to normal and that the towns devastated by Katrina can be rebuilt. For leading the way and reminding us of our ability to recover from such storms, the Indiana National Guard, and all volunteers working in the gulf today, deserve our thanks.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for yesterday’s vote on the Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on the treaty.

PONTIFICIAL VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS ARAM I

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the Armenian American community in welcoming the upcoming Pontifical visit of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. The Pontiff will be visiting the State of California this October at the invitation of His Eminence, Archbishop Moushegh Mardorian of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America.

His Holiness is one of the most prominent Christian leaders in the Middle East and a spiritual leader for hundreds of thousands of Armenians around the world. The Pontiff presently serves as the Moderator for the World Council of Churches which is comprised of more than 340 churches from different cultures and countries around the world representing over 400 million Christians. Currently serving his second term, His Holiness is the first Orthodox and the youngest person to be elevated to Moderator.

The theme of the Pontiff’s visit is “Towards the Light of Knowledge.” This theme reflects the Pontiff’s faith that only with greater education and dialogue can the world’s conflicts be addressed properly.

I take this opportunity to not only thank the Pontiff for his time and worthy endeavors in California, but also thank the sizable Armenian community which has been actively contributing to the California culture and economy since 1878. California cities of Los Angeles and Glendale are home to the second and third largest populations of Armenians outside of Armenia and are important members of their communities serving as business leaders and city council members.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIS H. SIMMONS

• Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a son of Utah and a good friend, Mr. Harris H. Simmons, who today, by the selection of his peers, becomes the next chairman of the American Bankers Association. I am honored to highlight a few of his accomplishments, including his significant contributions to the banking world and to the State of Utah.

Mr. Simmons is currently the chairman, president and CEO of Zions Bancorporation. With its corporate offices in Salt Lake City, UT, Zions operates in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Washington. It is included in the S&P 500 Index, and is a national leader in Small Business Administration lending.

Harris started banking at the age of 16, when as a summer job he filed canceled checks at Zions. He continued his work at Zions in the investment department as he studied economics at the University of Utah. Harris then left Utah for a period as he furthered his studies and received an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.

Upon graduating, Harris took a job in Houston, TX for Allied Bancshares. After a year and a half, he returned to Zions and became the chief financial officer just before the 9/11 attacks. Nine years later he was named president and CEO of the multibillion-dollar asset bank holding company which has seen fantastic growth and success as it has helped build communities and business under his leadership.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Harris has been an invaluable member of the Utah community. He has served as president of the Utah Foundation, chairman of the Utah Symphony, and chairman of the Economic Development Corporation of Utah. He currently serves as president of the Shelter-the-Homeless Committee, as well as cochairman of the Utah Committee of the Newcomen Society of the United States. Most importantly, he is a loving husband and father of four.

This is but a small glimpse of Harris Simmons’ contributions and accomplishments. I commend him to my colleagues as they have the opportunity to meet with him as he serves in his new role with the American Bankers Association. The American Bankers Association is privileged to have Harris Simmons as its new chairman.

TRIBUTE TO MARK SALO

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I wish to salute Mark Salo, who is retiring this fall after more than 31 years as the head of Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties, PPSDRC. A pioneer and visionary in the field of reproductive health care, he is a great champion of women’s health and freedom of choice.

When Mark Salo began working with San Diego Planned Parenthood in 1974, it comprised one small clinic whose 12 employees provided 5,000 patient visits a year. Today PPSDRC is the second-largest Planned Parenthood affiliate in the nation with an annual budget of $35 million and 400 employees who provide more than 200,000 patient visits. The San Diego/Riverside affiliate has been a pioneer in the expansion of medical services to include vasectomies, tubal ligations, prenatal care, and mifepristone. PPSDRC oversees an Emmy-award-winning teen theatre and a variety of innovative teen outreach programs. It offers local midlife services, male and female sterilization services, and a thriving prenatal practice.

Mark has reached across the border from San Diego to build a Planned Parenthood of truly international scope by developing and funding a binational program in northern Baja California, Mexico. PPSDRC’s “Mexico Fund” supports five medical facilities in the poor colonias around Tijuana and funds contraceptive programs in the foreign-owned manufacturing plants known as maquiladoras.

Over the years, Mark has also become the most visible public advocate of reproductive rights in the San Diego region. He represents Planned Parenthood through television news, interview shows, debate forums, newspaper commentaries, and live radio appearances.

I know that everyone who values women’s health and reproductive freedom will join me in saluting Mark Salo and sending him best wishes for a well-earned, active retirement.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2123. An act to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes.

MEASURESREFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

H.R. 3765. An act to extend through December 31, 2007, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURESPLACEDONTHECALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1771—To express the sense of Congress and to improve reporting with respect to the safety of workers in the response and recovery activities related to Hurricane Katrina, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVEANDOTHERCOMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:
EC-3994. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ‘Report on the Montgomery G.I. Bill for Members of the Unemployed Reserve Service’; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3995. A communication from the Acting Director of Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to funding the Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) Program for Fiscal Year 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3996. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3997. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to funding for Future Combat Systems (FCS) for Fiscal Year 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3998. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Assignment of Contract Administration - Exception for Defense Energy Support Center” (DFARS Case 2004-D003) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4000. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled “Legislative History” (DFARS Case 2004-D012) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4001. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled “Restrictions on Total Net Enclosure of Lifeboats” (DFARS Case 2004-D034) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4002. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled “Training for Contractor Personnel Interpreting with the United States Air Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4003. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Department of the Army, to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4004. A communication from the Acting Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of a rule entitled “Scheduling of Controlled Substances: Placement of Pregabalin into Schedule V” (RIN0767-DC27P) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4006. A communication on the Director, Regulatory Management Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Application and Motion Fees to Recover Full Costs” (RIN1615-AAB8) (USCIS 2245-02) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4007. A communication from the Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of the Niagara Escarpment Viticultural Area” (RIN1513-AA97/T.D. TTB-33) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4008. A communication from the Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Expansion of the Russian River Valley Viticultural Area” (RIN1513-AA47/T.D. TTB-33) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4009. A communication from the Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Certification Requirements for Imported Natural Wine (2003F-002P)” (RIN1513-AAB5) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4010. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to efforts made by the United Nations and the UN Specialized Agencies to employ an adequate number of Americans during 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4011. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Zablocki Act” (RIN1513-112P) received on September 18, 2005; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4012. A communication from the Ambassador, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief: Pediatric HIV/AIDS Treatment; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times, and referred to committees:

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1774. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the activities of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute with respect to research on pulmonary hypertension; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CHAFFEY, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1775. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the income threshold used to calculate the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAYTON:

S. 1776. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish permanent authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to quickly provide disaster relief to agricultural producers that incur crop losses as a result of damaging weather or related conditions; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. COLLINS: S. 1777. An original bill to provide relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina; from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS): S. 1778. A bill to extend Medicare cost-sharing for qualifying individuals through December 2006, to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TALENT (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. COLEMAN): S. J. Res. 28. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to authorize the President to reduce or disapprove any appropriation in any bill presented by Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DOLE:

S. J. Res. 29. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the line item veto; to the Committee on the Judiciary.