

into an unparalleled partner in promoting the ideals of democracy, personal freedom, and human rights.

The United States has also tirelessly supported Israel as it continues to seek lasting peaceful coexistence with its neighbors to bring a permanent end to years of suffering and senseless violence. And we will continue to be there to support them in that effort.

When Yitzhak Rabin went before the Knesset in October 1995 to discuss the ratification of the Israeli-Palestinian interim agreement, he said the following:

“Here, in the land of Israel, we returned and built a nation. Here, in the land of Israel, we established a state. The land of the prophets, which bequeathed to the world the values of morality, law and justice, was, after two thousand years, restored to its lawful owners—the members of the Jewish people. On its land, we have built an exceptional national home and state.”

Israel is indeed an exceptional nation state, and this milestone is a great testament to the hope, faith, and perseverance of the Jewish people. I offer my congratulations to Israel on the 60th anniversary of its founding.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY WHITE WOMAN

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President. I wish to recognize a distinguished member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Harvey White Woman. Harvey passed away on Monday, March 31, 2008 following a brave battle against a rare form of cancer. Though he was only 44, he carried the wisdom and insight of many elders and worked in a positive way to educate native and nonnative people on treaty and water rights. He was often asked to give presentations to adults and schoolchildren alike about the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 as a way to educate the public, not only about the history of this region of our country but also about the promises that were made to native people.

In his work as an assistant to the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Fifth Member's office, Harvey's voice could be heard reminding us as Members of Congress of our duties to uphold those treaty obligations. He also served on the board of the Lakota Fund in Kyle and most recently as the first director of the Wawokiye Business Institute. The Wawokiye Institute gives specialized assistance to entrepreneurs who are working toward realizing their goal of business success. Through his work and presentations on traditional entrepreneurship, many people around the world gained a better understanding of the business instincts of native people throughout history.

Harvey also led the newly formed Oglala Lakota Cancer Survivors, Inc., on Pine Ridge, which is an effort to bring

together those survivors and their families to talk about cancer and the unique circumstances that native people face.

Harvey was taken from us too soon. I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his family and his friends in this time of great loss and encourage them to go forward with Harvey's efforts.●

THE LOUISIANA HONOR AIR

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge and honor a very special group, the Louisiana HonorAir. Louisiana HonorAir is a not-for-profit group that flies as many as 200 World War II veterans a year up to Washington, DC, free of charge. On April 26, 2008 a group of 99 veterans will reach Washington as part of this very special program.

I want to take a moment to thank all the brave veterans visiting our Capitol city this trip:

Richard S. Allain; Wilton J. Aucoin, Sr.; Henry E. Babineaux; Nolan P. Barras; James R. Bazet, Sr.; Raymond R. Beadle, Sr.; George Beaugh, Sr.; John S. Becnel, Jr.; Charles F. Berard; Dailey J. Berard; Cecile M. Beyt; Raymond L. Bienvenu; Dewey D. Billodeau; Nelson C. Boudreaux; Jules C. Bourgeois; Alby J. Bourque; Roy J. Boutte, Sr.; Adam T. Boyd; Gerald C. Braud; Minos J. Breaux.

Charles E. Broussard; Dennis J. Broussard; Taylor J. Broussard, Jr.; Earl H. Brown, Sr.; Leroy M. Burgess; Dracos D. Burke; Leroy J. Coulter; Perry J. Decuir; Alvy A. DeHart; Rogers DeHart, Sr.; Charles L. DeLahoussaye; Gustave A. Duhon; John N. Fernandez; William S. Flores; Guy J. Folse; Theresa D. Formeller; James T. Fulgham; Claby J. Gary; Raymond H. George; Joseph C. Glorioso.

Carlo J. Governale; Bert A. Guiberteau; Lloyd J. Guillory; James S. Hebert; Joseph V. Hebert; Julius M. Hebert; Oddie J. Hebert; Lawrence Lacy; Richard LaFleur; James W. Lancios; Alfred S. Landry; Walter J. Latiolais, Sr.; Harold P. LeBlanc; Malcolm F. LeCompte; Joseph H. LeGrand; Robert R. LeJeune; RosaMae Lopez; Ray A. Louviere; Charles T. Mahoney; Frank O. Maness, Jr.

Salvatore Marchese, Jr.; Edith L. Mazurek; Mahlen M. Meaux; Chelly P. Mendoza; Woodrow P. Mendoza; Leroy E. Miller; Leon J. Minvielle, Jr.; Louis P. Monte; George P. Munson; Henry A. Myers, Sr.; Clifford D. Neal; James H. Newcomb, Sr.; Stewart L. Newman; Jewell D. Palmer; Gerald F. Patout; Jules G. Patout; Rene L. Patout; Jasper P. Pennington; George W. Perry; Irwin M. Pierron.

Thomas M. Randazzo; Griffin P. Reaux; Clyde R. Redmond; Donald A.J. Sanders; Joseph A. Sarradet, Jr.; Clifton O. Schexnayder; Francis P. Schwing; George E. Schwing; Jerry E. Shea, Sr.; George C. Simar; Emile J. Tauzin; Paul A. Traywick; Daniel L. Verret, Sr.; Laines W. Vincent; RoseMary R. Walker; Johnnie A. Webb; Oliver A. Williams, Jr.; Robert L. Williams; Howard E. Winston.

While visiting Washington, DC, these veterans will tour Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. This program provides many veterans with their only opportunity to see the great memorials dedicated to their service.

Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their devotion and service to our Nation.●

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.)

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTENT TO ADD THE SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE LIST OF LEAST-DEVELOPED BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES PROGRAM—PM 44

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 Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(1)(B) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Act”), I am providing notification of my intent to add the Solomon Islands to the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. In Executive Order 12302 of April 1, 1981, the Solomon Islands was designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program. After considering the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend least-developed beneficiary developing country benefits to the Solomon Islands.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 17, 2008.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 2537. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks,

announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5813. An act to amend Public Law 110-196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond April 18, 2008.

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

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 793. An act to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs.

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

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2537. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, April 17, 2008, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 793. An act to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs.

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-5849. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council's Annual Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5850. A communication from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Form S-11 to Permit Historical Incorporation by Reference" (RIN3235-AK02) received on April 15, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5851. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York" (FRL No. 8554-8) received on April 11, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5852. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting,

pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Lead; Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program" ((RIN2070-AC83)(FRL No. 8355-7)) received on April 11, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5853. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coordinated Issue: Section 118—Characterization of Bioenergy Program Payments" (Docket No. LMSB-04-0308-019) received on April 15, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5854. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the International Atomic Energy Agency's programs in Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5855. A communication from the Acting Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2008-44—2008-54); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5856. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suitability" (RIN3206-AL08) received on April 15, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5857. A communication from the Staff Director, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "2007 Annual Report and Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. INHOFE:

S. 2876. A bill to provide for the conveyance of approximately 140 acres of land in the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma to the Indian Nations Council, Inc., of the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2877. A bill to improve and enhance research and programs on cancer survivorship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2878. A bill to amend the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 to provide for specified civil penalties for violations of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 2879. A bill to provide for orderly and balanced development of energy resources within the Roan Plateau Planning Area of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 2880. A bill to provide that funds made available for reconstruction assistance for

Iraq may be made available only to the extent that the Government of Iraq matches such assistance on a dollar-for-dollar basis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2881. A bill to establish national standards for discharges from cruise vessels into the waters of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2882. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the presentation of a flag of the United States to the children of members of the Armed Forces who die in service; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. BYRD):

S. 2883. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2884. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to improve America's research competitiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2885. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the availability of industrial development bonds to facilities manufacturing intangible property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SMITH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KYL, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2886. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to amend certain expiring provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 2887. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a survey to determine the level of compliance with national consensus standards and any barriers to achieving compliance with such standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2888. A bill to protect the property and security of homeowners who are subject to foreclosure proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (by request):

S. 2889. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve veterans' health care benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. KYL, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 2890. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a highway fuel tax holiday; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2891. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to apply the protections of the Act to teaching and research assistants; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.