

Combat System. His expertise and commitment were instrumental in educating Members and staff in the Senate and House on Army combat systems, modernization programs and initiatives. His tireless efforts working with Members and staff of the Senate and House Armed Services Committees were instrumental in the successful authorization and appropriation of the Abrams tank, Bradley fighting vehicle, small arms and crew-served weapons, Stryker, elements of the Future Combat System and the Paladin Integrated Management programs.

Lieutenant Colonel Jones' congressional liaison assignment was only the capstone to what is an outstanding career of service to the Army and our Nation. He served as an armor officer in numerous command and staff positions. His operational assignments began in the Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin, CA, serving as a platoon leader at the National Training Center where he trained thousands of soldiers in desert warfare. He served as commander for Alpha Company, 4th Battalion 37th Armor, Heavy, followed by command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd of the 70th Armor Battalion with the 1st Armored Division at Fort Riley, KS. After transitioning in to the acquisition career field, Lieutenant Colonel Jones was assigned to Fort Knox, KY, as a combat development officer and as a project manager for the Army's Future Combat System, FCS, in Detroit, MI.

The strength of our soldiers comes from their families. Lieutenant Colonel Jones' strength came from his wife Dynette, and his two sons Colton and Conner. This Nation is grateful for their commitment and personal sacrifices made throughout Shel's military service. We also thank his mother Joyce, who recently passed, and his father William "Gerry" Jones for raising such a fine son and patriot. Shel is from a military family. His father is a retired soldier and his brother, Dr. Keith Jones, serves as a major in the National Guard. This Nation remains indebted to your service.

On behalf of the Senate and the United States of America, I commend Lieutenant Colonel Jones for his tireless efforts in the support of our Army, our military, and our Nation. As Shel and his family prepare to start a new life in the great State of Oklahoma, I congratulate him on completing an extremely successful military career and wish all of them the best in all their future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO KAREN M. ECKERT

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, today I celebrate the retirement of Karen M. Eckert after 37 years of excellent service to the federal government. Karen, a remarkable public servant under both the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and devoted resident of Buffalo, NY, retired on May 29, 2009.

Karen began her career as an immigration inspector at Niagara Falls, NY, in 1972 and quickly became knowledgeable in all areas of immigration. Her work has touched the lives of thousands—giving hope to countless immigrants and new citizens in pursuit of their dreams, as well as uniting adoptive parents with children in need of a loving home, while striving to protect children and underprivileged birth parents from exploitation.

Karen became a leading expert in intercountry adoption and child citizenship. In this role, she was invaluable in establishing the Child Citizenship Program in Buffalo, NY, drafting orphan regulations, and leading USCIS to take the steps necessary to implement the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Her outstanding and distinguished service has been recognized through numerous awards, including an Angel in Adoption Award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Meritorious Service Award in 2006 and the USCIS Director's Award in 2008 for her direction and participation in the Hague Implementation Working Group.

It is impossible to count the number of individuals who have personally benefited from Karen's professionalism, insights and dedication and she will be sincerely missed by her colleagues worldwide.

We congratulate Karen M. Eckert on her outstanding and distinguished career and for the inspiration she is leaving behind.●

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERANS

● Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to the American men and women who served their country valiantly during World War II, and to a nonprofit organization known as HonorFlight which flies surviving veterans, at no expense to themselves, to Washington, DC, to visit the World War II Memorial. I wish to have printed in the RECORD a letter from Scott C. Stump, a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, describing the efforts of HonorFlight which will enable two Hoosier veterans, Harvey H. Hammerlund and Joseph B. Smrt, to visit the World War II Memorial this fall.

The letter follows:

DEAR SENATOR LUGAR: During World War II, 16 million American men and women selflessly, and unflinchingly served our country and defended our way of life for future generations. Now, more than 64 years since the end of that Great War, only three million of our World War II Veterans walk among us. Even more alarming, we are losing these veterans at the rate of 1,000 per day, which is causing their ranks to dwindle at an alarming rate. Now more than ever, we need to take pause and recognize these veterans and their contributions to making our great country what she is today. Part of that recognition,

the National World War II Monument in Washington, DC, was completed and opened to World War II Veterans and the public on 29 April 2004.

Since its opening, the monument has been like a shining star, beckoning to our World War II Veterans. In fact, many of those veterans have had a dream of visiting this monument erected to the remembrance of "The Greatest Generation." Unfortunately, due to health, monetary, and other constraints, many World War II Veterans have been unable to visit "their" Memorial.

In 2005 that all began to change when a non-profit organization known as "HonorFlight" was born. Several dedicated individuals had a vision to fly any and all of our World War II Veterans to Washington, to see "their" Memorial, at absolutely no cost to the veterans. This wonderful, all volunteer force, began flying in 2005 and flew a total of 137 Veterans to see the Memorial that first year. Now, a brief four years later, there will be a total of over 42,000 veterans who have been able to fulfill their dreams and wishes of being able to visit Washington, DC and, most importantly, the World War II Memorial.

I would like to publicly thank HonorFlight and their network of dedicated volunteers for all of their efforts in making dreams come true. I am truly humbled to be a small part of such a great organization.

On this date, I would also like to recognize two very special World War II Veterans who are about to embark on a very special journey to Washington, DC. These two Hoosiers, both from the fertile farmlands of Starke County, answered their call to serve their country long ago, and in so doing served with honor, dignity, and courage.

Harvey H. Hammerlund was born on 21 December 1924 in rural Knox, Indiana. Harvey was a farm boy who enlisted in The United States Navy on 4 January 1944. Harvey served on The U.S.S. Urben 631 as an electrician. Harvey spent the remainder of the war traversing the hostile enemy-laden South Pacific. Mr. Hammerlund was discharged on 23 March 1946 at the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer. Harvey returned home and was a farmer for the remainder of his working years. Harvey was and is a leader in Starke County serving on various boards and committees, as well as being active with V.F.W. Post 748 in Knox. Harvey resides on his farm outside of Knox with Dee, his wife of 59 years.

Joseph B. Smrt was born on 14 February 1916 in North Judson, Indiana. Joe enlisted in The United States Army on 11 December 1942. Joe served in Patton's Third Army in the 94th Division Company B 19th Engineers. Joe proudly served all over Central Europe, including the epic "Battle of the Bulge" in Belgium. Mr. Smrt was discharged on 27 December 1945 but continued serving in The U.S. Army Reserves for the next 33 years, retiring as a Sergeant First Class. Joe worked and continues to work as a Surveyor as his profession and continues to be a pillar of the Starke County Community. Joe still lives in Knox with Ursula, his wife of 58 years.

Thank you, Senator LUGAR, for recognizing a great organization and two outstanding individuals. These two men have truly played a part in shaping the America that we know and love today.

Sincerely,

SCOTT C. STUMP. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, 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.)

NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE 2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC IN THE UNITED STATES—PM 36

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:

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare a national emergency in order to be prepared in the event of a rapid increase in illness across the Nation that may overburden health care resources. This declaration will allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services, if necessary, to temporarily waive certain standard Federal requirements in order to enable U.S. health care facilities to implement emergency operations plans to deal with the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic in the United States. A copy of my proclamation is attached.

Further, I have authorized the Secretary of Health and Human Services to exercise the authority under section 1135 of the Social Security Act to temporarily waive or modify certain requirements of the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance programs and of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule as necessary to respond to the pandemic throughout the duration of the public health emergency declared in response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 23, 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2009, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 23, 2009, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1793. A bill to amend title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for providing life-saving care for those with HIV/AIDS.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:04 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. 3585. An act to guide and provide for United States research, development, and demonstration of solar energy technologies, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2647. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

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

At 5:19 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. 3619. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3585. An act to guide and provide for United States research, development, and demonstration of solar energy technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR

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

S. 1858. A bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1927. A bill to establish a moratorium on credit card interest rate increases, 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-3472. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cold Pressed Neem Oil; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8434-5) received in the Office of the Presi-

dent of the Senate on October 21, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3473. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyriproxyfen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 8795-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3474. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred on September 30, 2008 in Account 6880118 entitled the "Abatement, Control, and Compliance Loan Program Account"; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3475. A communication from the Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the transfer of detainees (OSS Control No. 2009-1785); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3476. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Repeal of Test Procedures for Televisions" (RIN1904-AC09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3477. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change of Address for Region 4 State and Local Agencies; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 8973-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3478. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Stay of Clean Air Interstate Rule for Minnesota; Stay of Federal Implementation Plan to Reduce Interstate Transport of Fine Particulate Matter and Ozone for Minnesota" (FRL No. 8972-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3479. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chemical Manufacturing Area Sources" (FRL No. 8972-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3480. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants From Petroleum Refineries" (FRL No. 8972-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3481. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Kentucky: NOx SIP Call