

BOB GRAHAM, (S. 1281) to authorize further funding and oversight of the Department of Defense and Institute of Medicine activities to identify the causes of, and treatments for, injuries related to exposures to Agent Orange, radiation, and other environmental dangers by service members.

The bill also contains various measures to assure that, despite the enactment of the significant improvements contained within the bill, the bill will nonetheless be in compliance with Budget Enforcement Act strictures against the enactment of "mandatory account" spending measures without accompanying "pay-go" offsets.

S. 1132, as amended, is good legislation that is supported, on a bipartisan basis, by all of the members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Further, its key provisions are supported by VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi and by the major veterans' service organizations. I ask that the Senate approve it.

NOMINATION FOR THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the nomination of Mr. Stuart Ishimaru to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the Department of Labor was approved today by the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and I look forward to prompt confirmation of this qualified nominee by the full Senate.

Mr. Ishimaru brings a distinguished legal background and a demonstrated commitment to public service to the position.

For 10 years he served as counsel to the House Judiciary and Armed Services Committees and was a counsel and deputy assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division under Attorney General Janet Reno.

Through these positions he has helped enforce the great civil rights laws we have enacted over the last 50 years, from protections for the elderly, to protections for people with disabilities, to protection from discrimination in the workplace. And he has done so with a sense of fairness, compassion, and integrity that has earned him wide respect. I know he will continue his excellent work by enforcing our Nation's employment laws at the EEOC.

I urge my colleagues to support this well qualified nominee to the EEOC.

THE NATION'S HOSPITALS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, hospitals in the United States have enormous responsibility. The Nation's hospitals care for patients, perform surgeries, train interns, research cures to diseases, and provide millions of dollars annually for the uninsured. Their services improve Americans' health and lives and better our communities. I laud their service to Colorado and the Nation.

Recently Solucient, a company that provides health care data to improve health care results, published its list of the Nation's 100 top hospitals. Four of Solucient's designees are Colorado hospitals: Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver, Rose Medical Center in Denver, Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, and Lutheran Medical Center in Wheat Ridge. Solucient determines its selection of top hospitals according to hospitals' consistent and superior quality care, financial performance, and efficient delivery of care. According to Solucient, the Top 100 hospitals treat more, and sicker, patients with better survival rates and fewer complications.

I am pleased to acknowledge Solucient's selection of Colorado hospitals for its quality service, dedication, and commitment to providing quality health care for Colorado, the Nation, and the world. First, Solucient has recognized Saint Joe's Hospital in Denver in its studies of orthopedic and intensive care units. According to the hospital, Saint Joe delivers more babies than any other Colorado hospital, serves more patients in gastroenterology, general surgery, pulmonology, cardiac care, nephrology and rheumatology than any other acute care hospital in the Denver metropolitan area, and for the past 5 years the hospital has cared for more cardiology and open heart surgery patients than any other acute care hospital in the metro area.

Second, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center specializes in cardiology, oncology, orthopedic services, and women's health care. Lutheran Medical also provides special care to the community through its community clinics, special programs and services for the elderly, and hospice care. In addition, Lutheran Medical Center's Emergency Department has the second highest patient load in the Denver metropolitan area.

Third, with a mission of commitment to patients, Rose Medical Center in Denver asserts a reputation for high quality health care and quality customer service. Rose Medical Center specializes in women's health services, general surgery, internal medicine, pediatric care, and emergency services. Rose Medical Center also partners with philanthropic organizations to help offer services to the Colorado community. Further, Rose Medical Center is the official health care provider for the Denver Nuggets professional basketball team and the Colorado Avalanche professional hockey team.

Fourth, Solucient recognized a teaching hospital in Englewood, Colorado, Swedish Medical Center, which has six "Centers of Excellence:" the Colorado Neurological Institute, adult & pediatric trauma services, advanced radiology capabilities, cardiology services, cancer treatment services, and women's and children's services. In addition, Swedish is a Level I Trauma Center and is a leading referral center for neurotrauma. Swedish also offers services for the elderly, emergency medical

service education, and has a Family Medicine Residency Program.

I am pleased these Colorado hospitals have been recognized as leaders in quality, efficiency, and financial responsibility in institutional health care. I laud their work and am expectant for their continued high quality of care and progress for Colorado and the Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING DR. MARTHA RHODES ROBERTS

• Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a fine humanitarian and Floridian, Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts, who is retiring on October 31. Throughout her 34-year career with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts has contributed to Florida's agriculture food safety industry as a scientific authority, industry counselor, strategist, and partner in the endeavors of Florida agricultural producers. She has become an expert on minimizing food contamination for consumers, by helping to develop safer standards in food processing. Dr. Rhodes Roberts' dedication to safe food practices has enriched the lives of Floridians and Americans.

Since beginning her career with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a microbiologist in the Food Laboratory in 1968, Dr. Roberts has been a tireless advocate to ensure the food Americans eat is safe and abundant while at the same time helping the agricultural community to minimize their impacts on the environment. In addition to these achievements, she has the distinction of serving as the first female Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture for a State agency in the country. During her tenure at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Dr. Roberts was instrumental in Florida's food safety program becoming one of the preeminent State food safety programs in the country. She also has overseen the divisions of pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, agricultural water policy, soil and water conservation, animal feeds, aquaculture and dairy and animal industries during her long career with the department.

Dr. Roberts has served on several Federal advisory groups for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and she has served as president of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, comprised of all States, FDA and USDA. She was instrumental in organizing the Conference for Food Protection, a national body to set food safety standards for all States. Dr. Roberts is a member of the Institute of Food Technologists' Science Advisory Board, which provides scientific review and analysis of issues in food safety, food processing

and human health. Dr. Roberts has utilized her expertise in food safety to assist producers, packers and processors in implementing new technologies designed to minimize food contamination, ensuring the highest quality and safest food products for consumers.

In 1996, recognizing that natural resource management was critical for Florida agriculture's long term viability, Dr. Roberts advocated the creation of the Office of Agricultural Water Policy within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Today it remains the only water policy office housed within a State department of agriculture. She also spearheaded the formation of the Suwannee River Basin Nutrient Management Working Group, a 26-member public-private partnership formed to assess nutrient loadings to the Suwannee River Watershed and effect reductions via voluntary, incentive-based programs. This innovative approach has resulted in dramatic environmental benefits to the watershed as a whole. Dr. Roberts was instrumental in the establishment of the Commissioner of Agriculture's Ag-Environmental Leadership Awards Program. This program, now in its ninth year, annually recognizes those Florida growers and ranchers who employ innovative management practices designed to optimize the protection of wildlife, effectively manage pesticides and nutrients, protect water quality, and conserve soil and water.

Dr. Roberts has been recognized with numerous awards and commendations for her efforts. In 2003, she received Florida's agriculture industry's highest honor when she was inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame. Dr. Roberts has been a strong advocate of using a common sense approach when implementing a regulatory program. She helped win passage of Florida's country of origin labeling law in 1979 and worked to see this law become a Federal reality in 2002. For her many years of service ensuring the food Americans eat is safe, abundant and affordable, I am proud to acknowledge the work of Dr. Martha Rhodes Roberts. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message for the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3289) making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker of the House has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1610. An act to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 East Ritchie Avenue in Marceline, Missouri, as the "Walt Disney Post Office Building";

H.R. 1882. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Orange Blossom Trail in Orlando, Florida, as the "Arthur 'Pappy' Kennedy Post Office";

H.R. 1883. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1601-1 Main Street in Jacksonville, Florida, as the "Eddie Mae Steward Post Office";

H.R. 2075. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 West Blue Heron Boulevard in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the "Judge Edward Rodgers Post Office Building";

H.R. 2254. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Colorado Street in Boulder City, Nevada, as the "Bruce Woodbury Post Office Building";

H.R. 2309. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Redondo Avenue in Signal Hill, California, as the "Stephen Horn Post Office Building";

H.R. 2328. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2001 East Willard Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the "Robert A. Borski Post Office Building";

H.R. 2396. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1210 Highland Avenue in Duarte, California, as the "Francisco A. Martinez Flores Post Office";

H.R. 2452. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 339 Hicksville Road in Bethpage, New York, as the "Brian C. Hickey Post Office Building";

H.R. 2533. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10701 Abercorn Street in Savannah, Georgia, as the "J.C. Lewis, Jr. Post Office Building";

H.R. 2746. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 141 Weston Street in Hartford, Connecticut, as the "Barbara B. Kennelly Post Office Building"; and

H.R. 3011. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 East Olive Avenue in Burbank, California, as the "Bob Hope Post Office Building".

The enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, was signed on today, October 31, 2003, by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 1805. A bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

S. 1806. A bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufactures, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

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-4948. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Sault Saint Marie, MI" (MB Doc. No. 02-83) received on October 30, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4949. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, DTV Broadcast Stations, Conway, SC" (MB Doc. No. 03-110) received on October 30, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4950. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.622(b) and 73.606(b), Table of Allotments, DTV and TV Broadcast Stations, Pittsburgh, PA" (MM Doc. No. 01-276) received on October 30, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4951. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.606(b) and 73.622(b), Table of Allotments, DTV and TV Broadcast Stations, Asheville, NC and Greenville, SC" (MB Doc. No. 02-363) received on October 30, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4952. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.606(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Farmington, Grass Valley, Jackson, Lindon, Placerville, and Fair Oaks, CA, and Carson City and Sun Valley, NV)" (MM Doc. No. 90-189) received on October 30, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4953. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.606(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, Macon, Mississippi" (MM Doc. No. 01-38) received on October 30, 2003; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.