

In addition to his life-long commitment to promoting and protecting civil rights through writings and advocacy, Dr. Harding served as a beloved professor to thousands of students at universities around the country, including spending over three decades with the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. It was there that he founded the Veterans of Hope Project to document the stories of other social justice leaders around the world and inspire future generations of committed activists.

In commemoration, we recognize the great work and sacrifices of Dr. Harding and the many Americans who stand up for what is right every day—even when doing so brings its share of risks and challenges. Appropriately, this coming July we will proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—a victory for all Americans and one that would not have been possible without the resolve of Dr. Harding, Dr. King and other advocates who devoted their lives to ending discrimination. While we continue our fight against persistent oppression in America, we can look to the legacy of Dr. Harding for inspiration and acknowledge the strength and struggles of all those involved in the civil rights movement.

On behalf of a grateful nation and State, I take this time to express my deepest gratitude for Dr. Harding's contributions and my heartfelt condolences to all those who were touched by his life.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, 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 and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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-6022. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Female Squash Flowers From Israel Into the Continental United States" (RIN0579-AD72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6023. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spiridiclofen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9910-52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6024. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imazapic; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 9911-17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6025. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flutriaful; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9910-38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6026. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sodium bisulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9910-50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6027. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2013 Purchases from Foreign Entities"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6028. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2013 Purchases from Foreign Entities"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6029. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Logistics and Materiel Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense Biennial Core Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut; Reasonably Available Control Technology Update to Address Control Techniques Guidelines Issued in 2006, 2007, and 2008" (FRL No. 9904-73-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6031. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation Implementation Plans; Kentucky; Approval of Revisions to the Jefferson County Portion of the Kentucky SIP; Emissions During

Startups, Shutdowns, and Malfunctions" (FRL No. 9911-96-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; Decommissioning of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems" (FRL No. 9909-99-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6033. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-047); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6034. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 14-013); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6035. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Detention of Drugs Intended for Human or Animal Use" (Docket No. FDA-2013-N-0365) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6036. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Microbiology Devices; Reclassification of Nucleic Acid-Based Systems for Mycobacterium tuberculosis Complex in Respiratory Specimens" (Docket No. FDA-2013-N-0544) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6037. A communication from the Chairman, Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the memorial construction; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-6038. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Burial Benefits" (RIN2900-AO82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 5, 2014; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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-245. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, urging Congress to fund mesothelioma research at the highest levels in the Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Bill by including \$5.26 billion for the National Cancer Institute and \$25 million for the Peer Reviewed Research Program as part of the Congressionally Mandated Research Program; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-246. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of

Michigan memorializing Congress of the United States to oppose the U.S. Department of Defense's budget proposal that would potentially close commissaries at U.S. military bases and to ensure that replacement aircraft are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to compensate for the proposed elimination of the A-10 fleet; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 319

Whereas, The proposed U.S. Department of Defense budget would dramatically cut commissary services throughout the nation and eliminate the nation's A-10 fleet, including aircraft at Michigan's Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Selfridge currently is home to 18 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and the more than 400 personnel related to that mission; and

Whereas, Our brave men and women in uniform benefit greatly from commissaries, and we should continue to provide them as part of their service. Slashing the commissary budget would likely lead to the closing of commissary stores at military installations throughout the nation. Commissary stores currently provide military families an affordable and convenient location to shop for groceries and other necessities. The U.S. Defense Commissary Agency found that commissaries save shoppers an average of 30.5 percent annually compared to off-base options; and

Whereas, The proposed cuts would have a dramatic effect on the lives and morale of the dedicated men and women who choose to serve our country at Selfridge Air National Guard Base and other U.S. military bases. The elimination of the A-10 fleet would place in jeopardy more than 400 jobs at Selfridge alone. Closing commissaries would increase living expenses for military families, essentially helping to balance the defense budget at the expense of the men and women who serve; and

Whereas, In Michigan, these proposed cuts would have immeasurable impacts on Macomb County and the local communities surrounding the Selfridge Air National Guard Base. For nearly a century, the base has been a source of community pride, local jobs, and local revenue as well as a key component of disaster response for the entire state and a vital base for our nation's homeland security; and

Whereas, The A-10 fleet should not be eliminated until replacement aircraft can be assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The proposed cuts would compound past, short-sighted decisions to transfer the A-10 aircraft to Selfridge despite the knowledge that these aircraft would be phased out. These decisions have made Selfridge vulnerable to closure in future Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations. Assigning replacement aircraft would not only maintain the viability of this important base for homeland security, but would also be cost-effective: the Air National Guard can operate aircraft at about half the cost of an active duty unit: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to oppose the U.S. Department of Defense's budget proposal that would potentially close commissaries at U.S. military bases and to ensure that replacement aircraft are assigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base to compensate for the proposed elimination of the A-10 fleet; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-247. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of the 307th Red Horse Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Whereas, established in the year 1932, the Barksdale Air Force Base, a United States Air Force Base located approximately 4.72 miles east-southeast of Bossier City, Louisiana, is named in honor of World War I aviator and test pilot 2nd Lieutenant Eugene Hoy Barksdale (1896-1926); and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base has proudly served Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas and is home to the Air Force's newest command, Air Force Global Strike Command, the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Mission Support Group, 2nd Operations Group, 2nd Maintenance Group, the 2nd Medical Group, 8th Air Force Museum, and the Air Force Reserve's 917th Wing; and

Whereas, the Red Horse unit, officially known as the 307th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, is a construction unit staffed with civil engineers, many of whom deployed to southwest Asia during the fall; and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base has grown into a major source of revenue and employment for the region by providing jobs for nearly ten thousand military and civilian employees; and

Whereas, under the Defense Department's 2015 proposed spending plan, the 307th Red Horse Squadron would be deactivated as the Air Force Reserve's authorized strength would nationally decrease by almost five percent, to 61,700 airmen; and

Whereas, under the 2015 defense spending plan, the Air Force Reserve would lose the rest of the Air Force Reserve's venerable fleet of A-10s, which are Cold War-era aircraft known as Warthogs; and

Whereas, Barksdale Air Force Base continues to be a huge priority for national security and for communities in the state of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the deactivation of the 307th Red Horse Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base will have an adverse effect on not only the economy, but the community as well: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of 307th Red Horse Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-248. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, particularly the section providing those serving in the National Guard with veteran status; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, the National Guard's roots date back to 1636, when colonial militias made up of ordinary citizens would put down their plows and pick up weapons to protect families and towns from hostile attacks; and

Whereas, commonly known as citizen-soldiers, members of today's National Guard hold civilian jobs or attend college while

maintaining their military training part-time, always ready to defend the American way of life in the event of an emergency; and

Whereas, while the National Guard originally focused on protecting local communities, it eventually grew into a force that complements the active-duty military when help is needed anywhere in the world, including serving overseas in combat-deployment roles; and

Whereas, although the National Guard's primary area of operation is the National Guard unit's home state, National Guard members are often called on by the President of the United States to respond to, among other things, homeland security missions, domestic emergencies, counterdrug efforts, and reconstruction missions in addition to overseas combat missions; and

Whereas, while many National Guard members have similar duties and perform similar functions to their counterparts in the active-duty military, Title 38, United States Code, excludes from the definition of veteran, career reserve-component members who have not served on active duty under Title 10, United States Code, for other than training purposes; and

Whereas, a portion of the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, or S. 944, would honor as veterans any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of Title 10, United States Code, to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service"; and

Whereas, this cost-neutral provision would not bestow any benefits other than the honor of claiming veteran status for nearly 300,000 men and women who honorably served and sacrificed as career reserve-component members, giving these individuals the respect they deserve for their uniformed service to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that Congress, including Hawaii's Congressional delegation, is urged to support the Veterans Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013, particularly the section providing those, serving in the National Guard with veteran status; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and Hawaii's Congressional delegation.

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. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2449. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. BURR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2450. A bill to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to read the first time.

By Mr. REID (by request):

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the