

even more critical to recognize the first genocide of the 20th Century. We must send a message that genocide and genocide denial will never be tolerated.

To that end, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of Senator RICHARD DURBIN's S. Res. 106, calling on the President to accurately characterize the Armenian Genocide in his annual message around April 24 and to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian genocide.

It is important that we recognize the Armenian genocide while its survivors are still with us to tell their stories. We must recognize the genocide for the survivors. We must recognize the genocide because it is the right thing to do. We must recognize the Armenian genocide to help shed light on the darkness and move toward a more humane world.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to explain to the Senate my absence during today's vote to invoke cloture on S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization Act.

I am in Florida, and my flight was due to arrive in Washington this afternoon. However, because of the inclement weather, my flight was delayed and I am still in Tallahassee.

I am a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and I have already voted in favor of this measure. As such, had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye" on the resolution.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GERALD E. HARMON, M.D.

• Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Dr. Gerald E. Harmon, MD, on the occasion of his retirement from the South Carolina Air National Guard, SCANG. A native South Carolinian, "Gamecock Doc" joined the military in 1973 as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force, USAF after graduating from the University of South Carolina USC. He began studying medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina through the Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program achieving his M.D. in 1976.

Dr. Harmon completed his family practice residency at Eglin AFB in Florida. After fulfilling several USAF flight surgeon assignments in Texas and South Carolina, he transferred to the SCANG to serve as the commander of the 169th Tactical Clinic at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. Under his leadership, his unit was

twice awarded the SCANG Outstanding Unit award and received "Excellent" evaluations by the USAF Inspection Agency.

In 1992, President George H. W. Bush recognized Dr. Harmon for his medical humanitarian work in Africa, and both in 1998 and 2003 the South Carolina General Assembly recognized him as the Doctor of the Day for his unselfish duty and devotion to the medical profession. Dr. Harmon was also a recipient of the American Heart Association Research Grant at the USC School of Medicine and was recognized as the Air National Guard's 1993 National Physician of the Year.

Over the last 7 years, Dr. Harmon served as the Air National Guard Assistant Surgeon General for the USAF providing critical advice and information on Air National Guard medical activities to the United States' Surgeon General. Part of his responsibilities included coordinating medical policies, plans, and programs for the Air National Guard. Dr. Harmon is the first South Carolinian to serve as the Air National Guard Assistant Surgeon General.

Dr. Harmon is currently a family practitioner the Waccamaw Medical Center on Pawleys Island, where he and his wife of 35 years reside. He is also President-elect of the South Carolina Medical Association having served on its board directors for many years.

A true patriot and a fine American, Dr. Harmon formally retired as a major general with over 700 flying hours on February 16, 2007. His military career will forever be marked by his extraordinary vision, sacrifice, and community spirit. I wish Dr. Harmon the very best in his retirement and ask that the Senate join me in thanking him for his service.●

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 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 2:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761 and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the British-American

Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CHANDLER of Kentucky, Chairman.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. OBERSTAR of Minnesota, Chairman, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Vice Chairman, Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York, Mr. STUPAK of Michigan, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. HODES of New Hampshire, Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

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-1469. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs; 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program" (RIN0560-AH45) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1470. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2006 Emergency Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs" (RIN0560-AH62) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1471. A communication from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice Governing Proceedings Under the Packers and Stockyards Act" (RIN0580-AA97) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1472. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving exports to India; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1473. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; State Implementation Plan Corrections" (FRL No. 8300-1) received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1474. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Renewable Fuel Standard Program" (FRL No. 8299-9) received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1475. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the integration of mental health services into daily activities of Service members; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1476. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the TRICARE Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1477. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's "National Call to Service" program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1478. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf—Plans and Information—Protection of Marine Mammals and Threatened and Endangered Species" (RIN1010-AD10) received on April 13, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1479. A communication from the Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of an acting officer for the position of Under Secretary, received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1480. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Security Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Principal Deputy Administrator for Nuclear Security, received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1481. A communication from the Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary, received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1482. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Principal Deputy Administrator, received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1483. A communication from the Deputy Director, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and the designation of an acting officer for the position of Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1484. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination, discontinuation of service in an acting role and the designation of an acting officer for the position of Chief Financial Officer, received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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-55. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana supporting the "25 x 25" Initiative to Increase Production of Renewable Energy by the Agricultural Community; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 6

Whereas, having an affordable, clean, reliable, and plentiful energy supply is critical to Montana's economy, as well as the national and international food supply; and

Whereas, current and future risks to national energy security are mounting while

domestic and global energy demands are growing exponentially; and

Whereas, Montana and the United States have tremendous renewable energy resources; and

Whereas, the development of a broad spectrum of renewable energy resources, including wind power, biofuels, biomass, methane digesters, ethanol, and solar, benefit the environment and will have a direct economic benefit to agricultural landowners and rural communities; and

Whereas, rural communities and agriculture will experience multiple benefits, including establishing additional markets for agricultural commodities, increasing farm income, creating added-value uses for crops, livestock, and their byproducts, encouraging more productive use of marginal lands, resolving air, water, and soil quality problems that may arise from agricultural operations, improving wildlife habitat, and creating many new job opportunities; and

Whereas, American agriculture is well positioned to play an expanded role in the development and implementation of new energy solutions and with appropriate technological innovation, incentives, and investments, America's farms and ranches can become the factories that produce a new generation of fuels to help meet the nation's energy needs; and

Whereas, "25 x 25" is an agriculturally led initiative that envisions America's farms and ranches producing 25% of America's energy supply by the year 2025 while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber; and

Whereas, agriculture's role as an energy producer will have a positive effect on national security and trade imbalances and will serve as a catalyst for rural development in Montana and the United States; and

Whereas, Governor Brian Schweitzer (D-MT), Governor Dave Heineman (R-NE), Governor Tim Pawlenty (R-MN), Governor Mitch Daniels (R-IN), Governor Ed Rendell (D-PA), former Governor Jeb Bush (R-FL), Governor Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS), former Governor Tom Vilsack (D-IA), former Governor George Pataki (R-NY), former Governor Robert Ehrlich (R-MD), Governor Jennifer Granholm (D-MI), former Governor James Risch (R-ID), Governor Jim Doyle (D-WI), Governor Jim Douglas (R-VT), Governor Ernie Fletcher (R-KY), Governor John Lynch (D-NH), former Governor Bob Taft (R-OH), Governor Tim Kaine (D-VA), Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R-CA), and Governor Rod Blagojevich (D-IL) have endorsed "25 x 25"; and

Whereas, state legislatures from Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, and Vermont have endorsed "25 x 25": Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana, That the Montana Legislature endorses the "25 x 25" vision of agriculture providing 25% of the total energy consumed in the United States by the year 2025, while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber. Be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

POM-56. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Kansas urging Congress to allow interstate marketing of state inspected meat; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1604

Whereas, the Federal Wholesale Meat Act of 1967 allows states to have state meat inspection programs which are required to meet or exceed federal inspection standards of the United States Department of Agriculture for wholesomeness, cleanliness and food safety; and

Whereas, Kansas is in the majority of states which have elected to operate equivalent meat inspection programs allowing state-licensed and state-inspected meat processing facilities to engage in intrastate commerce. Other states are pursuing implementation of state inspection of their meat processing facilities; and

Whereas, State meat inspection programs are flexible and can efficiently and safely adapt their activities to small, local meat processors that cannot be duplicated by the federal inspection program because of its size and complexity; and

Whereas, State-inspected meat and poultry products are currently barred from interstate commerce under federal law, including neighboring local markets in other states, despite current meat safety and quality assurances, affecting long-range rural development and economic growth strategies within the meat processing industry; and

Whereas, such limitation on marketing of state inspected meat inhibits economic development and value-added agricultural activities in this nation's agricultural sector; and

Whereas, current policy of the National Association of State Departments or Agriculture supports the interstate shipment of state-inspected meat products: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein. That we urge the United States Congress to enact revisions to the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate shipment and marketing of meat products by state inspected meat processing facilities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed to send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and each member of the Kansas Congressional delegation.

POM-57. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan memorializing Congress to invest in Head Start and Quality Child Care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 40

Whereas, Head Start and high-quality child care prepare children for school and life success by narrowing the educational achievement gap between lower- and upper-income kids, increasing high school graduation rates, and reducing crime.

Whereas, studies show that at-risk children who attend Head Start and high-quality child care are better prepared for school. For example, Head Start narrows the literacy skills gap by nearly half between children in poverty and all children. The research is clear that quality early childhood education programs work to prevent crime. In Ypsilanti, Michigan, three- and four-year-olds from low-income families who were randomly assigned to a group that did not receive preschool preparation were five times more likely to have become chronic lawbreakers by age 27 than those who were assigned to the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation's Perry Preschool program; and