

WELCOMING HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA TO WASHINGTON, DC

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I welcome to Washington today one of the most honorable and respected leaders of our time, His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

His Holiness is a historical rarity, someone who has devoted his entire life to finding a peaceful solution to an overwhelmingly difficult political problem with an often belligerent foe. China invaded Tibet in 1949, under the banner of "peaceful liberation," but the presence of the People's Liberation Army in Tibet since then has been neither peaceful nor liberating. The Tibetan people continue to suffer repression under the too-often violent control of an outside power. But the Dalai Lama's response has been unswervingly one of seeking a peaceful solution to Tibet's conflict with China. His Holiness' courage and leadership is widely respected in Tibet and has assuredly prevented the Tibetans from staging a violent uprising or insurgency, the response that suppressed people without such moral leadership often take.

In accepting his Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, His Holiness showed the world how all-encompassing his call for peace and compassion was when he said he felt no "anger or hatred toward those who are responsible for the immense suffering of our people and the destruction of our land, homes, and culture. They too are human beings who struggle to find happiness and deserve our compassion." How rare in today's world—or in the history—to find a leader willing to see the human face of his or her enemies and to offer compassion in response to oppression. He argues not for retribution but for recognition that thoughtfulness and benevolence towards others is in every individual's self-interest, and ultimately is essential for relations in an increasingly interconnected world. His call for people to accept that we are a "global family" and recognize that actions we take to hurt each other or damage the world we live in—such as acts of war or pollution—ultimately harm us as well, is a model for global interaction at the end of the 20th century.

We can learn much from the teachings of this "simple monk." I urge my colleagues to meet him at a coffee the Foreign Relations Committee is hosting in his honor tomorrow afternoon. Come meet the leader whose moral courage and commitment to nonviolence has put him in the ranks of leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mohandas Gandhi. While His Holiness' visit to Washington is short, I hope his lessons will live on in the minds of us all.

THE RETIREMENT OF REAR ADM.
JACK E. BUFFINGTON CEC, USN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that on Friday, September 15, 1995, Rear Adm. Jack E.

Buffington, Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy, will retire after 34 years of honorable and distinguished service.

Since September 1992 he has served as the commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and chief of civil engineers. As the senior civil engineer in the Navy he was responsible for planning, design, and construction of naval facilities around the world. On Capitol Hill he is best known for his role in developing and executing the Navy's Military Construction Program. As such, he has testified before congressional committees and ensured that members and their staffs have fully understood the requirements of the Navy's construction program.

Previously he served as the commander, Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Prior to that he was assigned as the director, Shore Activities Division for the Chief of Naval Operations. His public works assignments included duty at the New York Naval Shipyard; the Public Works Center, Subic Bay in the Philippines; the U.S. Naval Academy; and as commanding officer, Public Works Center, Norfolk, VA. Assignments managing Navy construction contracts in the field included duty in New Orleans, LA, and Bethesda, MD.

Rear Admiral Buffington is best known however for his devotion to the Seabees of the Naval Construction Force. His Seabee assignments included duty in Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 9 as company commander on Okinawa, on a detail in Alaska, and as officer in charge of a Seabee team in Vietnam. Later he served as executive officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, deployed to Okinawa and Rota, Spain. The highlight of his career was probably his tour as commanding officer, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, homeported in Gulfport, MS. Under his superb leadership NMCB 1 was awarded the Best of Type and the coveted Peltier Award as the top Seabee battalion in the Navy. He later went on to serve as commander, Naval Construction Battalions, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, where he was in charge of Seabees working in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and Central America. There is nothing in the Seabee world which Rear Admiral Buffington has not done, and done superbly. As a result he is affectionately known throughout the fleet as Seabee Jack Buffington.

Rear Admiral Buffington is a native of Westville, OK, and a graduate of the University of Arkansas where he received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. He later attended the Georgia Institute of Technology where he received his master of science in civil engineering. Rear Admiral Buffington is the son of Maxine Buffington and the late Ernest Buffington of Westville, OK. He is married to the former Robin Bush of Lakeland, FL. He and Robin have two

daughters: Shawn who is married to Kurt Lohrmann, and Kelly, who is married to Brian Corey.

My State of Mississippi is home to one of the two remaining Seabee bases in this country. I know firsthand the important mission they perform with unparalleled professionalism. Under Jack Buffington's leadership, the Navy's Seabee legacy has grown and flourished. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to personally pay tribute to a superb naval officer, true gentleman, and a good friend, Rear Adm. Jack Buffington. As he begins the next phase of his life, I wish him fair winds, following seas, and godspeed in all of his endeavors.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1404. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report that a reward has been paid; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1405. A communication from the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, notice of the intention of the Departments of the Army and Agriculture to interchange jurisdiction of civil works and national forest lands; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1406. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Omnibus User Act of 1995"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1996" (Rept. No. 104-138).