

Proclamations declaring National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day happen every year, but this year it is particularly meaningful as we remember those from past conflicts and also focus on those service members who are currently engaged in the war in Iraq. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our coalition forces and their families, particularly those who may have lost a loved one or whose family member or friend has been listed as missing or as a POW. Many families throughout the United States are having to call upon reserves of strength to get through this difficult time, but they should never forget that the entire nation shares their hope for the future, their joy in times of good news, and if need be, their grief in loss.

In recent days, the harrowing accounts told by Americans who were held by the Iraqis during the 1991 Gulf War have raised fears that the men and women who are missing today may suffer similarly criminal treatment. The evidence that we have so far indicates that this is the case. I am very concerned, as I am sure my colleagues are concerned, that we must do everything in our power to ensure that those who have committed war crimes are brought to justice.

Last Friday, the House Armed Services Committee held a hearing to examine the international law regulating the treatment of prisoners of war. Yesterday, House Armed Services Committee Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER and I sent a letter to the President suggesting that post-World War II's Nuremberg trials be used as a framework to convene an international military tribunal for the prosecution of war crimes committed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Just as the Nuremberg trials were conducted by the four nations who won that war—the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union—so, too, could a tribunal resulting from this war be conducted by the principal coalition partners: the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Poland, and Kuwait. Whatever system is put in place, justice will be our priority.

Without a doubt, we live in a special country. Americans have a spirit of idealism that cannot be broken, and our citizens strive to serve our country however possible. This spirit is evident throughout our nation, but also in the U.S. Congress, where several former POWs serve with distinction. Congressman SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Senator JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona, and former Congressman Pete Peterson of Florida could have very easily and justifiably returned home from Vietnam and devoted their lives to things other than government service. But they chose to continue their contribution by participating in electoral politics and doing the work that makes our American democracy a success. Their stories, as young men in uniform and in their later careers, inspire us all.

On this National Former POWs Recognition Day, we honor and express our gratitude to all former prisoners of war, whether they served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, or the current Iraq War. There is absolutely nothing we can do to make up for the sacrifices our service members and their families endured during their captivity in enemy hands. But as a nation, we can, and we must, thank them for their willingness to pay the price required to ensure America's freedoms. In the Congress, we must also be vigilant to ensure that our nation

follows through on the promises we have made to our veterans and former POWs. As fellow citizens, it is the least we can do to begin to repay the debt that we owe them for their service to the American people.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former prisoners of war, and to thank them for their bravery and dedication to our nation.

The United States military has no equal. Our servicemen and women are the best-trained and are the best-prepared to accomplish successfully their missions. However, as the war in Iraq has reminded us, we cannot always prevent the worst from happening.

The conditions for POWs, more often than not, are too difficult and too painful to imagine. I can only imagine the worry and the uncertainty that their families must feel each day until their loved one is brought home. The rescue of Jessica Lynch showed not only the commitment of our troops to finding their fellow servicemembers, but the bravery of Lynch herself, who stayed strong and focused.

Throughout history, America's military men and women have traveled around the world to fight for the causes of freedom and democracy. In this selfless pursuit, they knew that the battle would not always be easy. We owe them all an enormous debt of gratitude.

We cannot forget our veterans who helped to make this country what it is today and who have brought peace to other nations across the globe. Our nation's fighting men and women are currently engaged in a military conflict in Iraq. While they fight bravely for the principles upon which the United States was founded, we at home cannot turn our backs on veterans who deserve to have access to the benefits that they deserve.

Today, we recognize National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I believe that each day we should remember these brave individuals, and the sacrifices that they made for all of us.

Thank you.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1846

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CANTOR) at 6 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) entitled "Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2004 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2003 and 2005 through 2013."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to rule XXVII, as a result of the adoption by the House and the Senate of the conference report on House Concurrent Resolution 95, House Joint Resolution 51, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, has been engrossed and is deemed to have passed the House on April 11, 2003.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 3:00 p.m. on account of schedule and district work period.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending a memorial service for the soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company who were killed in Iraq.

Mr. BOYD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today from 1:00 p.m. through the district work period on account of official business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. STENHOLM) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. STENHOLM, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTKNECHT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today. (The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHIMKUS, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 538. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to assist family caregivers in accessing affordable and high-quality respite care, and for other purposes; to Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 783. An act to expedite the granting of posthumous citizenship to members of the United States Armed Forces; to Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 870. An act to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to extend the availability of funds to carry out the fruit and vegetable pilot program; to Committee on Education and the Workforce.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1505. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2127 Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the "Jim Richardson Post Office."

H.R. 1584. An act to implement effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 151. An act to prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation of children, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

H.R. 397. To reinstate and extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Illinois.

H.R. 672. To rename the Guam South Elementary/Middle School of the Department of Defense Domestic Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools System in honor of Navy Commander William "Willie" McCool, who was the pilot of the Space Shuttle Columbia when it was tragically lost on February 1, 2003.

SUNDRY BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

H.R. 273. To provide for the eradication and control of nutria in Maryland and Louisiana.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Saturday, April 12, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1793. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report

of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 00-03, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1794. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 02-04, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1795. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James C. Riley, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1796. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Joseph K. Kellogg, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1797. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Australia for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-14), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

1798. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Japan for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-11), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

1799. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of an unauthorized retransfer of U.S.-origin defense articles pursuant to Section 3 of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA); to the Committee on International Relations.

1800. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-53, "Closing of a Portion of a Public Alley in Square S.O. 02-2491, Act of 2003" received April 11, 2003, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1801. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1802. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1803. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1804. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lindstrand Balloons Ltd Fuel Hoses [Docket No. 2002-CE-50-AD; Amendment 39-13078; AD 2003-05-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1805. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Model 390 Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-CE-13-AD; Amendment 39-13150; AD 2003-07-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1806. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Model BAe.125 Series 800A, 800A (C-29A), 800A (U-125), and 800B Airplanes; Model BH.125 Series 400A Airplanes; Model DH.125 Series Airplanes; Model Hawker 800, 800 (U-125A), and 800XP Airplanes; and Model HS.125 Series F3B, F3B/RA, F400B, F403B, 1B, 1B-522, 1B/R-522, 1B/S-522, 3B, 3B/R, 3B/RA, 3B/RB, 3B/RC, 400B, 400B/1, 401B, 403A(C), and 403B Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-268-AD; Amendment 39-13103; AD 2003-07-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) Received April 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1807. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767-300 Airplanes That Have Been Modified in Accordance with Supplemental Type Certificates (STC) ST00973WI-D [Docket No. 2002-NM-31-AD; Amendment 39-12694; AD 2002-06-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1808. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Robert E. Rust Models DeHavilland DH.C1 Chipmunk 21, 22, and 22A Airplanes [Docket No. 2000-CE-66-AD; Amendment 39-13082; AD 2003-05-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 11, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1809. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Robert E. Rust Models DeHavilland DH.C1 Chipmunk 21, 22, and 22A Airplanes [Docket No. 2000-CE-63-AD; Amendment 39-13081; AD 2003-05-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1810. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Moundridge, KS [Airspace Docket No. 02-ACE-12] received April 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1811. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Class E Airspace; Presque Isle, ME [Docket No. FAA-2003-14346; Airspace Docket No. 2003-ANE-101] received April 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1812. A letter from the Senior Attorney, RSPA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Requirements for Cargo Tanks [Docket No. RSPA-98-3554 (HM-213)] (RIN: 2137-AC90) received April 11, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. THOMAS: committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 810. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide regulatory relief and contracting flexibility