

In addition, Senator CORNYN sought to include the name of former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also played an integral part in the history of the Voting Rights Act, and Dr. Hector Garcia, founder of the American GI Forum.

Congresswoman Jordan was certainly a remarkable civil rights and social justice leader and I support her inclusion in my legislation. In addition, Dr. Garcia fought for half a century for civil and education rights for Mexican Americans.

Former President Bill Clinton, who first met Dr. Garcia while registering voters in the Rio Grande Valley in 1972, called him a "national hero." In the coming months, I will work with Senator CORNYN to find another appropriate manner to honor Dr. Garcia's work with the American G.I. Forum. The American G.I. Forum was established in the wake of World War II when Hispanic veterans returned home and were categorically denied their G.I. Bill of Rights benefits. Dr. Garcia was propelled into the national spotlight when he fought to have Army PVT Longoria buried alongside others in the local cemetery in his hometown of Three Rivers, TX. Dr. Garcia called Members of Congress and alerted the press to this injustice.

Within 24 hours, he received a telegram from then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson that stated:

I deeply regret to learn that the prejudice of some individuals extends even beyond this life. I have no authority over civilian funeral homes. Nor does the federal government. However, I have made arrangements to have Felix Longoria buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery ... where the honored dead of our nation's war rest.

As our Nation moves forward toward the next chapter of civic equality and inclusion, starting, last year, with the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, it is fitting that we honor civil rights leaders whose contributions and courage helped pave the way for today's more inclusive democracy.

With the Senate's passage of S. 188, my attention and efforts will now focus on the U.S. House of Representatives. I am hopeful that they will approve this measure so that this landmark law can now be known as the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara Jordan, William C. Velásquez, and Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about the accomplishments of the Kansas Air National Guard, and specifically of the 190th Air Refueling Wing.

I have made several statements on the floor recently regarding my feelings on these resolutions. And today, instead of repeating my feelings on the subject, I would like to acknowledge some of our country's brave men and women.

As we all know, our Nation has been relying heavily on our National Guard

in the war on terror. In Kansas, it is no different. However, these men and women continually rise to the challenge, saving lives and defending democracy at home and abroad.

Next week, we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 190th Air Refueling Wing in Kansas. The enormous sacrifice and dedication of the men and women serving in 190th brings great credit to their unit and to the State of Kansas.

This outstanding organization began as the 117th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron in Hutchinson, KS. The unit was federally recognized on February 23, 1957.

Next week they will celebrate 50 years of flying aircraft—from the F-80 to the B-57 to the KC-135 tankers they maintain today.

Since 1967, the 190th has been based in our State capital of Topeka, KS. They continue to be leaders in the State and in the Air National Guard, which is evident through their most recent awards—the Spaatz trophy for outstanding Air National Guard Flying Wing and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

As we continue to debate the difficult topic of our presence in Iraq, I hope my colleagues will take a moment to recognize, with me, the outstanding contributions of our Nation's troops. Not only has our volunteer force proven themselves the best in the world, our citizen soldiers have proven themselves second to none.

I hope we will remember the personal sacrifices of these men and women as we debate our support for them and their mission.

ARMITAGE II

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to a report released today by a bipartisan panel of Asia specialists co-chaired by Richard L. Armitage and Joseph Nye. The report, "The U.S.-Japan Alliance: Getting Asia Right Through 2020," highlights major trends in Asia and provides the panel's comprehensive analysis with security and economic policy recommendations, with specific reference to our bilateral relations with Japan.

Many Senators will recall that Ambassador Armitage and Dr. Nye issued a report in October 2000 titled "The United States and Japan: Advancing Toward a Mature Partnership." This landmark document, which subsequently became known as the Armitage Report, aimed at strengthening the U.S.-Japan relationship in the areas of politics, security, Okinawa, intelligence, economics and diplomacy. This new report, which is already being called "Armitage II," continues to emphasize the importance of the alliance but goes a step further, by addressing the ways in which the alliance can work to positively influence future affairs in Asia.

The report, which is available on the CSIS Web site at: <http://www.csis.org/>

component/option.com—csis—pubs/task/view/id,3729/typ. is not a political document. It reflects the views of the study group members only. Nevertheless, it represents a serious attempt to outline a vision that would achieve a balance of power in Asia through 2020 that favors American interests and values and promotes regional stability.

I encourage all Senators and their staffs to examine this serious and significant new report.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRIGHT STAR RESTAURANT

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Bright Star Restaurant in Bessemer, AL. Since 1907, the Bright Star has been providing the citizens of our State and its visitors with delicious food and superior service. Today, this family-owned business, led by Jimmy and Nick Koikos, continues to build on this tradition. While America is famous for its chain restaurants, there remain many of the old ones which have atmosphere, friendship, and good food. They are a valuable part of our communities and unite us in many ways. The Bright Star is a classic.

Known for fresh gulf seafood, quality steaks, and fresh vegetables, the Bright Star is certain to satisfy every palate. The restaurant's Greek style specialties are my personal favorites. In fact, I don't believe the broiled snapper, along with the Greek salad, can be topped. Although, admittedly, the daily meat and three-vegetable specials certainly give them a run for their money.

Famous faces, like legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and former Senator Howell Heflin, frequented the Bright Star. I am certain that virtually all of our congressional delegation have eaten there including my colleague, Senator SHELBY, on many occasions. It is the place for good friends, good food, and even a small taste of politics. Today, you will still see Alabama coaches and fans filing through the dining room on their way to and from seeing the Crimson Tide play.

Not so long ago, I brought John Ashcroft by for dinner. This was his first visit to Alabama after becoming the U.S. Attorney General, and I will never forget the wonderful reception Jimmy and the staff gave us. I wanted to show off the best of Birmingham, so dinner at this fine restaurant was a no-brainer. Jimmy gave us a mouth-watering overview of the menu, emphasizing as I had hoped that he would, the renown seafood dishes. Everything sounded delicious, however it turned out that the Attorney General was allergic to seafood and shellfish. I seem to recall he had a steak that he enjoyed, but he certainly missed out on those fresh gulf delicacies.

Located just outside of Birmingham in the quaint downtown area of Bessemer, the Bright Star is easily accessible and certainly a destination attraction. Moreover, you can always expect a good crowd of folks dining there on any day of the week. Luckily, expansions to the building over the years, including ample banquet space, enable diners to be comfortably accommodated. I look forward to the lunch I have scheduled there for next week, and I highly recommend a visit to all.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 a treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq.

H. Con. Res. 67. 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 pursuant to section 2(a) of the National Cultural Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), amended by Public Law 107-117, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. DELAUNO of Connecticut, and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.

At 5:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 976. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 641. A bill to express the sense of Congress that no funds should be cut off or re-

duced for American troops in the field which would result in undermining their safety or their ability to complete their assigned missions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 200. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the United States Geological Survey, to conduct a study on groundwater resources in the State of Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-20).

S. 235. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District (Rept. No. 110-21).

S. 263. A bill to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes River Conservancy, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-22).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 264. A bill to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam in Oregon, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-23).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 265. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins in Oregon (Rept. No. 110-24).

S. 266. A bill to provide for the modification of an amendatory repayment contract between the Secretary of the Interior and the North Unit Irrigation District, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-25).

S. 220. A bill to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the A & B Irrigation District in the State of Idaho (Rept. No. 110-26).

By Mr. BINGAMAN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 275. A bill to establish the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument in the State of New Mexico (Rept. No. 110-27).

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. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 655. A bill to amend the Congressional Charter of The American National Red Cross to modernize its governance structure, to enhance the ability of the board of governors of The American National Red Cross to support the critical mission of The American Red Cross in the 21st century, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED:

S. 656. A bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BURR, Mrs.

MURRAY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 657. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to add requirements regarding trauma care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 658. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to improve the process for listing, recovery planning, and delisting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HAGEL:

S. 659. A bill to amend section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, to provide for the payment of the death gratuity with respect to members of the Armed Forces without a surviving spouse who are survived by a minor child; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 660. A bill for the relief of Majan Jean; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 661. A bill to establish kinship navigator programs, to establish guardianship assistance payments for children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. 662. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to evaluate resources at the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Brunswick, Maine, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the site as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 663. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the statutory designation of beneficiaries of the \$100,000 death gratuity under section 1477 of title 10, United States Code, and to permit members of the Armed Forces to designate in writing their beneficiaries of choice in the event of their death while serving on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REID, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 664. A bill to provide adequate funding for local governments harmed by Hurricane Katrina of 2005 or Hurricane Rita of 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 665. A bill to require congressional approval of loans made by the Secretary of Transportation in excess of \$1,000,000,000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 666. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate certain incentives for oil and gas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 667. A bill to expand programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, including potential mental health concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):