

who he is, but I won't utter his name into this RECORD, although I have great respect for him as a patriot, as a warrior and as a servant for America.

He said, though, in that night conversation in Afghanistan, I was deployed when they served divorce papers on me from my first wife, and I started a new family. I have a girl and a boy. My little boy is 5 years old, and I have been deployed for three of his first five Christmases.

I sat there and listened to that, and it had been about a month since I had missed a very, very important family event in my own family. I listened to that officer tell me of being deployed when he received divorce papers, of being deployed for three of his son's first five Christmases. I think he is deployed right now.

I think about the men and women who put on the uniform and who are deployed in harm's way around the world in Iraq, Afghanistan and in other places around the world.

I was watching as the USS Harry Truman docked here in the last day or so. The sailors who got off of that ship were seeing babies born, their children born—babies they had never seen since they were born. Little babies were put in their arms. They'd kiss their wives quickly and pick up and marvel at a little miracle that would be 2 or 3 or 6 months old who they had never seen. Their own child. They weren't home for the birth of the child. They missed weddings. They missed funerals. They got back when they could, but they were deployed; they were at sea. They were serving America.

That's true on the USS Harry Truman. That's true in places like Afghanistan and Iraq and other places around the world where we have our men and women in uniform—our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines—in harm's way every day, at risk of death, at risk of sacrifice, some losing their lives. While all of this is going on, sometimes we get wrapped up here, and we think ours is a sacrifice.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that ours is a duty and a service and a privilege and an honor, and sometimes it is a sacrifice; but when we think about our sacrifice here, I ask all to think about the sacrifice over there, which is far greater—far more family time lost and missed, moments that will never be recaptured again, limbs lost, and lives lost . . . never to come back again.

So, with all of that in mind and with the Christmas season upon us, I would like to close with a poem that was written by the greatest respecter of our warriors in this Capitol building—Albert Caswell—who can be seen around this Capitol, giving tours to the wounded on a daily basis with eagerness and enthusiasm and a profound respect for those who have served us so well and especially for those who have been wounded and for those who have been lost. Sometimes he sits up in the middle of the night and will write a poem.

I think he gets started, and he can't stop until he finishes it and brings it to a conclusion. This is a poem that he wrote just a few days ago. It's called "This Christmas."

"This Christmas . . .

"As the snow falls to the ground . . .

"And all the children dance, with songs of joy so

all around . . .

"With stockings hung by the chimneys with care . . .

"With hopes and dreams, of Santa there . . .

"With Christmas dinners and fires all aglow, as

before this family a feast lies so . . .

"O Holy Night! A Child was born, for all to know!"

"Joy to the world, let Heaven and nature sing, but

remember . . . remember . . . remember all of them, and

all of those . . .

"Those families! Those patriots of peace!"

"The ones, who'll this Christmas . . . will not so

together be!!

"Who upon battlefields of honor fight!

"So far away from our country tis of thee, this

night . . .

"Men and women of such honor bright, who for all of

us so carry that fight . . .

"Why there can be peace on Earth, because of their

light!

"Who now so live with such heartache and death . . .

"Who upon each new day, their honor our lives so

bless!

"As they so bless us one and all, with all of their

gifts of most selfless sacrifice . . .

"And all of those lost loved ones, who lie in soft,

quiet, cold graves . . .

"Teaching us all the true cost, the price of freedom paid!

"Precious daughters and sons, husbands and wives . . .

"Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers who gave

their lives . . .

"That last full measure . . . as for them we cry!

"Whose loved ones' pain, will never die . . .

"Who on this Christmas morning, sit with but tears

in eyes . . .

"As they listen to their children cry, 'Mommy,

Daddy . . . I wish you were by my side.'

"With one less place at the dinner table this

year . . . they all so begin to cry . . .

"And all of those who have come home, without arms

and legs, who did not die!

"Without eyes and faces, with burned in all

places . . . in hospital beds they try!!

"Blessing us all with their fine gifts they gave!

"Making us all so see, just how magnificent and inspiring a heart can be!

"And remember all of those, whose loved ones lie far across the shores . . .

"As with each new day, brings such great worry . . . so for sure!

"But, waiting . . . but waiting for, that knock on the door . . .

"That phone call, that they now so pray not for . . .

"Quiet heroes, one and all!

"Watching them from Heaven, the angel's teardrops fall . . .

"Lord God, Lord God . . . bless them . . . bless them all!

"For these are the families, who have paid the cost!

"Bore the burden, carry that cross, that cross of

war!

"This Christmas, as you hold your families tight . . .

"And all seems so fine, and all seems so very right . . .

"And you see all of those smiles upon your

children's faces, so bright . . .

"Give thanks! Give praise! As upon your knees as

you begin to pray . . .

"For all of those families, who have so sacrificed . . .

"And remember their blessings, their gifts of freedom . . . this night!

"This Christmas . . ."

Mr. Speaker, I wish all of us a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. May we reconvene in the 112th Congress with a new spirit—a spirit that keeps in mind the price and the sacrifice paid by our veterans and our families that support them, the legacy that they have left for us, the duty that we have to honor their sacrifice. May we come back and join together in that task in January of 2011.

May we go home and give great thanks for their sacrifice and the blessings of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of knee surgery.

Mr. DOYLE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of the birth of her daughter.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family illness.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCGOVERN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RANGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SHIMKUS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHIMKUS, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ENROLLED BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a Joint Resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 81. An act to amend the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to improve the conservation of sharks.

H.R. 628. An act to establish a pilot program in certain United States district courts to encourage enhancement of expertise in patent cases among district judges.

H.R. 1107. An act to enact certain laws relating to public contracts as title 41, United States Code, "Public Contracts".

H.R. 1746. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

H.R. 2965. An act to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3082. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4748. An act to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 to require a northern border counter narcotics strategy, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4973. An act to amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize volunteer programs and community partnerships for national wildlife refuges, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6412. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to require the Attorney General to share criminal records with State sentencing commissions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6473. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6510. An act to direct the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel

of real property in Houston, Texas, to the Military Museum of Texas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6533. An act to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 105. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 118. An act to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 1481. An act to amend section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

S. 3874. An act to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce lead in drinking water.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reports that on December 17, 2010, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res. 105. Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2941. To reauthorize and enhance Johanna's Law to increase public awareness and knowledge with respect to gynecologic cancers.

H.R. 6198. To amend title 11 of the United States Code to make technical corrections; and for related purposes.

H.R. 6516. To make technical corrections to provisions of law enacted by the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010.

H.R. 4337. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain rules applicable to regulated investment companies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1061. To transfer certain land to the United States to be held in trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, to place land into trust for the Hoh Indian Tribe, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6278. To amend the National Children's Island Act of 1995 to expand allowable uses for Kingman and Heritage Islands by the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5591. To designate the airport traffic control tower located at Spokane International Airport in Spokane, Washington, as the "Ray Daves Airport Traffic Control Tower."

H.R. 4853. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow,

Wednesday, December 22, 2010, at 11 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

11023. A letter from the Director, Policy Issuances Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Permission To Use Air Inflation of Meat Carcasses and Parts [Docket No.: FSIS-2007-0039] (RIN: 0583-AD33) received December 17, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11024. A letter from the Director, Policy Issuances Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations [Docket No.: FSIS-2010-0031] (RIN: 0583-AD) received December 17, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11025. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pesticide Tolerance Crop Grouping Program II; Revisions to General Tolerance Regulations [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0766; FRL-8853-8] (RIN: 2070-AJ28) received December 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11026. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Metrafenone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0732; FRL-8854-6A] received December 3, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11027. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions (Multiple Chemicals) [EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0981; FRL-8857-5] received December 17, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11028. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flutolanil; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0775; FRL-8855-7] received December 17, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11029. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Air Force Case Number 08-03, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

11030. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Air Force Case Number 08-02, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

11031. A letter from the Director, Office of Science and Technology, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a letter to report violations of the Antideficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

11032. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's second quarter report for calendar year 2010 as required by the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund; to the Committee on Armed Services.

11033. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the final letter regarding the effect of extended