

from our officers. He is a sterling example for young Soldiers to emulate . . . well known as a "Soldiers' General." His service to the Nation has been exceptional, and General Ellis is more than deserving of this recognition.

General Ellis will be sorely missed by those who have had the opportunity to serve with him over these many years. I join with his friends and family as he celebrates this richly deserved upcoming retirement and wish him my best as he enjoys everyday of this new journey.●

TOUR DE GEORGIA IS A TOUR DE FORCE

● Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, this week Georgians will line the roads to witness the top-ranked bicycle stage race in North America.

The Dodge Tour de Georgia promotes tourism, stimulates local industry, and is proud to benefit the Georgia Cancer Coalition. The race serves as a rolling festival to entertain and educate spectators across the Peach State about cycling, fitness, and most importantly about the possibility for a cure for and the prevention of cancer. This second annual event, April 20 to 25, 2004, takes pro cyclists and multitudes of visitors on a scenic 653-mile journey through the great State of Georgia.

Athletes from over 23 countries will compete for \$100,000 in cash and prizes. With a mix of road races, an individual time trial, and challenging terrain, the 2004 Dodge Tour de Georgia will be an exciting event for both racers and spectators.

A great deal of attention will be on cycling this year, since many elite athletes vie to represent their countries in the Olympic games in road, time trial or track disciplines of cycling in August. And, five-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong seeks his record sixth consecutive win on the Champs-Elysees in July. Part of the reason for a significant increase in media and spectator interest in the Dodge Tour de Georgia this year is because Armstrong will compete in the event with his United States Postal Service Pro Cycling Team. It will be the only stage race Armstrong is expected to enter in North America, and the only event in the U.S. for him prior to his record attempt in France.

Officials with the Dodge Tour de Georgia project a \$20 to \$30 million boost to the Georgia economy. The promotional and media value provided to its charitable beneficiary, the Georgia Cancer Coalition, is expected to surpass \$2.5 million, doubling the number from 2003. The 2004 Dodge Tour de Georgia, the country's premier, professional cycling stage race, will visit 60 of Georgia's 159 counties in 6 days, from Tuesday, April 20 to Sunday, April 25.

As a world-class sporting event, the Dodge Tour de Georgia is defined in part by the 120 elite, professional cy-

clists who will compete in seven stage races, traversing 653 miles across Georgia. As a vehicle to promote tourism and stimulate economic growth, the race is defined by the thousands of visitors and volunteers who plan to visit from across Georgia, the U.S. and abroad. Over 750,000 spectators are expected for the week.

From just the impact of media, officials, teams, and support personnel, not including spectators, local communities will see an immediate impact from 3,000 room nights and over 7,000 meals.

I commend the sponsors, organizers, and staff of the Dodge Tour de Georgia, for bringing a world-class event of this magnitude to the people of the United States. I also commend the Union Cycliste Internationale, for sanctioning this event.

I would like this body to recognize the host communities, Alpharetta, Athens, Carrollton, Columbus, Dalton, Dahlonega, Dawsonville, Hiawassee/Young Harris, Macon, Rome, and Thomaston; as well as their local organizing committees for their contribution to this worthy cause.

Cancer is a brutal killer that strikes without regard to age, race, sex, or station in life. I am grateful that there are organizations such as the Georgia Cancer Coalition, which are dedicated to its eradication, and there is support from organizations such as Dodge; GE Energy; The Georgia Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism; Georgia Power; Southern LINC; and the many others who have bonded together to organize and promote Georgia's Race to Cure Cancer.

This event is not only about the 11 communities hosting this event, it is not only about Georgia. It is about bringing the finest cyclists in the world to compete in our Nation. It is about raising awareness to fight a terrible killer so that all of the world may benefit. I am proud that this event will be held in my home State of Georgia and ask that this body commend the Dodge Tour de Georgia for its fine work.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4181. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the marriage penalty relief provided under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

H.R. 3170. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment, and for other purposes.

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

H. Con. Res. 376. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 388. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3170. An act to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 388. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 4181. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the increased standard deduction, and the 15-percent individual income tax rate bracket expansion, for married taxpayers filing joint returns.

S. 2370. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

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-7260. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Elimination of Statement of Intent Procedures for Filing Medicare Claims" (RIN0938-AK79) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7261. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy, designation of acting officer, and nomination for the position of Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, Department of

the Treasury, received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7262. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "EP Determination Letter Program" (Ann. 2004-32) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7263. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—May 2004" (Rev. Rul. 2004-44) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7264. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Request for Comments on Pre-Approved Plans" (Ann. 2004-33) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7265. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partner's Distributive Share: Foreign Tax Expenditures" (TD9121) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7266. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice: Split-Interest Trust Distributions to Private Foundations: Distributable Amount" (Notice 2004-36) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7267. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice: Trust and Estate Distributions to Private Foundations: Net Investment Income" (Notice 2004-35) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7268. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to post-liberation Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7269. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7270. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period of April 1, 2003 through September 30, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7271. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2003 through March 31, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7272. A communication from the Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Fiscal Year 2003 Performance Report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7273. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Final Annual Performance Plan for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7274. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's Fiscal Year 2004 Capital Investment and Leasing Pro-

gram; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7275. A communication from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to asset management and the payment of benefits for certain District of Columbia employees; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7276. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to child care facilities; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7277. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Endowment's Fiscal Year 2003 Performance Report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7278. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2003; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7279. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Change in the Survey Month for the Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region Survey" (RIN3206-AK06) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7280. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the North Dakota and Duluth, MN, Appropriated Fund Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AJ78) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7281. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Fiscal Year 2003 Annual Program Performance Report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7282. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, a document related to the Agency's regulatory programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7283. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Citrinellol; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL#7351-6) received on April 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7284. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OPP Pesticide Research and Training Program; Notice of Funds" (FRL#7352-4) received on April 28, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7285. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Infectious Salmon Anemia; Payment of Indemnity" (Doc. No. 01-126-2) received on April 29, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7286. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imported Fire Ant; Additions to Quarantined Areas" (Doc. No. 03-109-1) received on April 29, 2004; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7287. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7288. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to funds for the Conference; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7289. A communication from the Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temecula Valley Viticultural Area (2001R-280P)" (RIN1513-AA40) received on April 27, 2004; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7290. A communication from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7291. A communication from the Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7292. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Office of Legislative Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office of Correctional Job Training and Placement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7293. A communication from the Chairperson, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to federal funding of programs intended to assist Native Americans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7294. A communication from the Chairperson, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Not in My Backyard: Executive Order 12898 and Title VI as Tools for Achieving Environmental Justice"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7295. A communication from the Director, Regulations Management, Board of Veterans' Appeals, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Board of Veterans' Appeals: Rules of Practice—Medical Opinions From the Veterans' Health Administration" (RIN2900-AK52) received on April 29, 2004; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1486. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rept. No. 108-256).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

H.R. 1561. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patent fees, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 332. A resolution observing the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide of 1994.