

United States Stands For." The competition was sponsored by lodge No. 1112 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks in San Mateo, California. I want to commend the Elks for their public-spirited effort in sponsoring this competition in order to foster a spirit of patriotism among the young people of our country.

The two first place winners were Julian Zhukivsky from Park Elementary School and Salone Kapur from Borel Middle School. The second place winners were Michael Kruger of Abbott Middle School and Martin Rofael of Bayside Middle School. The third place winners were Robert Gill of St. Timothy School and Brian Dunn of St. Gregory School.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these outstanding students for their excellent essays and for their thoughtful expressions of patriotism. After the events of September 11th, the flag has become a heightened symbol of our national unity and pride.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that these six excellent essays be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read them.

FIRST PLACE WINNER (GRADES 7 & 8): SALONE KAPUR WHAT THE AMERICAN FLAG STANDS FOR

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed an act to establish an official flag for America. Today, the American Flag is eminent in all public places. The flag means a significant amount in people's lives.

The American flag is a symbol of our nation's unity, and is a source of pride and inspiration for all its citizens. We all come from different backgrounds, but here, we all unite and belong in one big family.

SECOND PLACE WINNER (GRADES 7 & 8): MARTIN ROFAEL OUR FLAG

What does the flag of the United States stand for? We always stand and salute, but some of us don't know what it represents. Our flag has a tremendous story. On July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress declared the 13 colonies free from the British to be the United States of America.

The fifty stars on our flag represent the fifty states. The white color on the flag represents purity and innocence. The blue background color on the flag represents vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The 13 stripes on our flag represent the first 13 colonies. There are seven red stripes and six white stripes. The red color represents hardness and valor.

Some flags have fringe, which resembles honorable enrichment. Also some flags have a gold trim which has no meaning.

That is what the flag of the United States of America means. It has awesome and tremendous meaning.

THIRD PLACE WINNER (GRADES 7 & 8): BRIAN DUNN THE MEANING OF THE FLAG

The flag represents many different things. The stripes represent the 13 original colonies and the stars represent the fifty states. It also represents our freedom, our religion, and the freedom to express however we feel. To the people in the United States the flag represents peace, love, courage, bravery and freedom. The flag is an inspiration to all of those who see it to be all that they can be. It also represents opportunity, the opportunity to succeed and become successful at whatever you want to be. But, most of all, the American flag represents the greatest country ever to inhabit this earth.

FIRST PLACE WINNER (GRADES 5 & 6): JULIAN ZHUKOVSKY THE AMERICAN FLAG

I think the flag of the United States stands for liberty and justice for all. We are all

equal and have the same rights. We are made of many cultures and religions. We are united and we are one nation under God.

I think the white stripes on the flag stand for the purity of ideals. The red stripes on the flag stand for the blood of the people who fought in the war for independence in 1776. The stripes together stand for the original thirteen colonies that gave birth to the fifty states with their name of glory.

The fifty stars on the flag stand for the fifty states of our country. They are like bright stars glistening high above in the sky. Our country's flag will shine forever with those stars. Today, after the terrorist attack on September 11th, thousands of Americans have put up their American flags. They did it to show the world that we still stand for liberty and justice for all.

SECOND PLACE WINNER (GRADES 5 & 6): MICHAEL KRUGER WHAT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES STANDS FOR

The United States flag stands for freedom, justice, equality, hope and faith. The freedom to live wherever you want to live and be free. Freedom also allows us the freedom of speech to say whatever we want. Justice is to be held accountable for the laws of our country and to be treated fairly. Equality is for all people to be treated equal. The faith in people to keep our country free. The flag also gives me hope and faith for my family, country and myself. When I see the United States Flag I feel very proud and lucky to be living in America. Everything on the American flag means something. There are thirteen stripes, seven are red and six are white. There is a blue box in the upper corner with fifty stars in it. The stripes represent the thirteen colonies and the stars represent the fifty states.

THIRD PLACE WINNER (GRADES 5 & 6): ROBERT GILL WHAT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES STANDS FOR

To me and for a lot of other Americans the flag is a symbol of peace. There have been some difficult times but our flag will always stand for peace. I think it stands for the peace because it also stands for a peaceful country. That flag stands for the people who love it. Everybody should know it as a sign of peace and justice.

The flag also stands for being united and having liberty. When people say "united we stand" they don't mean just Americans, they mean everybody. Everybody does or should know that. The flag is more than just something that waves in the air, it's something we should cherish. The American Flag stands for you and me, and everyone else in this country and everyone who loves it too.

As you can see the flag stands for peace, justice, liberty, and our rights. That's why I'm proud of it!

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 11, 2002 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 16

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Administration's plans to request additional funds for wildland firefighting and forest restoration as well as ongoing implementation of the National Fire Plan.

SD-366

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine livestock packer ownership issues.

SD-562

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the proposed Department of Homeland Security issues.

SD-430

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Semi-Annual Report on Monetary Policy of the Federal Reserve.

SH-216

Environment and Public Works

Judiciary

To hold joint hearings to examine new source review policy, regulations, and enforcement activities, with respect to clean air.

SD-106

Finance

To hold hearings to examine homeland security and international trade issues.

SD-215

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation's computer hardware problems from 1992 to 2002.

SD-226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the state of property restitution in Central and Eastern Europe for American claimants.

334, Cannon Building

JULY 17

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the protection of Native American sacred places.

SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 2394, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling containing information applicable to pediatric patients; S. 2499, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish labeling requirements regarding allergenic substances in food; S. 1998, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 with respect to the qualifications of foreign schools; proposed legislation authorizing funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant; and the nomination of Richard H. Carmona, of Arizona, to be Medical

Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

SD-430

#### Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S.J. Res. 35, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

SD-226

#### Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine economic outlook issues.

Room to be announced

10:30 a.m.

#### Foreign Relations

To resume hearings on the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions, Signed at Moscow on May 24, 2002 (Treaty Doc. 107-08).

SD-419

2 p.m.

#### Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Mark W. Everson, of Texas, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

SD-342

### JULY 18

9:30 a.m.

#### Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the effectiveness and sustainability of U.S. technology transfer programs for energy efficiency, nuclear, fossil and renewable energy, and to identify necessary changes to those programs to support U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace.

SD-366

10 a.m.

#### Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine proposed legislation to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in Apache County, Arizona.

SR-485

10:30 a.m.

#### Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Food and Drug Administration regulation of tobacco products.

SD-430

2 p.m.

#### Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on proposed legislation to ratify an agreement to regulate air quality on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

SR-485

2:30 p.m.

#### Energy and Natural Resources National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1865, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Lower Los Angeles River and San Gabriel River watersheds in the State of California as a unit of the National Park System; S. 1943, to expand the boundary of the George Washington Birthplace National Monument; S. 2571, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Rim of the Valley Corridor as a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; S. 2595, to authorize the expenditure of funds on private lands and facilities at Mesa Verde National Park, in the State of Colorado; and H.R. 1925, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Waco Mammoth Site Area in Waco, Texas, as a unit of the National Park System.

SD-366

### JULY 24

9:30 a.m.

#### Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine mental health care issues.

SR-418

10 a.m.

#### Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 1344, to provide training and technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in commercial vehicle driving careers.

SR-485

#### Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the measuring of economic change.

311, Cannon Building

JULY 25

2:30 p.m.

#### Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 2672, to provide opportunities for collaborative restoration projects on National Forest System and other public domain lands.

SD-366

JULY 30

10 a.m.

#### Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on proposed legislation concerning the Department of the Interior/Tribal Trust Reform Task Force; and to be followed by S. 2212, to establish a direct line of authority for the Office of Trust Reform Implementations and Oversight to oversee the management and reform of Indian trust funds and assets under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and to advance tribal management of such funds and assets, pursuant to the Indian Self-Determinations Act.

SR-485

JULY 31

9:30 a.m.

#### Finance

To hold hearings to examine the Report of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security.

SD-215

10 a.m.

#### Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the application of criteria by the Department of the Interior/Branch of Acknowledgment.

SR-485

AUGUST 1

10 a.m.

#### Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Secretary of the Interior's Report on the Hoopa Yurok Settlement Act.

SR-485

2 p.m.

#### Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine problems facing Native youth.

SR-485