

shows the severe consequences that can be faced by those immigrants who fail to mention their unlawful status. Of course, the responsibility to remain here legally falls upon immigrants, but there are occasions when immigrants live up to that responsibility and are nonetheless failed by errors and backlogs on the Government's part. I hope and trust that preventing such errors will be a major priority for Mr. Aguirre. I also hope that he will use his position to battle the perception in many immigrant communities that the war on terrorism has become a war on immigrants.

At his confirmation hearing, I talked to Mr. Aguirre about the former INS employees in Vermont who will be under his jurisdiction, including those at the Vermont Service Center in St. Albans. I recommended to him that he build on the established INS workforce throughout the State by making Vermont a regional center for his agency, and I was pleased that he seemed to take that advice seriously. I am eager to work with him to see that idea become a reality.

On the national level, it was a priority for many of us in Congress that immigration services not be overlooked at the Department of Homeland Security. Although our security is paramount, the new Department must remember that our Nation's founding principals and economic health demand that immigration be handled in a fair and orderly way. After his confirmation hearing, I believe that Mr. Aguirre—himself a refugee—understands this at a fundamental level.

He faces a challenging job. I have already written him about the backlogs that plague our immigration system, and I hope that he is able to make meaningful change in that area. The President has pledged to reduce the average backlog for immigration petitions to 6 months by 2006—to do so is going to take serious investment, and I hope Mr. Aguirre will be a voice inside the administration to make that investment.

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#### NOMINATION OF C. STEWART VERDERY, JR.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the Senate's approval of the nomination of C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Border and Transportation Security Policy. Mr. Verdery's nomination was approved unanimously by the Committee on Governmental Affairs on June 17, and his confirmation will fill a vital position at the new Department of Homeland Security. I have known Stewart for over a decade, and believe that his experience, Jeffersonian conservative principles, and personal qualities make him well-qualified to serve in the new Department.

The Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the Border and Transportation Directorate, Department of

Homeland Security, is the principal adviser to the BTS Under Secretary for policy development in the substantive areas within the BTS Directorate, including immigration and customs enforcement, customs and border protection, transportation security, Federal law enforcement training, and domestic preparedness. The Assistant Secretary is responsible for ensuring that policies developed for BTS and its component agencies are designed to achieve homeland security objectives as directed by the DHS Secretary and BTS Under Secretary and to fulfill the BTS mission statement to "protect national security and promote public safety by enforcing our nation's immigration and customs laws, providing an effective defense against all external threats, including international terrorists, and other threats such as illegal drugs and other contraband, while preserving the free flow of legitimate trade and travel."

Mr. Verdery is well-known to this body, having served for more than 6 years in the U.S. Senate. He first served as counsel to my senior colleague from Virginia, Senator WARNER, in his personal office and on the Senate Rules Committee. He joined the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1998 as head of the crime and law enforcement unit, and then moved to become General Counsel to the senior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. NICKLES. In this role, Mr. Verdery advised the Senate leadership on a host of issues, including crime and law enforcement, commerce, judicial nominations, constitutional law, campaign finance, and telecommunications. He was widely respected among his peers and relied upon not only by Senator NICKLES, but by many other members of the Republican Conference and their staffs as well.

Whether managing the high-profile investigation of the disputed 1996 Louisiana Senate election, helping direct the Clinton impeachment trial, or a host of other assignments, Mr. Verdery's organizational skills, political instincts, and notable work ethics enabled him to thrive in the demanding environment of the U.S. Senate.

I had the opportunity to work closely with Stewart when the Senate Republican leadership designated him as a lead staffer for the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force, which has the goal of advancing constructive technology policy in the Senate. As chairman of the High Tech Task Force in 2001-2002, I was impressed by his extraordinary command of complex technology issues and, perhaps more important, his ability to succinctly explain the issues to others. His advice and counsel were always sound and thoughtful, and through his effective and friendly manner, he instantly earned the respect of those with whom he worked.

Stewart Verdery played a key role in the transformation of the High Tech Task Force into a lead advocate for the

technology-friendly policies in the Senate. With his assistance, my colleagues and I were better prepared to advance a positive technology policy agenda in the Senate, including: the passage of a clean, 2-year Internet tax moratorium extension; passage of the upgraded Export Administration Act reauthorization; securing additional funding for anti-piracy prosecutions; and the hard-fought effort in the economic stimulus debate to make the Research and Development tax credit permanent, to provide enhanced expensing and to include the broadband tax credit.

Mr. Verdery will be a valuable member of the team at the Department of Homeland Security. I wish Stewart, his wife Jenny and their two young children, Isabelle and Chase, all the very best health and happiness in this new endeavor.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I rise today to support the Senate's approval of the nomination of Stewart Verdery as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the Border and Transportation Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security.

I have worked with Stewart since his days as Counsel to the Senate Rules Committee and while he was at the Senate Judiciary Committee. He did an outstanding job in those capacities. As a matter of fact, he did such a great job I hired him to serve as my General Counsel in the Assistant Republican Leader's office. In his position there, he served not only as my counsel, but as a counsel for the entire Senate. We deal with a lot of issues in the U.S. Senate, and Stewart's counsel was invaluable to me and other Senators.

I consider Stewart and his wife Jenny to be part of the family. Not only were they married while he was on my staff, but their two children were born as well. I respect him as both a professional and a family man.

I have no doubt Stewart will excel in this new position, and it is with great pleasure that I support his nomination as Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning.

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#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

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#### KEEPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2003—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a conference report to accompany S. 342, the Child Abuse Protection Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 342), to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to make improvements to and reauthorize programs under the Act, and

for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House, and agree to the same with an amendment, signed by all of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to its consideration.

(The conference report is printed in the RECORD of the House proceedings of June 12, 2003)

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I am pleased today to speak in support of the conference agreement reached by the House of Representatives and the Senate for S. 342, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003.

This act reauthorizes several programs that are key to protecting our most vulnerable children and families: The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, CAPTA; the Adoption Opportunities Act; The Abandoned Infants Assistance Act; the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; and the Children's Justice Act.

The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act works to reduce child abuse and neglect by encouraging new training and better qualifications for front-line child and family service workers. This legislation also improves links between child protective services, health and mental health agencies, and judicial systems to improve services for at risk children and to mitigate the damaging impact that child abuse and neglect can cause.

For children who are removed from their homes as a result of child abuse or neglect, this Act helps to ensure they are placed into safe foster care or adoptive homes. By requiring that criminal background checks are performed on all adults residing in foster homes, this Act helps to prevent further abuse to the child. Through the reauthorization of the Adoption Opportunities Act, this legislation also helps to better facilitate the adoption of children with special needs by working to eliminate interjurisdictional barriers to adoption.

Lastly, the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act gives victims of domestic violence greater access to shelters in times of emergency through the reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.

This important legislation responds to some of the most serious needs of children and families. I commend the work of the House of Representatives, who acted earlier today to pass this Conference report. I also thank the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Senator KENNEDY for his work on this bill, as well as Senators ALEXANDER and DODD, the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Children and Families.

Protecting our most vulnerable populations is a significant priority and passage of this legislation sends a clear message that Congress is deeply committed to the interests of children and their families. I am very pleased that

the House and Senate will send the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 to the President for his signature.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the bipartisan legislation before the Senate today will continue our Federal commitment to see that the Nation's most vulnerable children are protected and safe.

Child abuse and child neglect continue to be serious problems. Each year, thousands of children suffer. On any given day, 2,400 children are discovered to be victims of child abuse or neglect. Tragically, 3 of those children die each day as a result.

Abuse and neglect harm children from all backgrounds and all walks of life. Too many children are in situations in which their basic needs are not provided for. Too many children are subject to physical harm or emotional trauma. Too many children are victims of sexual abuse. We can do better and we must do better.

For nearly 30 years, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act has supported States in their efforts to respond to the immediate needs of children subjected to abuse and neglect, and helped them and their families take the road to recovery.

We all know it's a huge challenge. Each week, child protective service agencies in local communities respond to more than 50,000 suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. Despite their hard work, nearly half of all children in substantiated cases of abuse receive no follow-up services or support.

This legislation is an important step toward responding to the needs of every neglected and abused child in every community in our country. It is an important step toward seeing that children in desperate circumstances have the support they need to stop the abuse and deal with the harmful effects.

This legislation will renew our federal commitment to help states improve their own response to child abuse and neglect. More will be done to promote better planning at the Federal, State, and local levels, facilitate more effective referrals to the available services, and broaden the scope of the response.

More will be done to see that those responsible for investigating or working with abused children and their families have the necessary training and skills to do their jobs effectively and efficiently. States will be encouraged to provide new safety training to child abuse caseworkers. New cross-training will help caseworkers identify signs of domestic violence and substance abuse that often signal child abuse.

More will be done to strengthen community efforts. Our bill will ensure that local citizens oversee, review, and improve the practices of child protective services. It will promote partnerships between public agencies and community-based organizations to share the responsibility of reducing child

abuse and neglect in their communities.

More will be done to end geographic barriers to adoption and provide permanent homes for abused children.

More will be done to combat the destructive effects of family violence and provide immediate help to its victims. A new electronic network will link victims to organizations available to help them, 24-hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

More will also be done to reduce the social and emotional impact of domestic violence on children. A new demonstration program will support direct services, referrals, and appropriate interventions for the 10 million children who witness domestic violence each year.

Our colleague, Senator Wellstone, was one of the greatest champions for abused children. I commend the conferees for their work to include this important program that he cared about so deeply.

As our communities across the nation continue their efforts to respond more effectively to every incident of child abuse and neglect, they must do so with resources already stretched thin. This bipartisan legislation increases the authorization for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to \$200 million in order to deliver the support that local communities need to do this important work.

I commend Senator GREGG and all of the conferees for their work and their leadership on this legislation. It's a major step toward guaranteeing help for children and families to overcome the devastating effects of abuse, neglect, and violence in their lives.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues Senators GREGG, KENNEDY, and DODD to pass the conference report for S. 342, "The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003." I also want to congratulate Senator GREGG, the chairman of the conference committee, and commend his leadership.

Unlike many Federal Government programs, this is a relatively small level of funding, but it is vital for the safety and sanctity of our most precious resource—our children. S. 342 reauthorizes the "Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, (CAPTA)," which provides grants to States to improve child protection systems and grants to support community-based family resource and support services. The changes made to this program will encourage new training and better qualifications for child and family service workers. Additionally, this program will create or improve coordination between child protection services and education, health, mental health, and judicial systems to ensure that children who are abused and neglected are properly identified and receive referrals to appropriate services.

Tennessee has used CAPTA funding for many innovative pilot programs, such as Therapeutic Visitation Services. This is a pilot project that provides intensive service to families with

children in the foster care system from four rural areas in east Tennessee. The goal is to preserve and strengthen family relationships while facilitating visitation between children and biological parents. Children in the pilot program saw their parents sooner and more frequently.

In Davidson County, the Chap-Plus program provides service and helps coordinate care for families that are stressed due to their child's medical condition, such as a life threatening disease. Another program that receives CAPTA funding is the University of Tennessee Legally Defensible Child Interviewing program, which trains Child Protective Services case managers. This training is focused on improving interviewing skills of investigative teams when they interview children who are the possible victims of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse.

These important programs will benefit from this legislation. I thank my colleagues for voting for this bill.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in supporting the conference report on legislation to reauthorize CAPTA, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. This measure is very aptly called the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003.

The conference report we are approving today would strengthen efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. It would promote increased sharing of information and partnerships between child protective services and education, health, and juvenile justice systems. It would encourage a variety of new training programs to improve child protection, particularly cross-training in recognizing domestic violence and substance abuse in addition to child abuse detection and protection training.

The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 renews grants to States to improve child protection systems and increases to \$200 million the authorization for child abuse investigations, training of child protection service, CPS, workers, and community child abuse prevention programs.

For States to receive funding, they must meet several new requirements: have triage procedures to provide appropriate referrals of a child "not at risk of imminent harm" to a community organization or for voluntary preventive services; have policies and procedures for the referral of abused children under the age of three to early intervention services funded under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; have policies in place to address the needs of infants who are born and identified as having been physically affected by prenatal exposure to illegal drugs, which must include a safe plan of care for the child; have policies of improved training, retention, and supervision of caseworkers; and require criminal background record checks for prospective foster and adoptive parents and all

other adults living in the household, not later than 2 years after the law's enactment.

Child abuse and neglect continue to be significant problems in the United States.

Nearly 3 million referrals concerning the welfare of about 5 million children were made to Child Protection Services, CPS, agencies throughout the Nation in 2001. Of these referrals, about two-thirds, 67.3 percent, were "screened-in" for further assessment and investigation. Professionals, including teachers, law enforcement officers, social service workers, and physicians made more than half, 56.5 percent, of the screened-in reports. About 903,000 children were found to be victims of child maltreatment. Over half, 59 percent, suffered neglect, including medical neglect; 19 percent were physically abused; 10 percent were sexually abused; 6.8 percent were emotionally maltreated; and 19.5 percent were associated with "other" forms of maltreatment such as abandonment, threats of harm to the child, and drug addiction. About 275,000, or 20 percent, of abused children were placed in foster care as a result of CPS investigation or assessment.

Many of these children fail to receive adequate protection and services.

The most tragic consequence of child maltreatment is death. In 2001, about 1,300 children died of abuse and/or neglect. Children younger than six years of age accounted for 85 percent of child fatalities and children younger than one year of age accounted for 41 percent of child fatalities.

Child abuse is not a new phenomenon. For more than a decade, numerous reports have called attention to the tragic abuse and neglect of children and the inadequacy of our Child Protection Service systems to protect our children.

In 1990, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect concluded that "child abuse and neglect is a national emergency." In 1995, the U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect reported that "State and local CPS caseworkers are often overextended and cannot adequately function under their current caseloads." The report also stated that, "in many jurisdictions, caseloads are so high that CPS response is limited to taking the complaint call, making a single visit to the home, and deciding whether or not the complaint is valid, often without any subsequent monitoring of the family."

A 1997 General Accounting Office, GAO, report found that, "the CPS system is in crisis, plagued by difficult problems, such as growing caseloads, increasingly complex social problems and underlying child maltreatment, and ongoing systemic weakness in day-to-day operations." According to GAO, CPS weaknesses include "difficulty in maintaining a skilled workforce; the inability to consistently follow key policies and procedures designed to

protect children; developing useful case data and record-keeping systems, such as automated case management; and establishing good working relationships with the courts."

According to a May 2001 report conducted by the American Public Human Services Association, APHSA, the Child Welfare League of America, CWLA, and the Alliance for Children and Families, annual staff turnover is high and morale is low among CPS workers. The report found that CPS workers had an annual turnover rate of 22 percent, 76 percent higher than the turnover rate for total agency staff. The "preventable" turnover rate was 67 percent, or two-thirds higher than the rate for all other direct service workers and total agency staff. In some States, 75 percent or more of staff turnovers were preventable.

States rated a number of retention issues as highly problematic. In descending order they are: workloads that are too high and/or demanding; caseloads that are too high; too much worker time spent on travel, paperwork, courts, and meetings; workers not feeling valued by the agency; low salaries; supervision problems; and insufficient resources for families and children.

To prevent turnover and retain quality CPS staff, some States have begun to increase in-service training, increase education opportunities, increase supervisory training, increase or improve orientation, increase worker safety, and offer flex-time or changes in office hours. Most States, however, continue to grapple with staff turnover and training issues.

Continued public criticism of CPS efforts, continued frustration by CPS staff and child welfare workers, and continued abuse and neglect, and death, of our Nation's children, served as the backdrop as we composed the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act CAPTA, reauthorization bill this year.

The Child Protection System mission must focus on the safety of children. To ensure that the system works as intended, CPS needs to be appropriately staffed. The staff need to receive appropriate training and cross-training to better recognize substance abuse and domestic violence problems.

The conference agreement we are passing today encourages triage approaches and differential response systems so that those reports where children are most at risk of imminent harm can be prioritized.

The bill specifically emphasizes collaborations in communities between CPS, health agencies, including mental health agencies, schools, and community-based groups to help strengthen families and provide better protection for children.

The bill provides grants for prevention programs and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect. By focusing this assistance on at-risk families, we can help improve the likelihood that a

child will grow up on a home without violence, abuse, or neglect.

Beyond the CAPTA title of this legislation, the bill reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, including new efforts to address the needs of children who witness domestic violence, and a new highly secure web site to increase the likelihood that when an abused spouse calls for help, such calls will be handled as efficiently as possible with on-line links to shelters immediately letting the caller know of open shelters and the services these shelters offer. The measure also reauthorizes the Adoption Opportunities Act, and the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act.

Child protection ought not be a partisan issue. This bill will help ensure that it is not. I want to commend and thanks my colleagues on the conference committee—Chairman GREGG, Senator KENNEDY, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator DEWINE as well as my colleagues in the House for their efforts to craft a bipartisan initiative that can help to prevent and alleviate suffering among our Nation's children.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that the conference report be agreed to, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The conference report was agreed to.

#### ACCOUNTANT, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT STAFFING ACT OF 2003

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to the consideration of H.R. 658.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 658) to provide for the protection of investors, increase confidence in the capital markets system, and fully implement the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 by streamlining the hiring process for certain employment positions in the Securities and Exchange Commission.

There being objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 658) was read the third time and passed.

#### DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—H.R. 856

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 856 and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 8

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 8 is at the desk and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8) to make the repeal of the estate tax permanent.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I now ask for its second reading and object to further proceeding on this matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The bill will remain at the desk.

#### ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2003

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until 9 a.m., Friday, June 20. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of Calendar No. 140, S. 504, the American History and Civics Act of 2003, as provided under the previous order.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. ALEXANDER. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. 504, the American History and Civics Act. Under the previous order, at 9:15 a.m., the Senate will vote on passage of the bill. Immediately following that vote, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, the prescription drug benefits bill, and proceed to a vote in relation to the Dorgan amendment relating to drug reimportation.

Therefore, I inform my colleagues that the leader says there will be two rollcall votes beginning at 9:15 a.m. tomorrow. Following the two votes at

9:15 a.m., the leader wanted me to inform colleagues the Senate will continue consideration of S. 1, the prescription drug benefits bill. Additional amendments will be debated tomorrow, and Members who wish to speak on amendments or the bill itself are encouraged by the leader to come to the Senate floor during tomorrow's session.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. ALEXANDER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:45 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 20, 2003, at 9 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 19, 2003:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JACKIE WOLCOTT SANDERS, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AND THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, UNITED STATES NAVY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5142:

##### To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) LOUIS V. IASIELLO, 0000

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 624:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

WILLIAM R. GLADBACH, 0000  
MALCOLM K. WALLACE JR., 0000

#### Confirmations

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 19, 2003:

##### NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

ANNE RADER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2004.

##### FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

TERRENCE A. DUFFY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 11, 2003.

TERRENCE A. DUFFY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 11, 2007.

##### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

C. STEWART VERDERY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

EDUARDO AGUIRRE, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.