

only ship to get underway during the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor. After receiving one torpedo hit and several bomb hits, the USS *Nevada* had to be beached, but after vigorous salvage work, repairs and improvements, she was able to return to combat. Highly decorated for the numerous battles that she was a part of, the USS *Nevada* was present at the Attu landings against the Japanese, fired against German defenses during the Normandy landings, and supported operations in Iwo Jima and Okinawa. After over 30 years of service, the USS *Nevada* was deemed too old for retention and was assigned to serve as a target in the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. The experience left her radioactive and badly damaged, leading to her being decommissioned and eventually sunk during naval gunfire practice.

It is an honor to be able to commemorate this day on behalf of my fellow Nevadans as we remember those who have risked their lives to defend freedom. Our Navy's commitment to this country, as well as their dedication to their families and communities, exemplified why the legacy of all veterans must be preserved for generations to come. These heroes selflessly served not for recognition, but because it was the right thing to do. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I recognize that Congress has a responsibility not only to honor these brave individuals, but to ensure they are cared for after their return home. I remain committed to upholding this promise for our veterans and servicemembers in Nevada and throughout the Nation.

I ask that we recognize the commissioning of the USS *Nevada* and honor all that sailed aboard her. I am both humbled and honored to commemorate the brave men and women who dedicated their lives to serving our country and recognize them here today. May we never forget the legacy of this great battleship and her gallant crew.●

#### REMEMBERING MATTIE STEPANEK

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to the life of Matthew Joseph Thaddeus Stepanek, best known as Mattie, who passed away 10 years ago at the age of 13 from complications due to his rare form of muscular dystrophy. Though his death was a tragedy, his life was a triumph. He was a gifted author and noted peacemaker. He took a personal challenge and turned it into a tool of inspiration for all of us. Mattie once said, "I want my message to live beyond me," and it does. His message of peace and hope has reached millions around the world.

When Mattie was born in 1990 in Upper Marlboro, MD, doctors did not expect him to live longer than 24 hours. Mattie suffered from the same rare form of muscular dystrophy as his mother, his two brothers, and sister. His siblings all died before the age of 4. Though the disease eventually ren-

dered him unable to walk and breathe on his own, Mattie was a survivor. He began writing poetry at the age of 3. He wrote poems about hope and peace. His philosophy was, "Remember to play after every storm," and he did.

Mattie believed that wishes can come true. He had three. The first was to talk peace with Jimmy Carter. They spoke several times through email correspondence. His second was to have his poems published in a book. He wrote the most successful volumes of poetry in the last 30 years and became a seven-time New York Times best-selling author. His last was to see his poetry read on Oprah. He appeared on Oprah's show several times and became her good friend.

In September 2001, Mattie faced a setback. He was so sick that his doctors warned a laugh could cause his damaged windpipe to collapse. But that did not stop Mattie from a spectacular recovery. His doctors could not explain his comeback from this brush with death, but Mattie knew what it was. It was hope, prayer, and just one in a series of miracles in a miraculous life.

After the chaos and confusion of September 11 and the anthrax attacks on the Capitol, I was very grief stricken. I saw a little boy on TV reading poetry, offering hope and healing. Mattie comforted me and lifted my spirits. I contacted him through his hospital and visited with him and his mother in his home. In 2002, I presented Mattie with the Children's Hope Medal of Honor. This medal is given to young heroes who have shown valiant effort and courage in facing life's daily challenges. No one was more deserving of that medal than Mattie Stepanek.

Today we must also remember Mattie's mother Jeni Stepanek. Like Mattie, she suffers physical challenges, but her heart, mind, and spirit remain strong. Without Jeni, Mattie would never have been able to share his beautiful, inspiring words with us. Mattie got his knack for public speaking from his mom. She writes and talks about children with disabilities. He also got his love of life from her. Jeni continues to inspire us all with her life, with Mattie's words, and most importantly, a message of peace and hope.

In his poem entitled "The Daily Gift," Mattie wrote:

You know what?  
Tomorrow is a new day.  
And today is a new day.  
Actually, every day is a new day.  
Thank you, God,  
For all of these special and new days.

This is how Mattie Stepanek lived his life—with appreciation, inspiration, and energy. That is why I wish to say: Thank you, God, for blessing us with the gift of Mattie Stepanek and his heart of songs.●

#### 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 which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:23 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. 5016. An act making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 108. Concurrent resolution providing for the correction of the enrollment of H.R. 5021.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 5016. An act making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2631. A bill to prevent the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program unlawfully created by Executive memorandum on August 15, 2012.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 4870. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-211).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 517, a bill to promote consumer choice and wireless competition by permitting consumers to unlock mobile wireless devices, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-212).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S.J. Res. 19. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF  
COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Pamela Pepper, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Pamela Harris, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Brenda K. Sannes, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York.

Patricia M. McCarthy, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Jeri Kaylene Somers, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES—WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014

The following material was omitted from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of July 16, 2014 on page S4557:

Financial Campaign Contributions Report for Leslie Ann Bassett:

Nominee: Leslie Bassett.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, Amount, Date, Donee:

1. Self: 0.

2. Spouse: N/A

3. Children and Spouses: Nadia Jean Bassett (minor-no spouse): 0.

4. Parents: Carole G. Bassett (deceased), Kimbrough Stone Bassett: 0.

5. Grandparents : Albert E. Bassett (deceased), Elizabeth Stone Bassett (deceased), Mabel Moran Gilchrist (deceased), Gen. John R. Gilchrist (deceased).

6. Brothers and Spouses: Kimbrough Stone Bassett (brother): 9/30/09, Alan Grayson, Congress/House, \$40.00, ActBlue.com; 2010, Jack Conway, Congress/Senate, \$20.00, Estimate, I'm unable to locate the original donation amount or date; 2012, Elizabeth Warren, Congress/Senate, \$40.00, Estimate, I'm unable to locate the original donation amount or date; 11/2/12, Barack Obama, President, \$100.00, Obama For America; 11/3/12, Carol Shea-Porter, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Betty Sue Sutton, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Ami Bera, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Ann McLane Kuster, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Manan Trivedi, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Patrick Murphy, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Pat Kreitlow, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Lois Frankel, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Mark Takano, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, David Gill, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Rick Nolan, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Jose Hernandez, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Alan Lowenthal, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Kathryn Boockvar, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Sean Patrick Maloney, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Joe Garcia, Congress/House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/3/12, Jim Graves, Congress/

House, \$3.00, ActBlue.com; 11/12/12, Barack Obama, President, \$100.00, Obama For America; 2013, Elizabeth Colbert Busch, Congress/House, \$20.00, Estimate, I'm unable to locate the original donation amount or date.

Zan Sterling (sister-in-law): 6/3/2010, 100, Friends of Barbara, Barbara Boxer; 8/21/2010, 105, Actblue, Barbara Boxer; 8/22/2010, 25, Actblue, Gavin Newsom; 10/1/2010, 50, Actblue, Gavin Newsom; 10/8/2010, 100, DNC, Barack Obama; 10/8/2010, 50, Actblue, Barbara Boxer; 10/29/2010, 35, Actblue, Barbara Boxer; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Nancy Pelosi; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Jerry McNeerney; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Debra Bowen; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Bill Hedrick; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Beth Krom; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Dave Jones; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Steve Pougnet; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Jerry Brown; 10/29/2010, 9.09, Actblue, Gavin Newsom; 4/27/2011, 25, Obama for America, Barack Obama; 8/17/2011, 25, Obama for America, Barack Obama; 7/29/2011, 5, Dem Sen Cmp Direct; 8/26/2011, 5, direct payment, Al Franken; 2/18/2012, 22, Actblue; 5/19/2012, 20, Obama for America, Barack Obama; 8/1/2012, 26, Actblue; 8/8/2012, 26, Actblue; 9/6/2012, 35, Obama for America, Barack Obama; 10/9/2012, 26, Actblue; 10/9/2012, 26, Actblue; 9/30/2013, 5, Actblue, Gavin Newsom; 9/30/2013, 5, Actblue, Terry McAuliffe; 10/7/2013, 3, Actblue, DCCC; 11/9/2013, 15, Organizing for Action; 11/14/2013, 15, Organizing for Action.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Diane Moran Bassett (sister), 0, Dennis Murray, (brother-in-law) 0.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF  
COMMITTEE—TREATIES

The following executive reports of committee were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Treaty Doc. 113-4: The Protocol Amending the Tax Convention with Spain (Ex. Rept. 113-10); and

Treaty Doc. 113-5: Convention on Taxes with the Republic of Poland (Ex. Rept. 113-11)

The text of the committee-recommended resolutions of advice and consent to ratification are as follows:

[Treaty Doc. 113-4 The Protocol Amending the Tax Convention with Spain]

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion With Respect to Taxes on Income and its Protocol, signed at Madrid on February 22, 1990, and a related Memorandum of Understanding signed on January 14, 2013, at Madrid, together with correcting notes dated July 23, 2013, and January 31, 2014 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 113-4), subject to the declaration of section 2 and the conditions of section 3.

Section 2. Declaration

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration:

The Protocol is self-executing.

Section 3. Conditions

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following conditions:

(I) Not later than 2 years after the Protocol enters into force and prior to the first arbitration conducted pursuant to the binding arbitration mechanism provided for in the Protocol, the Secretary of the Treasury

shall transmit to the Committees on Finance and Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Joint Committee on Taxation the text of the rules of procedure applicable to arbitration panels, including conflict of interest rules to be applied to members of the arbitration panel.

(2)(A) Not later than 60 days after a determination has been reached by an arbitration panel in the tenth arbitration proceeding conducted pursuant to the Protocol or any of the treaties described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary of the Treasury shall prepare and submit to the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, subject to laws relating to taxpayer confidentiality, a detailed report regarding the operation and application of the arbitration mechanism contained in the Protocol and such treaties. The report shall include the following information:

(i) For the Protocol and each such treaty, the aggregate number of cases pending on the respective dates of entry into force of the Protocol and each treaty, including the following information:

(I) The number of such cases by treaty article or articles at issue.

(II) The number of such cases that have been resolved by the competent authorities through a mutual agreement as of the date of the report.

(III) The number of such cases for which arbitration proceedings have commenced as of the date of the report.

(ii) A list of every case presented to the competent authorities after the entry into force of the Protocol and each such treaty, including the following information regarding each case:

(I) The commencement date of the case for purposes of determining when arbitration is available.

(II) Whether the adjustment triggering the case, if any, was made by the United States or the relevant treaty partner.

(III) Which treaty the case relates to.

(IV) The treaty article or articles at issue in the case.

(V) The date the case was resolved by the competent authorities through a mutual agreement, if so resolved.

(VI) The date on which an arbitration proceeding commenced, if an arbitration proceeding commenced.

(VII) The date on which a determination was reached by the arbitration panel, if a determination was reached, and an indication as to whether the panel found in favor of the United States or the relevant treaty partner.

(iii) With respect to each dispute submitted to arbitration and for which a determination was reached by the arbitration panel pursuant to the Protocol or any such treaty, the following information:

(I) In the case of a dispute submitted under the Protocol, an indication as to whether the presenter of the case to the competent authority of a Contracting State submitted a Position Paper for consideration by the arbitration panel.

(II) An indication as to whether the determination of the arbitration panel was accepted by each concerned person.

(III) The amount of income, expense, or taxation at issue in the case as determined by reference to the filings that were sufficient to set the commencement date of the case for purposes of determining when arbitration is available.

(IV) The proposed resolutions (income, expense, or taxation) submitted by each competent authority to the arbitration panel.

(B) The treaties referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

(i) the 2006 Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America