

pollwatcher, precinct captain and vicechairman of the county party. At the time of his untimely passing, he was serving as a vice-chairman of the Alabama Republican Executive Committee. Further, Mr. Smith was a delegate to the 1968, 1972, 1976, and 1984 Republican National Conventions.

Driven by his desire to help Alabamians, Albert Lee Smith, Jr., ran for Congress to work for lower taxes and a smaller, more efficient government for the American people. Among the first in Congress to do so, Congressman Smith demonstrated concern for the strength of American families as the sponsor of the Family Protection Act. As a member of the House Budget Committee and the Committee on Veteran's Affairs, he supported tax cuts and a strong national defense.

Albert Lee Smith, Jr., knew the importance of restoring America's financial and spiritual health for our children and grandchildren. For his dedicated service, Congressman Smith was honored by several important awards: The Taxpayers Best Friend Award from the National Taxpayers' Union; the Leadership Award from the American Security Council; and the Golden Bulldog Award from the Watchdog of the Treasury, among others.

Congressman Smith was a public servant of the first order. The Alabama Republican Party nominated him as its candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1984. Following his departure from the House of Representatives, President Ronald Reagan named him in 1985 to the Federal Council on Aging, an appointment subsequently confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

An exemplary citizen, leader and role model, Congressman Smith served as a board member of the Birmingham Campus Crusade for Christ and was a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Metropolitan Board of the YMCA. Mr. Smith served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Birmingham and was elected by the Southern Baptist Convention to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. As a husband, father and friend, Albert Lee Smith, Jr., was a compassionate and thoughtful human being.

My prayers go out to Albert's wife, Eunie Walldorf Smith, their children, Karen, Smith, Albert Smith, and Meg Wallace, and their family and friends. The Honorable Albert Lee Smith's lifelong dedication to community and country made our world a better place.●

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION ACT OF 1996

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Chairman, this bill establishes wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, and environmental education as the priority public uses of the refuge system. We have found in the State of Florida that even wildlife observation can become incompatible if not carefully regulated and managed.

For example, at Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge, visitors enjoy observing the manatees that this refuge was established to protect. The favored way of observing the animals is by swimming with them in the refuge waters. A few years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Service discovered that so many people were engaging in this activity that many of the manatees were leaving the refuge that was designed for their protection. The agency determined that this form of wildlife observation was occurring at levels that were incompatible with the purpose of the refuge and had to establish certain limits on when and where people could engage in this activity and how many could do so at one time.

Am I correct that even those so-called wildlife-dependent activities that are considered priority public uses in the bill must be found to be compatible with the purposes of the refuges and the mission of the system? And, that as a part of this determination, the Fish and Wildlife Service must consider whether there are adequate funds available to administer the use in a manner that is compatible?

Mr. CHAFEE. That is correct. Even though we are designating wildlife observation, hunting, fishing, and environmental education as priority public uses the bill requires each of these to pass the compatibility test. Even these uses have occasionally been determined to be incompatible on a number of refuges in the past and may be so in the future.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Chairman, this bill—for the first time in law—would establish a definition for the term "compatible." This is one of the single most important aspects of this legislation. Too often in the past, activities have been allowed on refuges that have harmed the fish and wildlife and habitats that these areas were designed to protect. There has been some concern that the definition used in the bill is overly vague. The bill defines a compatible use as one that will not "materially interfere with or detract from the purpose of a refuge or the mission of the Refuge System."

The House committee report on this bill further clarified that what this language means is that a use is compatible if it will not have a tangible adverse impact on refuge purposes. Is it also your understanding that this is what is meant by this definition?

Mr. CHAFEE. Yes. That is the correct interpretation of what is meant by this definition. A compatible use is one that will not have a tangible adverse impact on refuge purposes.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Chairman, the third part of our amendment concerns the issuance of permits for such uses as electric utility rights-of-way that may be of longer than 10 years in duration.

The underlying bill requires that all non-wildlife-dependent uses be reevaluated every 10 years to ensure they are still compatible. The language of our amendment directs that for uses that

are authorized for more than 10 years, such as utility right-of-way the Fish and Wildlife Service will evaluate compliance with the original terms and conditions of the permit and not the authorization of the right-of-way itself.

Mr. CHAFEE. Your understanding is correct. This amendment is intended to address the concerns of those with permits for more permanent or semipermanent physical structures such as powerlines.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Chairman, some have pointed out correctly that, in the case of unforeseen changes in circumstances, it may occasionally be necessary to adjust a use to ensure that it remains compatible. My understanding is that utility companies have been willing and able to make minor adjustments to their facilities to ensure that they remain compatible.

Mr. Chairman, am I correct to understand that this amendment will still allow the flexibility to make such adjustments to facilities that have been authorized for more than 10 years in order to ensure that they remain compatible?

Mr. CHAFEE. That is correct.●

APPLAUDING LITHUANIA AND POLAND FOR HOSTING THE VILNIUS CONFERENCE

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud Lithuania and Poland for their efforts in promoting peace and security in Central and Eastern Europe. This past weekend, Lithuania and Poland hosted an international conference in Vilnius on the subject of co-existence between nations and good neighborly relations. The conference brought together the leaders of 11 countries—Lithuania, Poland, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Romania, Belarus, Finland, and Russia—to discuss practical ways to promoting peaceful relations among their peoples. Lithuania and Poland pointed to improvements in their own relationship as a model for other nations. I also commend President Clinton for recognizing the leadership of Lithuania and Poland on this issue, by sending the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs as the United States representative to the Vilnius conference.

In convening this conference, Lithuania and Poland stressed the essential connections between democratic institutions, free markets, and peace. Democratic institutions are founded on the values of tolerance and respect for individual and minority rights; values which promote good relations between neighbors. Free markets are providing the people of that region with unprecedented opportunities to improve their lives in material terms, giving them an incentive to put aside old animosities and differences. And of course, peace provides an environment in which democratic institutions and free markets can flourish. The work of the Vilnius conference advances major

American foreign policy goals: security in the North Atlantic region and the expansion of democratic institutions and free markets.

Lithuania and Poland are meeting their responsibilities in the new Europe. They are leading the way in forging a new pattern of politics in Europe, as Secretary of State Albright called for during her trip to Lithuania last July. During her visit, Secretary Albright stated that any new members of NATO must be producers of security, not merely consumers. Mr. President, by reaching out to their neighbors—including Russia—Lithuania and Poland are showing themselves to be producers of security. They are, in short, excellent candidates for NATO membership. We in the Senate should do all we can to encourage Lithuania and Poland in their efforts to promote security in the North Atlantic region and to support their membership in NATO.●

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the U.S. Air Force on its 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated across the country on September 18, 1997.

On July 26, 1947, the National Security Act was signed into law by President Truman. This act established the U.S. Air Force as a separate branch of our Nation's Armed Forces. On September 18, 1947, W. Stuart Symington was sworn in as the first Secretary of the Air Force. Eight days later, Gen. Carl A. Spaatz became the Air Force's first Chief of Staff.

While 1947 marked the beginning of the Air Force as we know it today, the U.S. official involvement with the military applications of flight actually started 40 years earlier in 1907. On August 1 of that year—just 3 years after the Wright Brothers' historic first manned flight—the Aeronautical Division of the U.S. Army Signal Corps was established. This was the forerunner of today's Air Force. The Aeronautical Division's mission was to "take charge of all matters pertaining to military ballooning, air machines, and all kindred subjects." It is from this initial mandate that the Air Force has evolved into the indispensable force which today provides the United States with "Global Reach, Global Power."

With its founding in 1947, the Air Force became an equal partner with the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps in our Nation's Armed Forces. It did not take long for the Air Force to make history. Within 2 weeks of its creation, the Air Force hit the first of many impressive milestones. On October 14, 1947, a young Air Force captain by the name of Chuck Yeager courageously piloted the X-1 on the first supersonic flight.

Beginning in June 1948, it was the Air Force that was called upon to take the lead in the Berlin Airlift. Dubbed Operation Vittles and over the course of the

next 15 months, the Anglo-American airlift delivered a total of 2.3 million tons of food, fuel, and supplies to sustain the people of that beleaguered city.

The theme of this 50th anniversary year for the Air Force—"Golden Legacy—Boundless Future"—is very appropriate because facing challenges has been the hallmark of the Air Force. They have always aimed high. The Air Force has achieved countless numbers of aviation firsts that are the envy of the aeronautical world. Lesser known actions, though, are also an important part of the Air Force's golden legacy and should also be celebrated. For instance, on July 1, 1949, the Air Force became the first service to announce an end to racial segregation in its ranks.

The greatest strength in all of the military services has always been in its members themselves. Without any doubt and question, Gens. Hap Arnold and Jimmie Doolittle and Sen. Ira Eaker are great Air Force legends in their own right. So too though is Lt. Col. John Paul Stapp, a Air Force flight surgeon who in 1954 rode a rocket sled to 632 mph and then decelerated to zero in 125 seconds. He survived more than 35 times the force of gravity in order to determine if a pilot could eject from an airplane at supersonic speed and live. We should also remember Col. Robin Olds who, on January 2, 1967, became the first and only U.S. Air Force ace with 12 victories in World War II and 4 victories in Vietnam.

Over the past 50 years the men and women of the Air Force have served with honor and distinction in the major conflicts of Korea, Vietnam, and in the Persian Gulf. They have been the faithful stewards of two-thirds of America's arsenal of nuclear weapons. They have kept the peace deep below the Earth in missile silos and high in the heavens in reconnaissance aircraft.

The Air Force truly does have a golden legacy that we should all take time to reflect upon and honor. I am confident that the Air Force's rich history is the foundation of its boundless future. Regardless of any future threat our Nation may face, the Air Force will meet the challenge just as they always have.

I know my Senate colleagues join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United States Air Force.●

CONDEMNATION OF BOMBING IN JERUSALEM

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 50 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 50) condemning in the strongest possible terms

the bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, Senator HUTCHINSON has two amendments at the desk which amend the resolution and the preamble.

I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the resolution be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the amendment to the preamble be agreed to, and the preamble, as amended, be agreed to.

I further ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1133) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, beginning on line 6, strike out "should provide" and all that follows through "it has fulfilled" and insert in lieu thereof "will only provide monetary or other assistance to the Palestinian Authority once it has fulfilled".

On page 3, strike out lines 16 and 17.

On page 3, line 18, strike out "(E)" and insert in lieu thereof "(D)".

On page 3, line 21, strike out "(F)" and insert in lieu thereof "(E)".

On page 4, line 1, strike out "(G)" and insert in lieu thereof "(F)".

On page 4, strike out lines 3 through 5.

On page 4, line 6, strike out "(I)" and insert in lieu thereof "(G)".

On page 4, line 9, strike out "(J)" and insert in lieu thereof "(H)".

On page 4, line 15, strike out "(K) taking affirmative steps to reduce the size of the Palestinian police force," and insert in lieu thereof "(I) taking affirmative steps to ensure that the size of the Palestinian police force is".

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to, as follows:

In the first clause, strike out "8 people" and insert in lieu thereof "7 people".

In the sixth clause, strike out "a list of 150" and insert in lieu thereof "a long list of".

In the eighth clause, strike out "over 260 Israelis" and insert in lieu thereof "more than 100 Israelis".

The concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 50), as amended, and its preamble, as amended, read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 50

Whereas on September 4, 1997, 3 bombs exploded in Jerusalem on Ben Yehuda Street, killing at least 7 people and injuring more than 165 others;

Whereas HAMAS, a terrorist organization, has a "military wing" which has claimed responsibility for this cowardly act;

Whereas Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, has made statements in which he said "HAMAS, even its military wing, is a patriotic movement.";

Whereas on August 20, 1997, Chairman Arafat publicly embraced the leader of HAMAS, Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi;