

sincere congratulations to the Rhode Island team for a job well done.●

NORMAN L. KIRKHAM

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the many years of service Norman “Norm” L. Kirkham has provided to the people of southern West Virginia. For the last 19 years, Mr. Kirkham has held the position of executive director of the West Virginia Region I Planning and Development Council and worked tirelessly on various projects during the 10 years prior to that. This organization is a non-profit public agency that coordinates with the Federal, State, and local governments to provide comprehensive planning for the coalfields of southern West Virginia. After numerous years of working with the citizens of McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming Counties to improve their quality of life and develop the regional economy, Norm is retiring effective October 31, 2005.

Many of Norm’s colleagues praise him for his active role as the driving force behind the scenes, turning proposed plans and ideas into economic realities for southern West Virginia. One such example is a project to bring a new Federal prison to McDowell County, West Virginia. Over the last decade, I have worked alongside Norm to help develop a site for the prison and secure approval for the prison. As a result of his relentless hard work and determination, the new Federal prison will create 350 high-paying jobs in an area that desperately needs them. I am enormously proud to have worked with Norm on this and so many projects.

During his tenure as executive director, Norm has helped to secure funds to provide flood relief to the flood-prone valleys and riverbanks of southern West Virginia, enhanced the water systems in towns such as Princeton, Welch, and Union, and lobbied for grant money to support senior citizen centers. In addition to advancing specific economic development projects, Norm has helped ease access to technology, sewage, and other forms of infrastructure throughout southern West Virginia.

Without a doubt, Norm has contributed a great deal to his agency and to the people of southern West Virginia. His contributions are even more impressive when one considers the dire need for economic development in the southern West Virginia coalfields. Traditionally, the economy of southern West Virginia has relied heavily on the coal industry. Through coordination and planning, Norm and his agency have helped diversify the region’s economy and tremendously enhance the infrastructural needs that are vital to development in southern West Virginia. Many successful economic development sites can be attributed to Norm’s dedication to promoting and developing economic prosperity for every person and family in his region.

Public servants in his line of work normally do not receive the recognition they deserve. Our State needs more people like Norm who dedicate their entire professional careers to ensure that people have adequate employment, roads, water, sewage, and other services and infrastructural needs commonly taken for granted.

Always modest and never in the lime-light, Norm is firmly rooted in rural Summers County where he inherited the values that make southern West Virginia a unique and wonderful area—service to community and nation and dedication to family and neighbors. Through his hard work and integrity, Norm has earned the respect of every local official in southern West Virginia; Federal and State officials; Governors, past and present; and the Members of the congressional delegation.

In retirement, Norm can more fully devote himself to what he cherishes most in life—his family, his Summers County farm and his community. He will surely be missed at Region I and throughout all of West Virginia, but he leaves a career of good work that will last generations.

I will sincerely miss working with Norm but I suspect even in retirement, some very worthwhile community projects are going to find themselves in need of a seasoned volunteer just like him. Regardless, I wish him the very best.●

HONORING COLONEL JOSEPH JULIAN McLACHLAN

• Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of COL Joseph Julian McLachlan. Colonel McLachlan is a World War II hero and a proud Air Force veteran who died at the age of 85 in late July. Next week, he will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery. With the honors of a full military funeral, he will take his rightful place alongside America’s greatest heroes, Medal of Honor recipients and veterans going back to the American Revolution.

Born in 1920, Joseph McLachlan enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the start of World War II. He completed his pilot training and was commissioned in 1942. As part of the famed 368th Fighter Group, McLachlan flew two strafing missions in support of ground troops on D-Day. Six days later, he was shot down and hid behind enemy lines until he could rejoin American troops. Over the course of the war, he completed 91 missions as a P-47 pilot. He earned a Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, 17 Air Medals, and the Legion of Merit.

Today, more than 60 years later, it is hard to recapture the tremendous uncertainty that America faced at the eve of the Normandy invasion. Operation Overlord employed more than 5,000 ships and landing craft, more than 12,000 airplanes, and more than 150,000 troops. Their bravery carried the day and led to the victory of freedom and

democracy over tyranny and oppression. Ordinary Americans like Joseph McLachlan gave the best years of their lives to the greatest mission this country has ever taken on. The world owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

After the war, McLachlan stayed in the military. In 1948, he flew 44 missions in the Berlin Airlift, one of the first major crises of the Cold War. A command pilot, McLachlan led a B-47 Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. He was vice-commander of Zaragoza Air Base in Spain and Commander of Lincoln Air Base in Nebraska. He retired as Chief of Foreign Liaison at the Pentagon.

After leaving the military, Colonel McLachlan went on to have a successful 19-year career in the private sector. His greatest legacy is his large and loving family. He had 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandsons.

Mr. President, COL Joseph McLachlan was a great American. As we prepare to lay his remains to rest at Arlington, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him and his family.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Saunders, 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 and two withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 8:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1413. An act to redesignate the Crowne Plaza in Kingston, Jamaica as the Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza.

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

At 12:19 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1786. An act to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to make emergency airport improvement project grants-in-aid under title 49, United States Code, for repairs and costs related to damage from Hurricane Katrina and Rita.

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

At 12:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3439. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the “Ava Gardner Post Office”.

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

H. Con. Res. 59. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of African-American basketball teams and players for their achievements, dedication, and contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Nation.

H. Con. Res. 161. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for an event to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Million Man March.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 358. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3402. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3408. An act to reauthorize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 and to amend the swine reporting provisions of that Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 3439. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 North 3rd Street in Smithfield, North Carolina, as the “Ava Gardner Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.J. Res. 61. Joint resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 59. Concurrent resolution recognizing the contributions of African-American basketball teams and players for their achievements, dedication, and contributions to the sport of basketball and to the Nation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-188. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to requesting the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide for federal deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile within Mexico; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2

Whereas, Created in 1999 to help state and local jurisdictions prepare for a national emergency, the Strategic National Stockpile

is a repository of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies administered jointly by the United States Department of Homeland Security and United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

Whereas, Currently, if an act of bioterrorism occurs within Mexico near the United States border, it is up to each United States border state, including Texas, to request and deploy the Strategic National Stockpile across the border to protect the citizens of the state; and

Whereas, Procedures for deploying Strategic National Stockpile assets require the affected state governor's office to request deployment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Homeland Security; although the assets are transferred to state and local authorities once they arrive at the designated receiving and storage site in the affected state, the stockpile materials remain a federal asset; and

Whereas, Deployment, which may include a mass antibiotic dispensing operation, requires substantial state and local resources to receive, secure, and distribute Strategic National Stockpile assets; staging and dispensing the assets in another country requires a coordinated, comprehensive approach that is best addressed by the federal government; and

Whereas, The Homeland Security Act of 2002 charged the United States Department of Homeland Security with defining the goals and performance requirements of the Strategic National Stockpile program as well as managing the actual deployment of assets; critical to the success of this initiative is ensuring capacity at the federal level to respond to binational public health emergencies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide for federal deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile within Mexico, provided that the Mexican government approves said request pursuant to treaties and other agreements with the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-189. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey relative to legislation to authorize National Guard members to enroll in Department of Defense managed health care program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 282

Whereas, The United States of America is founded on the principle of citizen-soldiers safeguarding our national security, a construct that is as essential today as it was more than 368 years ago when the National Guard was established; and

Whereas, The oldest military institution in the United States, the National Guard has been, since its founding in 1636, a community-based force composed of citizen-soldiers, the members of the Army and Air National Guard serving the nation in time of war and their states in time of domestic emergency; and

Whereas, As our nation continues to fight the War on Terrorism and our military forces continue to be engaged in operations

in both Iraq and Afghanistan, we are, more than ever, dependent on the National Guard to defend the United States, both overseas and at home; and

Whereas, More than 197,000 soldiers of the Army National Guard and 31,000 members of the Air National Guard have been mobilized since September 11, 2001, the largest mobilization of the National Guard since World War II; and

Whereas, At this time, more than 51,000 Army Guardsmen are on the ground in Iraq and 15,000 are serving in Afghanistan, and sadly, more than 100 National Guard members have made the ultimate sacrifice; and

Whereas, Whether serving in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters or at home in the US, National Guard members are operating side-by-side with their active-duty counterparts; and

Whereas, With a presence in more than 3,000 communities across the nation, the National Guard is also playing a crucial role in homeland security; and

Whereas, The “Guard and Reserve Readiness and Retention Act of 2005,” embodied in S. 337 and H.R. 558, are currently pending before the 109th United States Congress; and

Whereas, In part, this legislation extends TRICARE coverage, the managed health care system for the U.S. military, on a contributory basis, to all members of the National Guard, regardless of mobilization status; and

Whereas, In light of their expanded role in military operations overseas and national security at home in our post-9/11 society, a re-evaluation of our nation's commitment to the citizen-soldiers of the National Guard is in order; and

Whereas, These brave men and women deserve more than our thanks, they deserve more substantial personnel and readiness benefits that ensure the National Guard will continue to attract the best and brightest, from the active-duty component of the military as well as the civilian population; and

Whereas, The provision of adequate health care coverage to each and every citizen-soldier of the National Guard would repay but a small portion of our nation's debt to these exceptional men and women who are vigilantly defending our homeland, both at home and abroad; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House calls upon the United States Congress to provide health care benefits for National Guard members and their families by authorizing a member to enroll, on a contributory basis, for individual or family coverage under the TRICARE program, regardless of mobilization status.

2. This House urges that the United States Congress pass and the President of the United States approve the “Guard and Reserve Readiness and Retention Act of 2005,” now pending in the 109th Congress as S. 337 and H.R. 558, which authorizes a member of the National Guard to enroll for individual or family coverage under the TRICARE program, a Department of Defense managed health care program.

3. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to the Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-190. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to fully funding the National Aeronautics and Space Administration budget request in support