pledge of Allegiance; be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana hereby expresses its support for the creation of a Center of Excellence in Biological and Chemical Warfare Medicine in Louisiana; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

POM-332. A Senate Concurrent Resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to the creation of a Center of Excellence in Biological and Chemical Warfare Medicine in Louisiana; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby expresses full support to the efforts of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation for the creation of a Center of Excellence in Biological and Chemical Warfare Medicine in Louisiana; be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana further urges, utilizing the state's vast array of public and private clinical, research, and educational facilities, such a facility is in the best interest of the citizens of this state and this nation; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, to the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-333. A Resolution adopted by the House of the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina relative to a Federal/State partnership to assist veterans service officers to assist the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in eliminating the veterans claims processing backlog; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 1780

Whereas, the United States government has acknowledged its responsibility to provide healthcare to those veterans who served their country in time of war; and

Whereas the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is charged with administering the federal benefits program for veterans; and

Whereas, there presently exists a backlog of over 601,000 claims, some of which have been outstanding for one year or more; and
Whereas, a significant portion of these claims involve World War II and Korean War veterans, and despite determined efforts by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to eliminate this backlog, the backlog continues; and
Whereas, there exists a trained group of individuals who have continued to provide assistance to all veterans for over 50 years and are already familiar with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs claim policies and procedures; and
Whereas, for example, in North Carolina county voters in exchange for black granite bestowed North Carolina veterans obtain monetary benefits in excess of $812,000,000 by assisting these veterans in filing over 50,000 claims annually with the United States Department of Veteran Affairs; and
Whereas, this claims processing backlog needs to be reduced while World War II and Korean War veterans are still with us; and
Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs could enter into a partnership with state and local governments to utilize these highly trained county service officers to eliminate the present claims processing backlog by expanding the county veterans service officers’ roles; and
Whereas, there is a cost-effective way of reducing the claims processing backlog by eliminating the need for a substantial increase in employees; and
Whereas, these county veterans service officers, as represented by the North Carolina Association of County Veterans Service Officers and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers, have offered to assist the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to eliminate the veterans claims processing backlog in order that America’s veterans can take advantage of the benefits that the United States has authorized, that they are deserving of, and to which they are entitled; in consideration whereof, the Senate and the House of Representatives do hereby enact this act:

Resolved by the House of Representatives:

Section 1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Vice President of the United States, to the Congress of the United States:

Whereas the First Amendment to the United States Constitution embodies principles intended to guarantee freedom of religion both through the free exercise of religion and by the government’s establishing a religion; and
Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written by a West Virginia schoolteacher and was first published in the September 8, 1892, issue of Young’s Companion; and
Whereas, in 1945, the United States Congress added the words “under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance; and

Whereas, Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, in adding these words, said “These words will remind Americans that despite our great physical strength we must remain humble. They will help us to keep our minds and hearts the spiritual and moral principles which alone give dignity to man, and upon which our way of life is founded.”; and

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Texas, Seventieth Legislature, do hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States of America to bestow on Doris Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor; and, be it further

That the Senate of the State of Texas, Seventieth Legislature, do hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States of America to bestow on Doris Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Texas, Seventieth Legislature, do hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States of America to bestow on Doris Miller the Congressional Medal of Honor; and, be it further

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:
By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:
H.R. 2365: A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to convey a parcel of land to Chat tam County, Georgia.
H.R. 4044: To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the State of Maryland and the State of Louisiana for implementation of a program to eradicate or control nutria and restore marshland damaged by nutria.
H.R. 5727: A bill to reauthorize the national dam safety program, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:
By Mr. KENNEDY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:
Glen Bernard Anderson, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002.

Barbara Gillchrist, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002.

Graham Hill, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002.

*Barbara Gillchrist, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002.

*Graham Hill, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002.

*Barbara Gillchrist, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002.

*Graham Hill, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2002.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first