

admonition that we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves while taking care of the least of these in society.

We have not even come close to meeting the moral imperative and I am deeply disappointed.

Over the next few weeks and into September, I urge my colleagues in both Chambers to think about “the least of these” that we have left behind today and to work harder to come together and find a compromise to this challenge. I also urge the administration to speak more clearly about what it needs, and to work with us to find a path to get it done.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. HAGAN. Madam President, I was necessarily absent from the Senate on July 31, 2014.

I missed rollcall votes in relation to the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to S. 2648, the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to H.R. 3230, adoption of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 3230, the motion to recede from the Senate amendment to H.R. 5021, and the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jill Pryor, of Georgia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to S. 2648. I would have voted in favor of the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to H.R. 3230, adoption of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 3230, the motion to recede from the Senate amendment to H.R. 5021, and the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Jill Pryor, of Georgia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM V. HUFFMAN

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing William “Bill” Huffman, the director of Government Relations for Farmers’ Rice Cooperative, who is retiring after a distinguished career that has spanned more than five decades.

Bill Huffman’s roots to rice date back to his childhood. He was raised on his family’s rice farm in Gridley, located in the heart of California’s rice country the Sacramento Valley. Bill later attended Humboldt State University and graduated with a degree in radio/television before going to work for a Sacramento radio station as a farm broadcaster.

Following his career in broadcasting, Bill worked in the government, agricultural, and financial sectors and then joined Farmers’ Rice Cooperative, California’s largest rice marketing firm, representing more than 700 rice growers.

During his 30-year career with Farmers’ Rice, Bill promoted one of the Golden State’s most important crops with pride and skill, advocating for important public policy issues on behalf of California’s rice industry. Each week, growers could depend upon his summary of important local, State, and Federal news impacting the rice industry in “Bill Huffman’s News of the Week” blog. In addition to tirelessly representing Northern California’s rice growers, Bill also helped lead disaster relief efforts to donate rice overseas following the tragic 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia. In recognition of all of his outstanding accomplishments, Bill was awarded the California Rice Industry Award by the California Cooperative Rice Research Foundation in 2009.

I had the pleasure getting to know Bill well during his time with Farmers’ Rice Cooperative. We worked together to promote California’s high-quality rice, protect important conservation programs, and encourage sustainable rice farming. Bill has been a strong voice for our rice growers, and I wish my friend the best as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement with his wife Sheila, their four children, and three grandchildren.

Thank you.●

REMEMBERING JOHN VASCONCELLOS

• Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of John Vasconcellos, a giant in California politics and government who died on May 24 at the age of 82. John made the personal political and took politics personally. He was a compassionate and caring human being who brought all of his humanity to the job of governance.

John Bernard Vasconcellos, Jr., was born in San Jose, CA in 1932. After graduating with high honors from Bellarmine College Preparatory and Santa Clara University, John spent 2 years in the Army before returning to Santa Clara for law school, where he again graduated at the top of his class.

John became interested in politics while serving on Governor Pat Brown’s reelection campaign staff during Brown’s epic 1962 race against Richard Nixon.

In 1966, John was elected to the California State Assembly, beginning a record 38 years of uninterrupted service in the Legislature.

In the assembly, John was known for his visionary idealism, brilliant intellect, and tough pragmatism. His mastery of budget issues led to his chairmanship of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, where he championed State investment in education. His deep interest in psychology led to the establishment of the California Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility.

When term limits forced John to leave the assembly in 1996, he was

elected to the State senate. As chair of the senate committees on education and aging, he championed new investments in K–12, higher education and long-term care while winning bipartisan praise for his careful fiscal stewardship.

In 2004, term limits ended John’s legislative career, but he did not retire. Joining with a group of friends and supporters, he established the Vasconcellos Legacy Project, VLP, an organization “dedicated to the proposition that positive political change is possible, especially because we human beings are innately inclined toward the good.” Through research and advocacy, the VLP has sought to overcome political polarization and cynicism to create a new “Politics of Trust.”

Throughout his long and distinguished life in politics, John Vasconcellos demanded expected the best from himself, his colleagues, and our democracy. He was one of a kind, and he will be truly missed. I extend my deepest condolences to his loving extended family and many friends and admirers.●

REMEMBERING THEODORE VAN KIRK

• Mr. CASEY. Madam President, Theodore ‘Dutch’ Van Kirk died on July 28, 2014, at the age of 93. A native of Northumberland, PA, he served his country with distinction during a difficult time for our Nation and the world. I ask that the following story from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, July 30, 2014]

OBITUARY: THEODORE “DUTCH” VANKIRK/
WWII AIRMAN WHOSE CREW DROPPED ATOMIC BOMB ON JAPAN, FEB. 27, 1921–JULY 28, 2014

(By Joe Smydo)

At first, Theodore “Dutch” VanKirk and the other airmen aboard the Enola Gay feared the atomic bomb they had dropped on Japan was a dud.

But after what seemed like an interminable wait, “there was a bright flash in the air,” Mr. VanKirk recounted in a 2012 book. The B-29 rocked from the shock waves, a white mushroom cloud shot into the sky, and the devastation became clear even from the crew’s vantage point thousands of feet in the air.

“The ground was covered with thick black smoke and dust and dirt,” he said. “It looked like a pot of boiling black oil covering practically the entire city of Hiroshima.”

Mr. VanKirk, 93, a Northumberland, Pa., native and the last surviving member of the crew that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, a secret mission credited with bringing World War II to an end, died Monday in suburban Atlanta. He had experienced vascular difficulties.

Thomas VanKirk of Mt. Lebanon said his father was handpicked by the Enola Gay’s pilot, Paul Tibbets, to serve as navigator on the bombing run. The two had met and served together in England years earlier.

After the war, Mr. VanKirk received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemical engineering from Bucknell University and was

posted all over the country during a 35-year career with DuPont.

"Most importantly, he was an outstanding father," Thomas VanKirk, Highmark's chief legal officer, said.

The decision to use the atomic bomb on Japan—another B-29, the Bockscar, bombed Nagasaki three days after Hiroshima—remains controversial because of the lives lost.

However, Donald Goldstein, a military historian, former Air Force officer and retired University of Pittsburgh professor, said the bombings hastened the war's end and spared many other lives that would have been lost during an invasion of Japan.

He said the prevailing sentiment among U.S. military personnel at the time was, "Thank God for the bomb." Mr. Goldstein said bringing the war to a rapid close also helped to forestall Soviet geopolitical ambitions in Japan.

Thomas VanKirk said he initially learned about his father's exploits through newspaper clippings he found during a childhood exploration of his grandmother's attic. In 1995, father and son stood together during the unveiling of an Enola Gay exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

"He had no regrets about dropping the bomb. He believed it was necessary," said Youngstown, N.Y., historian Suzanne Simon Dietz, whose book about Mr. VanKirk, "My True Course," relies on his letters and memoirs.

In 2005, Mr. VanKirk told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "I just had a job to do." But others considered him a hero and his death a reminder of the passing of the WWII generation.

"A son of Pennsylvania, Theodore 'Dutch' VanKirk helped to save the world from tyranny and then returned home to live the quiet life of a citizen," Gov. Tom Corbett said in a statement. Mr. Corbett said he and his wife, Susan, "send our heartfelt sympathies to his family and the thanks of a grateful state for his service to the cause of freedom."

Mr. VanKirk was born Feb. 27, 1921. He graduated from Northumberland High School, briefly attended Susquehanna University and joined the Army Air Forces cadet program in fall 1941—before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, his son said, because he knew the war was coming and wanted to choose his method of service.

Posted to Europe, he served aboard a B-17 bomber, the Red Gremlin, with Mr. Tibbets and bombardier Thomas Ferebee, who also would be part of the Enola Gay crew for the Hiroshima bombing. After nearly 60 bombing runs over Europe and a special mission ferrying Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mr. VanKirk returned to the United States and married his high school sweetheart, Mary Jane Young, who died in 1975.

In 1944, at Mr. Tibbets' request, he joined a special group, stationed in Utah, that was preparing for use of the atomic bomb. Mr. VanKirk told his story many times over the years and, Thomas VanKirk said, was still fit enough early this summer to go on a family beach vacation.

Also surviving are another son, Larry VanKirk of Charlotte, N.C.; two daughters, Vicki Triplett of Atlanta and Joanne Gotelli of Sacramento, Calif; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:41 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 935. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 1:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3230. An act to improve the access of veterans to medical services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5021. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 935. An act to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify Congressional intent regarding the regulation of the use of pesticides in or near navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2772. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

S. 2773. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, for border security, law enforcement, humanitarian assistance, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 594. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act relating to Federal research on muscular dystrophy, and for other purposes.

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. SCHUMER:

S. 2774. A bill to require all recreational vessels to have and to post passenger capacity limits and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2775. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt aircraft management services from the ticket tax; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WALSH:

S. 2776. A bill to establish a Carbon Capture and Sequestration Deployment Acceleration

Fund to promote the establishment of not fewer than 10 commercial-scale carbon capture and sequestration units in the United States during the next 10 years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 536. A resolution designating September 2014 as "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 537. A resolution reaffirming support for Israel's right to defend its citizens and ensure the survival of the State of Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 654

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to improve the examination of depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of general welfare benefits provided by Indian tribes.

S. 2100

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2100, a bill to promote the use of clean cookstoves and fuels to save lives, improve livelihoods, empower women, and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

S. 2194

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2194, a bill to improve the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 2483

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2483, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect more victims of domestic violence by preventing their abusers from possessing or receiving firearms, and for other purposes.