

new type of facility. He and I then worked with the Federal Department of Health and Human Services' regional office in Denver to establish a demonstration project and secure a Federal grant to fund it.

This demonstration project—the Medical Assistance Facility Project—was hugely successful and served as the model for the Critical Access Hospital Program that I authored in 1997. Today, more than 1,300 hospitals around the Nation enjoy CAH status, ensuring access to high-quality medical treatment in some of the most remote parts of our land.

I am very proud to have written that bill and to have made changes to improve the CAH program since then. I am just as proud to have worked with Jim in the process. With over 45 CAHs operating in Montana, the idea of a limited-service rural hospital has moved from concept to the mainstream. I have no doubt that the CAH Program has kept a number of Montana hospitals from closing. And when you are dealing with Montana-sized distances in health care, that can mean the difference between life and death.

Through it all, Jim has been a mainstay. Always patient and kind but always thinking ahead, his innovative style and vision have brought people together for a healthier Montana. He changed MHA . . . from a collection of hospitals to MHA . . . An Association of Montana Health Care Providers—a united group of hospitals, nursing homes, home health organizations, hospices, and physicians. He applied the same philosophy to form the Alliance for a Healthy Montana—a coalition of more than 25 health care organizations. The Alliance is now an effective and cohesive voice for health care change in Montana and came about almost solely because of Jim's efforts. Over the past 8 years, the Alliance has spearheaded three ballot initiatives, including one that reformed Montana's tobacco tax rate and two others that earmarked national tobacco settlement funds to pay for health care programs in Montana.

It makes sense that Jim would take the consensus approach that he did, working to build a coalition from a group of constituencies that weren't obvious allies. After all, Jim has spent his entire career as an executive in health care associations. He understood—and showed by example—the powerful role associations can play in representing members' needs before Congress, legislatures, regulatory agencies, and private organizations.

As I said, Jim has been a trusted adviser to me throughout the last two decades. I have come to trust his perspective, judgment, and knowledge on health issues great and small. I have also benefited from Jim's friendship. He is a gracious, compassionate, and generous person—the kind of guy people like to be around. And while the people of MHA will miss having Jim around, I know that his family and

friends look forward to seeing a bit more of this exceptional individual. Jim's transition will be complete on June 30, when he makes his retirement official. On behalf of a healthier Montana, we wish Jim Ahrens well.●

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#### EMS WEEK

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the men and women throughout my home State of New Mexico who provide lifesaving emergency medical services, EMS, and to commemorate EMS Week.

During my time in the Senate, I have come to understand the necessity of a highly trained EMS team. Such teams provide lifesaving care to those who are in need, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

An important example of such care is provided to the people of Northern Rio Arriba County by the highly dedicated members of La Clinica EMS, which consists of:

Joseph Baca, Paramedic; Phyllis Richards, Paramedic; Wenona Garcia, EMT-1; Rose Rash, EMT-1; Sarah Johnson, EMT-1; Paul Lisco, EMT-1; J.R. Gallegos, EMT-B; James Holiday, EMT-B; Tomas Casados, EMT-B; Stella Martinez, EMT-B; Kathy Morrison, EMT-B; Dave Morrison, EMT-B; Laurel Baker, EMT-B; Ramona Hays, EMT-B; Michael Hays, EMT-B; Emery Baca, EMT-B; B.J. Samora, FR; Josie Maestas, FR; and Marty Madrid, FR.

I am proud to join the citizens of New Mexico in expressing my sincere gratitude to EMS professionals and their unwavering dedication to the community.●

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#### NEW MEXICO PECAN GROWERS

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the pecan growers of New Mexico for being No. 1 in the Nation in pecan production. This is the first time New Mexico has claimed this title.

The recently released preliminary numbers from last year indicate that New Mexico growers produced 46 million pounds of pecans valued at \$86.1 million. This is 6 million more pounds of pecans than second-ranked Georgia and 10 million more pounds than third-ranked Texas. This is quite an achievement given the size of the pecan industry in both Georgia and Texas.

I am proud of New Mexico's pecan growers and their hard work. I am sure this will not be the last time they take this title, and I wish them luck this season.●

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries:

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURMA—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2007.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 17, 2007.

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#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the resolution (S. Con. Res. 21) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012.

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#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1419. A bill to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers from price gouging, to increase the energy efficiency of products, buildings and vehicles, to promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options, and to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

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-1958. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement for the manufacture of defense articles in Turkey in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1959. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the determination of five countries that are not cooperating fully with U.S. antiterrorism efforts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1960. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of payment-in-kind compensation negotiated with the United Kingdom for the return of U.S.-funded housing and improvements in Bentwaters, Bishop's Green, Blackbushe, Burtonwood, Caversfield, Chicksands, Clayhill, Greenham Common, Sculthorpe, Upper Heyford, Welford, and Woodbridge; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1961. A communication from the Director, Office of Administration and Management, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report certifying that the cost of Wedges 2 through 5 of the Pentagon Renovation will be within the specified limitation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

## 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-95. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire supporting the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 9

Whereas, the people of New Hampshire value clean air and water, and prioritize natural resources protection for economic growth, and better health, and quality of life for our citizens;

Whereas, the governor of New Hampshire has declared in executive order number 2005-4 that New Hampshire will lead-by-example in energy efficiency to protect public health, future economic growth, our environment, quality of life, and taxpayer dollars; and

Whereas, the use of energy for electricity, heating, cooling, and transportation has a significant effect on public health and the environment, contributing to such problems as ground-level ozone, acid rain, eutrophication of water bodies, soot, haze, mercury contamination, and climate change; and

Whereas, 5 New Hampshire cities, Dover, Keene, Manchester, Nashua, and Portsmouth, and many cities across the United States, have signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and have reduced global warming pollution through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, economic development, and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies,

and have recognized that energy efficiency and conservation will save taxpayer money; and

Whereas, rural communities and agriculture sectors will benefit from energy efficiency and conservation and the development of a broad spectrum of renewable energy sources including wind power, biodiesel, biomass, methane digesters, and solar, including establishing additional markets for agricultural commodities, creating new uses for crops, livestock, and their byproducts, more productive use of marginal lands, improving wildlife habitat, and providing new employment opportunities; and

Whereas, significant reduction in New Hampshire's greenhouse gas emissions, diversification of in-state energy sources, and collaboration with other northeastern states will have a measurable effect on global warming and New Hampshire will lead the region with sustainable economic growth, the next generation of new technology, and dynamic job creation; and

Whereas, producing 25 percent of New Hampshire's energy demand from renewable sources by the year 2025 is realistic and presents numerous benefits for the state's communities, diversifies the business sector, protects the environment and public health, and promotes national security; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives:* That the New Hampshire house of representatives supports the vision of a "25 by 25" goal, whereby renewable energy will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in New Hampshire by the year 2025; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives supports incentives to consumers to increase energy efficiency and conservation; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives agrees that smart energy measures, like anti-idling policies, expanding public transportation choices, and appropriate vehicle selection for state agency uses, will help reduce air pollution and global warming gases; and

That copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of representatives be forwarded by the house clerk to the governor of New Hampshire, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-96. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire urging Congress to take actions relative to veterans' benefits and the war in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 10

Whereas, in the history of military campaigns for over 2 centuries beginning with the Revolutionary War, the people of the United States of America have engaged in military and diplomatic initiatives to gain and preserve freedom for all people; and

Whereas, the citizens of the state of New Hampshire strongly support the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and arenas known and not yet known; and

Whereas, over 3,000 American military personnel, including 17 from New Hampshire, have died since March of 2003 in the hostilities in Iraq, and tens of thousands have returned home with significant unmet physical and other health care needs; and

Whereas, the citizens of the state of New Hampshire recognize, appreciate, and are forever thankful for the sacrifices that all of our American and New Hampshire soldiers

have made, especially those who have given their lives or been wounded in previous and current battles to protect our freedoms; and

Whereas, the unknown time line of the war in Iraq has stretched thin our National Guard and Reserves, including the New Hampshire national guard, and created a severe equipment shortage, thereby reducing the readiness level of our National Guard to fully meet its missions of responding to natural disasters, terrorism, and protecting us at home; and

Whereas, the New Hampshire house of representatives has an obligation to speak out on matters which affect the people of our state, and the ability of our government to protect us at home; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives:* That the New Hampshire house of representatives and the American people will continue to support and protect the members of the United States Armed Forces and the New Hampshire national guard who are serving or who have served bravely and honorably in Iraq and elsewhere; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives disapproves of the decision of President George W. Bush, announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives calls on the Bush Administration and Congress to fund fully all benefits for veterans to appropriately care for our brave men and women when they return from this war and other combat; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives urges the President and Congress to commence talks with the neighbors in the Middle East and begin the orderly withdrawal of American military forces from Iraq; and

That the clerk of the New Hampshire house of representatives send copies of this resolution to governor John Lynch, the president and minority leader of the New Hampshire state senate, the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Defense, the United States Secretary of State, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DODD, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 1675. A bill to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors.

H.R. 1676. A bill to reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 130. A resolution designating July 28, 2007, as "National Day of the American Cowboy".

S. Res. 132. A resolution recognizing the Civil Air Patrol for 65 years of service to the United States.

S. Res. 138. A resolution honoring the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez.

By Mr. DODD, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment: