

General Shelton's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (with two oak leaf clusters), Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with oak leaf cluster), Bronze Star Medal with V device (with three oak leaf clusters), and the Purple Heart.

He has also been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Air Assault Badge, Military Freefall Badge, and Special Forces and Ranger Tabs and numerous foreign awards and badges.

Mrs. Shelton is the former Carolyn L. Johnson of Speed, NC, who was young Hugh Shelton's high school sweetheart. As Mrs. Hugh H. Shelton, she has been actively involved with service issues and support to military families throughout General Shelton's career. The General and Mrs. Shelton have three sons: Jonathan, a special agent in the U.S. Secret Service; Jeffrey, a U.S. Army Special Operations soldier, and Mark, their youngest son.

Mr. President, Dot Helms and I are proud to have General Shelton and Carolyn as our very special friends—and to be theirs. The General has represented the U.S. military with great distinction for the past four years as its senior military officer.

This splendid North Carolinian has participated in policy-making at the highest levels of Government but he never lost the common touch with our men and women in uniform. He will be remembered as a soldier's soldier and a quiet professional, along with his lovely wife and three sons.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL MICHAEL E. RYAN

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor General Michael E. Ryan, the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. General Ryan is a great American and, more important, and I'm sure no surprise to my colleagues, he is a fellow Texan. General Ryan has long been a tribute to Texas, the Nation, and especially to the Air Force.

General Ryan graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1965, and during his 36 years of service he commanded at the squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command levels, and accumulated more than 4,100 flying hours in seven different aircraft with 153 combat missions. He flew combat in Southeast Asia, including 100 missions over North Vietnam, and he served in key staff assignments at the major command level, at Headquarters U.S. Air Force and the Joint Staff. As commander of 16th Air Force and Allied Air Forces Southern Europe in Italy, he directed the NATO air combat operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We owe him a huge debt of thanks for just this duty alone as his leadership directly contributed to the Dayton Peace Accords.

General Ryan is, fortunately, not an unsung hero as he has received many decorations and medals including: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Vietnam Service Medal with three service stars.

After serving as the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and commander, Allied Air Forces Central Europe, General Ryan "took the stick" of the Air Force as its 16th Chief of Staff. During his tenure, he has exemplified the quiet dignity and honor of that office through his leadership, integrity and foresight. A true leader who understood that his role was to set the course for our 21st Century Air Force and then clear the path to allow his commanders to truly lead their units, General Ryan personifies once said: "I don't think leadership should be personalized. Good ideas are best when they don't have a single identity. Leadership is a team effort."

This is a lesson those of us here in Congress would be wise to learn!

Meanwhile, General Ryan's accomplishments are critical and easily quantifiable. He and his leadership team successfully arrested the Air Force's readiness decline of the last decade, and built stability into the expeditionary operations our nation demands by reorganizing the service. At the same time though, General Ryan ensured that despite the Air Force being an all-volunteer force competing in a strong job market, its retention and recruiting efforts never sacrificed quality for quantity. He also led the effort to provide lifetime health care to our men and women who willingly put their lives at risk, as well as a retirement system that properly compensates their service to country.

In a period of leadership challenges and chaos, General Ryan led our Air Force, balancing reductions in forces with dramatically increased operational tasking. Without question, the U.S. Air Force is the world's premier force and our country owes a debt of gratitude to Mike Ryan.

At the same time, we owe a debt of gratitude to the person General Ryan owes much of his success—his wife, Jane Ryan. With dignity and grace she selflessly gave her time and attention to the men and women of the Air Force family. Her sacrifice and devotion have served as an example and inspiration for others. The Air Force will lose not one, but two very exceptional people.

In fact, General Ryan's departure from active duty will signal an historic occurrence for the first time in 63 years, there will no longer be a Ryan in the ranks of the United States Air Force. While General Ryan distinguished himself as an airmen, leader,

and trusted advisor to both the President and the U.S. Congress, his father, General John Ryan, also served as the senior uniformed Air Force officer.

The Air Force is a better institution today than it was four years ago. General Ryan's distinguished and faithful service provided a significant and lasting contribution to our Air Force and to our Nation's security. He has served our Nation with honor and distinction. I know the Members of the Senate will join me in paying tribute to this outstanding American patriot upon his retirement from the Air Force. We thank him and wish him and his family much health, happiness and Godspeed.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 5, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,769,122,055,290.29, five trillion, seven hundred sixty-nine billion, one hundred twenty-two million, fifty-five thousand, two hundred ninety dollars and twenty-nine cents.

One year ago, September 5, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,678,475,470,839.16, five trillion, six hundred seventy-eight billion, four hundred seventy-five million, four hundred seventy thousand, eight hundred thirty-nine dollars and sixteen cents.

Five years ago, September 5, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,225,564,391,083.90, five trillion, two hundred twenty-five billion, five hundred sixty-four million, three hundred ninety-one thousand, eight-three dollars and ninety cents.

Ten years ago, September 5, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,623,548,000,000, three trillion, six hundred twenty-three billion, five hundred forty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, September 5, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,112,803,000,000, two trillion, one hundred twelve billion, eight hundred three million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion, \$3,656,319,055,290.29, Three trillion, six hundred fifty-six billion, three hundred nineteen million, fifty-five thousand, two hundred ninety dollars and twenty-nine cents during the past 15 years.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of calendar No. 73, H.R. 1885, the 245(i) family unification bill; that the bill be amended

with a substitute amendment, which is a modified text of S. 778 as reported by the Judiciary Committee, which I send to the desk on behalf of Senator LOTT; that the amendment be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Amendment No. 1532 was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1532

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Section 245(i) Extension Act of 2001".

SEC. 2 EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 245(i)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(i)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking "on or before April 20, 2001; or" and inserting "on or before the earlier of April 30, 2002, and the date that is 120 days after the date on which the Attorney General first promulgates final or interim final regulations to carry out the Section 245(i) Extension Act of 2001; or"; and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking "on or before such date; and" and inserting "on or before the earlier date described in clause (i)";

(2) in subparagraph (C), by adding "and" at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) who, in the case of a beneficiary of a petition for classification, or an application for labor certification, described in subparagraph (B) that was filed after April 30, 2001, demonstrates that the familial relationship existed before August 15, 2001, or the application for labor certification that is the basis of such petition for classification was filed before August 15, 2001;"

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Legal Immigration Family Equity Act (114 Stat. 2762A-345), as enacted into law by section 1(a)(2) of Public Law 106-553.

The bill (H.R. 1885), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am so pleased tonight we were able to pass a measure that honors our heritage as a nation of immigrants, and provides American and immigrant families some relief from our outdated immigration laws.

Today, immigrants who don't have the proper documentation to stay in the United States, but do have the legal right to become permanent residents because they are the spouses of US citizens can be stuck in a horrible catch-22 situation. If they return to their home country to get the immigrant visa to which they are entitled, they can be barred from re-entering the United States for up to 10 years.

Take the example of a woman named Norma. Norma entered the U.S. from Mexico, and settled in North Carolina. She then married a U.S. citizen. They have been married over two years, have a child, are expecting another this fall, and recently bought a new home for

their growing family. Norma and her husband are torn on what to do about her immigration status. As the wife of a citizen, she qualifies for an immigrant visa. However, if she returns to Mexico to obtain her visa, she would be barred from re-entering the U.S. for 10 years. Norma doesn't want to leave her husband, her children, or her home for 10 years—and she shouldn't have to.

This action allows Norma's family—and hundreds of thousands of other families—to stay together. S. 778, introduced by Senators HAGEL and KENNEDY, extends the period of time for eligible people to file their petitions for relief with the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of Labor for one year.

By doing that, S. 778 would provide real and immediate relief for hundreds of thousands of eligible immigrants.

With 30 Republican and Democratic cosponsors, this bill enjoyed broad bipartisan support:

It passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee mark up by a unanimous voice vote.

To satisfy critics, Senators HAGEL and KENNEDY compromised by accepting language that immigrants applying under the new 245(i) extension must show that their family or employment relationship existed prior to the enactment of the bill.

I have talked to the President about this issue on more than one occasion, and I raised it again with him this week at the White House. He assured me he shares my concern that we need to take action on this important priority.

Since April 30th of this year, when Section 245(i) last expired, immigrants have been waiting in limbo.

INS statistics show that approximately seventy-five percent of the immigrants who apply for 245(i) relief are the spouses and children of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

Eight out of 10 legal immigrants come to the United States to join a family member. What message are we sending if our policies pry families apart?

President Vicente Fox's historic visit has helped to focus attention on the need to re-craft our immigration policies in ways that better reflect our core values of family unity, fundamental fairness and economic opportunity.

Passing the Section 245(i) Extension Act of 2001 sends a clear message that we are truly committed to providing real immigration reform.

The Senate has taken the first step. I hope the House will soon follow. Let's put this bill on President Bush's desk, and let's do it this week. Norma's family, and thousands of families just like hers, are looking to us. Let's not let them down.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last year's Legal Immigration Family Equity Act extended the deadline under section 245(i) of the immigration laws to April 30, 2001—a window of just 4

months—to enable persons who are eligible for green cards to adjust their status in the United States, rather than have to return to their country of origin to do so. Clearly this new deadline has proved to be inadequate. The short extension created an overwhelming demand for information and services, and many qualified persons did not have enough time to file their petitions.

To address this urgent problem, Senator HAGEL and I introduced new legislation on April 26, a few days before the April 30 deadline. Congress should have acted long before now to extend the deadline, but all of us who support an extension are pleased that the Senate is finally acting on this bill. I know many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle share my desire to move this bill quickly because it affects so many people. It is a humanitarian measure that has strong bipartisan support. It also has the support of the President.

This bill will provide real and immediate relief to hundreds of thousands of immigrants. INS data show that approximately 75 percent of the immigrants who apply for this relief are the spouses and children of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. These are families who have made lasting contributions to our communities and contributed to the economic vitality of our nation. This bill does not propose substantial new relief, but only a continuation of the prior relief. Last year's temporary extension to April 30, 2001 was designed to benefit immigrants who were in the country by December 21, 2000. This bill will extend the deadline to provide this group of immigrants with more time to file their petitions.

I know that some of my colleagues support the extension, but had concerns with our bill. We worked with them to develop an acceptable compromise. Our bill, with an amendment offered by Senator KYL reflects our compromise. This compromise requires immigrants benefitting from the extension to show that their family or employment relationship existed on or before August 15, 2001. They will have until April 30, 2002 or 4 months from the issuance of regulations to file their applications with the INS.

Some critics are concerned about fraudulent marriages. But the INS, and not Congress, is in the best position to determine whether a case is fraudulent. The INS closely scrutinizes applications based on recent marriages. Under the current law, the INS conducts extensive interviews before deciding these cases, often separately questioning the couples. Anyone who has been married less than 2 years when their application is approved is required to attend a second INS interview 2 years later, in which INS again reviews the case to determine whether there is a bona fide marriage. Only after the second interview will a recently married immigrant receive a permanent green card.

In INS determines that an individual has committed marriage fraud, that person is permanently barred from receiving a green card and can be criminally prosecuted. Many of us feel that this new restriction is unnecessary, and will lead to needless confusion, delay and hardship. But in the spirit of compromise, we accepted this amendment.

I am pleased that we are moving this bill forward, as this legislation will keep immigrant families together. We cannot continue to delay; otherwise, the purpose of this legislation—to prevent the separation of immigrant families—will be defeated. This measure is of critical importance to Mexican President Vicente Fox, who is in Washington for an historic visit. Our two countries are negotiating important immigration policies which will profoundly affect and benefit our peoples and our economies. Extension of section 245(i) is an immediate and important first step in these negotiations.

Finally, if we are truly to live up to our history and heritage as a nation of immigrants, we must also address the pressing needs of uniting other families separated by our current immigration laws, and meeting the needs of our labor market. I look forward to working with my colleagues to meet these great challenges, and am pleased that the Senate has approved this bill as a downpayment on the reforms that are so long overdue.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this legislation accomplishes a goal supported by President Bush and a bipartisan coalition of Senators—making it easier for people who are eligible to become legal permanent residents to apply for their green cards without leaving the United States. There could not be a more opportune time to pass this bill than during the visit of President Vicente Fox to our nation, and I applaud the Majority Leader for making passage today possible. I hope that the approval of this bill serves as a signal of the Congress' willingness to work with the Mexican Government to achieve our common goals, and to maintain fair immigration policies.

I was pleased to schedule this bill for a markup as soon as I became Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Although I would have preferred that the Committee report the bill as it was introduced, I am glad that a compromise was reached that allowed the bill to receive the Committee's support and make it to the floor of the Senate.

This bill extends section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which expired on April 30, 2001. Section 245(i) allows foreign-born people who are present in the United States and eligible for legal permanent residency to apply for that status from within the country instead of having to return to their nation of origin to apply. We reauthorized section 245(i) last year, but only for a four-month period. Many eligible immigrants were unable to find attorneys and submit applications during that brief period.

There are at least three good reasons to extend 245(i). First, it allows families to stay together in the United States instead of forcing family members to return to their native countries to apply for their green cards. Second, because immigrants can also qualify to become legal permanent residents based on an employment relationship, extending 245(i) will allow businesses to retain vital employees. Third, because immigrants have to pay a \$1000 fee to apply under 245(i), this program raises millions of dollars for the Federal treasury.

Senators KENNEDY and HAGEL deserve great credit for their sponsorship of and support for this bill. I am pleased that the Senate has approved this bipartisan bill to keep families together, and I urge the House to follow the Senate's lead.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me briefly say that this is extremely important. With President Fox in the country, this sends a message to him that we really are trying to work toward making things easier in relations between the United States and Mexico. But this has wide application to places other than Mexico. It is important legislation. It is something we worked on very hard. We almost got it done toward the end of last year. It is now completed.

We hope the House will expeditiously move forward on this matter. The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee has been involved in this, Representative SENSENBRENNER. We are grateful for everyone's cooperation.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2500

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, September 10, at 12 noon, the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 96, H.R. 2500, the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State appropriations bill; that once the bill is reported, the majority manager or his designee be recognized to offer the text of the Senate committee reported bill as a substitute amendment, and that the amendment be considered agreed to as original text for the purpose of further amendments, provided that no points of order be waived by this agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

OBSERVANCE OF THE OLYMPIC TRUCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 112, S. Res. 126.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 126) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding observance of the Olympic Truce.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 126) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 126

Whereas the Olympic Games are a unique opportunity for international cooperation and the promotion of international understanding;

Whereas the Olympic Games bring together embattled rivals in an arena of peaceful competition;

Whereas the Olympic Ideal is to serve peace, friendship, and international understanding;

Whereas participants in the ancient Olympic Games, as early as 776 B.C., observed an "Olympic Truce" whereby all warring parties ceased hostilities and laid down their weapons for the duration of the games and during the period of travel for athletes to and from the games;

Whereas war extracts a terrible price from the civilian populations that suffer under it, and truces during war allow for the provision of humanitarian assistance to those suffering populations;

Whereas truces may lead to a longer cessation of hostilities and, ultimately, a negotiated settlement and end to conflict;

Whereas the Olympics can and should be used as a tool for international public diplomacy, rapprochement, and building a better world;

Whereas terrorist organizations have used the Olympics not to promote international understanding but to perpetrate cowardly acts against innocent participants and spectators;

Whereas, since 1992, the International Olympic Committee has urged the international community to observe the Olympic Truce;

Whereas the International Olympic Committee and the Government of Greece established the International Olympic Truce Center in July 2000, and that Center seeks to uphold the observance of the Olympic Truce and calls for all hostilities to cease during the Olympic Games; and

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly, with the strong support of the United States, has three times called for member states to observe the Olympic Truce, most recently for the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney, Australia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO THE OLYMPIC TRUCE.

(a) COMMENTATION OF THE IOC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE.—The Senate commends the efforts of the International Olympic Committee and the Government of Greece to urge the international community to observe the Olympic Truce.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Government should join efforts to use the Olympic Truce as an instrument to promote peace and reconciliation in areas of conflict; and