

Nomination of Rockwell A. Schnabel To Be Deputy Secretary of Commerce

February 5, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate Rockwell Anthony Schnabel to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce at the Department of Commerce. He would succeed Thomas Joseph Murrin.

Since 1989 Mr. Schnabel has served as Under Secretary for Travel and Tourism at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Washington, DC. Prior to this Mr. Schnabel served as U.S. Ambassador to Finland, 1985–1989. In addition, he was president of Unilife Assurance Group in Luxembourg,

1975–1979. In 1965, Mr. Schnabel joined Bateman Eichler, Hill Richards, Inc., serving in various senior management positions including president of the firm's holding company.

Mr. Schnabel attended Trinity College in The Netherlands, 1952–1956. He served in the U.S. National Guard Reserves, 1959–1965. He was born December 30, 1936, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Mr. Schnabel is married, has three children, and resides in Washington, DC.

Remarks on Signing the Veterans' Compensation Amendments of 1991 and the Agent Orange Act of 1991

February 6, 1991

Good morning. It's a pleasure once again to have so many familiar faces here today representing our veterans. And of course, it's a pleasure to be standing up here with one of the great members of our Cabinet, Ed Derwinski. I see so many Members of Congress—five special ones here who were instrumental in the passage of this legislation: Congressmen Sonny Montgomery, Bob Stump; Senator Specter, Senator Murkowski, and Senator Bob Graham.

From Midway to Normandy, from Inchon to Khe Sanh to last week's battle at Khafji, American marines, soldiers, airmen, sailors, coastguardsmen have given their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to keep freedom safe. American men and women are fighting for peace today, as we did then, because America must lead in deterring and defeating aggression. And we're here today to ensure that our nation will ever remember those who defended her: the men and women who stood where duty required them to stand.

It's my honor today to sign into law two bills which give veterans and their families the compensation that they deserve. The first is H.R. 3, and it provides for a 1991

cost-of-living adjustment. And the second, H.R. 556, codifies our administration's regulations for compensation for three diseases. It also relies on independent science, with the help of the National Academy of Sciences, to settle the troubling question concerning the effects on veterans of exposure to herbicides used during the Vietnam war. This is a continuation of our policy over the past 2 years to deal with this very complex and very divisive issue, but to deal with it in a fair and compassionate way.

And I want to salute those who ensured that, in the end, a bipartisan spirit prevailed to pass these important pieces of legislation. These two bills meet the critical needs of our veterans and will build the confidence of tomorrow's veterans that they and their loved ones will not be forgotten.

A grateful nation salutes our veterans for the difference they have made in the history of this country and, indeed, of the world. Our allied forces are sacrificing much today in the pursuit of peace for tomorrow. And the American people, I believe, are behind them foursquare. And I think everyone in this room is as proud of them—I know ev-