

We are facing a future where no one other than the rich will have the opportunity for a safe and secure retirement. People that work hard for their entire lives will find themselves teetering on the brink of poverty, unable to pay the basic costs of living. That is going to have drastic consequences for families and our country as a whole.

It is time for our Nation to face the retirement crisis head on, and for our lawmakers to take aggressive action to protect future generations. We can start by working on some fixes for the current system. We need to shore up the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, protect Social Security, and address the problems facing the Nation's corporate and multiemployer pension plans. We should also consider improvements to 401(k) plans like improved disclosures and lifetime income solutions. But all of those things are just short-term fixes.

We need to go further. We need to work toward comprehensive reform of our retirement system. Americans who have worked hard and played by the rules deserve a secure retirement. They deserve to be able to enjoy their golden years, to spend time with their families, and to rest after a lifetime of hard work. We need to help people to work toward a secure retirement by expanding access to retirement plans, making it easier for workers to save, and finding ways to make sure they do not have to worry about outliving their savings.

The retirement crisis is just too big to ignore, so as chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, I am making retirement security a priority. The committee will be holding a series of hearings to explore the difficult issues surrounding retirement security, and I am hopeful that, together with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we will be able to come up with creative solutions to our Nation's retirement challenges.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ENVIROTHON TEAM

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wish to recognize the great work and remarkable accomplishments of Arlington High School's Envirothon team for winning the North American Canon Envirothon Competition, which tests high school students' knowledge about natural resource management.

Competing in the Envirothon was a challenging task for the students of Arlington High School, located in Riverside, CA. Students spent many hours studying, practicing, and competing, often away from their families and friends. However, I know that families across Riverside are now celebrating the accomplishments of their home team.

Members of Arlington High's winning Envirothon team include Kristen

Treat, Cory Davis, Alexis Wood, Elijah Kenan, Elizabeth Murry, Ashley Pham, and faculty advisers Sheri Harris, and Dianne Stephens. They solved environmental problems in aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the 2010 special topic "Protection of Groundwater through Urban, Agricultural and Environmental Planning."

I invite all my colleagues to join me in congratulating California's Arlington High School Envirothon team for becoming the North American Canon Envirothon Competition winners.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL THOMAS PATTEN STAFFORD

• Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, today I pay tribute to retired U.S. Air Force LTG Thomas Patten Stafford, a former National Aeronautics and Space Administration astronaut and the first U.S. general officer to travel into space, being one of only 24 people to fly to the Moon. A command pilot in both the Air Force and NASA, General Stafford gave a lifetime of service to the Nation in space exploration, logging multiple flights into space to further our understanding and capabilities in space exploration. As one of the pioneers of our country's space program, General Stafford established protocols, procedures, and even a few records, that are still present in today's contemporary space programs and operations. He has been a national treasure and an unsung hero, willingly taking on the challenges associated with our innate fascination with what lay beyond our terrestrial home.

General Stafford graduated with honors from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He attended pilot training at Connally Air Force Base, Waco, TX, in 1953 and after completing advanced interceptor training was assigned to his first tactical duty station at Ellsworth Air Force Base, Rapid City, SD, as a pilot with the 54th Flight Interceptor Squadron with the mission of planning for and executing the air defense of the United States. It was in 1955 that General Stafford received an overseas assignment to Hahn Air Base, Germany, where he joined the 496th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, at the tip of the spear as part of the United States defense of Europe during the Cold War. At the time, the 496th flew F-86D model aircraft, known as the "Sabre Dog." It was a transonic jet, all-weather interceptor designed to intercept Soviet attack and bomber aircraft. It was during this time that General Stafford developed and honed his flying abilities and understanding of flight operations and performance testing, which would prove vital to his influence over our Nation's space program and guarantee many successes in those endeavors.

In 1962, General Stafford was selected among the second group of astronauts to participate in Projects Gemini and

Apollo, the two fabled national space programs that epitomize our country's tremendous quest for space exploration. In December 1965, General Stafford piloted Gemini VI, the first rendezvous in space, thus developing and proving techniques for space rendezvous that would be critical for future operations. In June 1966, he commanded Gemini IX and demonstrated a rendezvous technique that would be used in the Apollo missions to the Moon. And because of this expertise, he headed the mission planning analysis and software development responsibilities for the astronaut group for Project Apollo.

The most pivotal piece to this was his development and implementation of the techniques a pilot would use to manually fly the Saturn booster into orbit and the descent and ascent to and from the Moon's surface. All of this culminated with his command of the Apollo 10 mission in May 1969, when General Stafford personally performed the first lunar module rendezvous around the Moon and the entire lunar landing mission except for the actual landing.

It was with this expertise that General Stafford assumed the role of Deputy Director of Flight Crew Operations at the NASA Manned Space Flight Center, where he was responsible for the planning and implementation of programs for the astronaut group and all aircraft operations. General Stafford's time with NASA culminated with his fourth space flight as the Apollo commander of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project mission in 1975. This was a joint space flight with the Soviet Union that culminated in the historic first meeting in space between American Astronauts and Soviet Cosmonauts.

General Stafford was the first member of his Naval Academy Class of 1952 to pin on the first, second and third stars of a general officer. He flew six rendezvous in space, logged over 507 hours in space flight and wore the Air Force Command Pilot Astronaut Wings. In his life time he has flown over 127 different types of aircraft and helicopters and four different types of spacecraft. And in his later years in the Air Force, General Stafford was personally involved in the development of two of our most critical Air Force stealth aircraft: the F-117A Stealth Fighter and the B-2 Stealth Bomber.

Though General Stafford retired from the Air Force in 1979, his efforts in our country's space program continued. In his post retirement period, General Stafford continued to influence our efforts in space, chairing independent think tank teams focused on developing a 30 year roadmap for both Presidents Bush and Clinton for returning and inhabiting the Moon and extending our exploration efforts to Mars. And he currently sits as the Chairman of the NASA Advisory Council Task Force on International Space Station Operational Readiness and the cochairman

of the Stafford-Covey Space Shuttle Return to Flight Task Group.

General Stafford is a true American hero; an amazing testament to the spirit and the selflessness of the American public servant. There are very few that have obtained the level of historic influence as he has, leaving behind a true legacy for all of us to follow. General Stafford celebrates his 80th birthday this Friday, September 17, 2010. There is a lot to be said for 80 years of life that have seen some two-thirds of that spent in the service to our Nation. I, for one, take my hat off to a great national icon and applaud him for what he has done for this great nation. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank General Stafford and his family for their lifelong commitment, sacrifice, and contribution to this great Nation and I wish him a happy 80th birthday with many more to come.●

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.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224 ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2006—PM 66

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. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or sup-

port terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2010.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 16, 2010.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2039. An act to clarify the applicability of the Buy American Act to products purchased for the use of the legislative branch, to prohibit the application of any of the exceptions to the requirements of such Act to products bearing an official Congressional insignia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3116. An act to prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from procuring certain items directly related to the national security unless the items are grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3519. An act to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4862. An act to permit Members of Congress to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization.

H.R. 5282. An act to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5366. An act to require the proposal for debarment from contracting with the Federal Government of persons violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977.

H.R. 5651. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 515 9th Street in Rapid City, South Dakota, as the "Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 5706. An act to designate the building occupied by the Government Printing Office located at 31451 East United Avenue in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "Frank Evans Government Printing Office Building."

H.R. 5773. An act to designate the Federal building located at 6401 Security Boulevard in Baltimore, Maryland, commonly known as the Social Security Administration Operations Building, as the "Robert M. Ball Federal Building".

H.R. 5873. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 218 North Milwaukee Street in Waterford, Wisconsin, as the "Captain Rhett W. Schiller Post Office".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2868. An act to provide increased access to the General Services Administration's Schedules Program by the American Red Cross and State and local governments.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3656. An act to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to improve the reporting on sales of livestock and dairy products, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2039. An act to clarify the applicability of the Buy American Act to products purchased for the use of the legislative branch, to prohibit the application of any of the exceptions to the requirements of such Act to products bearing a Congressional seal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3116. An act to prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from procuring certain items directly related to the national security unless the items are grown, reprocessed, reused, or produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3519. An act to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 4862. An act to permit Members of Congress to administer the oath of allegiance to applicants for naturalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 5282. An act to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5366. An act to require the proposal for debarment from contracting with the Federal Government of persons violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5651. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 515 9th Street in Rapid City, South Dakota, as the "Andrew W. Bogue Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5706. An act to designate the building occupied by the Government Printing Office located at 31451 East United Avenue in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "Frank Evans Government Printing Office Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5773. An act to designate the Federal building located at 6401 Security Boulevard in Baltimore, Maryland, commonly known as