

Southern District of Iowa to hold court in Rock Island, Illinois.

S. 3014. An act to reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 529. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The message also announced that House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2655) to amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions:

H.R. 1047. An act to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1630. An act to revise the boundary of the Petrified Forest National Park in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2912. An act to reaffirm the inherent sovereign rights of the Osage Tribe to determine its membership and form of government.

H.J. Res. 110. Joint resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

H.J. Res. 111. Joint resolution appointing the day for convening of first session of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The enrolled bills and joint resolutions were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

At 10:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 114. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-10055. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Management, Veterans' Benefits Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Increase in Rates Payable Under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program" (RIN2900-AL64) received on November 5, 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-10056. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Trends in Educational Equity of Girls and Women: 2004"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-10057. A communication from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" received on November 16, 2004; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-10058. A communication from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2004; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-10059. A communication from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Antiperspirant Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Final Monograph; Partial Stay; Reopening of the Administrative Record" received on November 16, 2004; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-10060. A communication from the Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2004; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-10061. A communication from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2004; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-10062. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Political Committee Status, Definition of Contribution, and Allocation for Separate Segregated Funds and Nonconnected Committees" received on November 18, 2004; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-10063. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Management, Veterans' Benefits Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve" (RIN2900-AL80) received on November 5, 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-10064. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Management, Veterans' Benefits Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Collection, Compromise, Suspension, or Termination of Collection Effort, and Referral of Civil Claims for Money, Property; Regional Office Committees on Waivers and Compromises; Salary Offset Provisions; Delegations of Authority" (RIN2900-AK10) received on November 5, 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-10065. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Management, Veterans' Benefits Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Waivers" (RIN2900-AK29) received on November 5, 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-10066. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Management, Veterans' Benefits Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Veterans' Education: Increased Allowances for the Educational Assistance Test Program" (RIN2900-AL81) received on November 5, 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2635. A bill to establish an intergovernmental grant program to identify and develop homeland security information, equipment, capabilities, technologies, and services to further the homeland security needs of the United States and to address the homeland security needs of Federal, State, and local governments (Rept. No. 108-420).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3021. A bill to provide for the protection of intellectual property rights, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 3022. A bill to enhance the Federal investment in research and development and the development of innovative technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 3023. A bill to improve funeral home, cemetery, and crematory inspection systems, to establish consumer protections relating to funeral service contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 3024. A bill to establish the National Center for Transportation Solutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3025. A bill to strengthen efforts to combat slavery and trafficking in persons, within the United States and around the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 3026. A bill to support the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the United States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3027. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to improve the results and accountability of microenterprise development assistance programs, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 3028. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to provide authority for the Attorney General to authorize the export of controlled substances from the United States to another country for subsequent export from that country to a second country, if certain conditions and safeguards are satisfied; considered and passed.

By Mr. STEVENS:

S.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution to make a correction in the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 4818; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. Res. 479. A resolution establishing a special committee administered by the Committee on Governmental Affairs to conduct an investigation involving Halliburton Company and war profiteering, and other related matters; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 480. A resolution extending the authority for the Senate National Security Working Group; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. Res. 481. A resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement of Major Richard D. Winters (Ret.) during World War II, and commending him for leadership and valor in leading the men of Easy Company; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DODD, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. Res. 482. A resolution congratulating the Boston Red Sox on winning the 2004 World Series; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2789

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2789, a bill to reauthorize the grant program of the Department of Justice for reentry of offenders into the community, to establish a task force on Federal programs and activities relating to the reentry of offenders into the community, and for other purposes.

S. 2889

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2889, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins celebrating the recovery and restoration of the American bald eagle, the national symbol of the United States, to America's lands, waterways, and skies and the great importance of the designation of the American bald eagle as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes.

S. 2956

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2956, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program to provide a support system for members of the Armed Forces who incur severe disabilities.

S. 3011

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator

from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3011, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payments to Medicare ambulance suppliers of the full cost or furnishing such services, to provide payments to rural ambulance providers, and suppliers to account for the cost of serving areas with low population density, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD:

S. 3023. A bill to improve funeral home, cemetery, and crematory inspection systems, to establish consumer protections relating to funeral service contracts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Federal Death Care Inspection and Disclosure Act of 2004, a bill which I believe will go a long way in restoring the trust that Americans place in the funeral and death care industries.

None of us like to think about death and dying. It is a painful and uncomfortable subject, and most Americans, understandably, choose not to confront matters related to the death of a loved one until the death actually occurs. And when a loved one does pass on, we turn to our friends and family to grieve. Certainly, the last thing anyone wants to do at such a painful time is to spend hours or days negotiating or shopping for a funeral, casket, or other goods and services. Instead, we leave most of these arrangements in the hands of funeral service providers, turning to them to ensure that our loved ones are cared for and treated with respect and dignity after their passing.

We place a great deal of trust in funeral service providers. A funeral, after all, represents one of the largest purchases many consumers will ever make, just behind a home, college education, and a car. However, unlike these transactions, the purchase of funeral services is most often done under intense emotional duress, with very little time to spare, and without the benefit of the type of consumer information generally available when making such a large purchase. As a result, we trust funeral service providers to give us fair prices, to represent goods and services accurately, and to not take advantage of us during our moments of greatest grief and vulnerability.

For the most part, this trust is well deserved. I have no doubt, that the majority of individuals working in the funeral industry are good men and women who practice their profession with the honor and gravity it demands. However, recent revelations of abuses in the industry have shown us that not all members of the death care industry are honest and upstanding. We all remember hearing recently of the discovery of over 200 bodies strewn in the

woods near a crematorium in Noble, GA. There is also evidence of desecration of graves and remains at cemeteries in Florida, California, Hawaii, and my own State of Connecticut. These incidents, as well as developments in the funeral industry as a whole, compel us to reexamine the regulatory structure we currently have in place for this industry.

Currently, the death care industry is regulated by a patchwork of state and local laws. These regulations may have been sufficient years ago, but the character of the industry has changed substantially since many of these laws were passed. The industry has become surprisingly large and diverse. The death care industry generates annual revenues of over \$15 billion and employs over 104,000 Americans. The 1990's saw the rise of multi-state "consolidators" who purchased local funeral homes across the country. Even for small local firms, the business has become increasingly complex. As more and more Americans travel and live in places far from where they were born, the industry has become one that frequently does business across state and county lines.

There have also been changes in Americans' cultural expectations of funeral services. For example, the percentage of cremations has risen from 5 percent in the 1970's to 25 percent today. However, only 12 States have substantive laws which cover cremation. In fact, in the case in Georgia I mentioned earlier, the crematorium in question was statutorily exempt from inspection, allowing the abuses to continue undiscovered.

The only significant federal regulation of the industry exists in the Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule, promulgated nearly 20 years ago. Again, this rule has not kept up with the nature of the industry. Perhaps most importantly, the rule does not cover numerous sectors of the industry such as cemeteries, crematories, and casket makers. It also does not effectively regulate prepaid funeral contracts, which have become an increasingly popular option in recent years.

In 2002, I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Children and Families in which we examined developments in the industry and how they have impacted American families. Since that hearing, I have worked with both consumer and industry groups to craft legislation to protect Americans from potential abuse by funeral service providers. The Federal Death Care Inspection and Disclosure Act of 2004 would provide Federal funding to allow States to hire and train inspectors and give consumers the right to legal action against those who violate regulatory standards. In order to be eligible for funding, states would have to adhere to standards which are outlined in the legislation. The act would also codify and strengthen the existing FTC regulations governing licensing and