

our proud history. Poland's history is marked by strong, achieving women, from Queen Jadwiga, ushering in Poland's "golden age," to Marie Sklodowski Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. I learned about Polish heroes like Copernicus, Chopin and General Pulaski and General Kosciuszko. I also learned that the history of Poland has been a sometimes melancholy one. Every king, Kaiser, czar or comrade who ever wanted to have a war in Europe always started by invading Poland. But while Poland was sometimes occupied, the heart and soul of the Polish nation was never occupied.

In 1980, an obscure electrician, working in the Gdansk shipyard jumped over a wall proclaiming the Solidarity movement. He took the Polish people and the whole world with him to bring down the Iron Curtain.

I grew up with the values that our Polish community holds so dear. Values like patriotism, social justice, respect for others, hard work and loyalty. These are the values I carry with me on the floor of the Senate.

I am proud of my record of standing up for Poland: from solidarity to the Senate floor. I fought to enlarge NATO and I am so proud that Poland is now a full, contributing member, playing an important role in every NATO action. Poland has stood with our American troops in Iraq, fighting alongside from day one.

We know that Poland faces many challenges: its economy, growing international commitments and the pains from moving to a free market democracy. But I will continue to stand up for Poland, and so will the Polish Heritage Association.

Just this week, I introduced legislation to extend the United States Visa Waiver Program to Poland. I joined with Lech Walesa to stand up for Polish citizens who want to travel to the U.S. for business or tourism so they can stay for up to 60 days without needing to stand in line to get a visa. I am fighting to remove barriers so the Pulaskis and Kosciuszkos and Marie Curies of today can visit our country, to keep the doors of friendship open. Immigrants built this country; we can't close the door behind us.

I am proud to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Polish Heritage Association of Maryland, and salute this organization on the floor of the United States Senate. So many things to celebrate: a thriving Polish Community in Baltimore and 30 years of contributions to family, country, and heritage. ●

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL JEROME L. JOHNSON

● Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor an exceptional leader and true patriot. After a lifetime of service to our Nation, Jerome L. Johnson is retiring from his current position as chairman of the Military Officers Association of America, effective October 14,

2004. On this occasion, it is fitting to also recognize his 38 years of commissioned service as a naval officer and exemplary leadership as president and chief operating officer of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Admiral Johnson's career illustrates a lifelong commitment to service with honor and dedication to causes than his own self-interest.

A native Texan, he graduated from Texas A&M University, completed the Naval Aviation Cadet Program, and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy in 1956. As a naval aviator, he served with distinction in a wide range of combat, command, and staff assignments. Admiral Johnson's distinguished naval career culminated with tours of duty as commander Second Fleet, commander of NATO's Striking Fleet Atlantic, and finally as the vice chief of Naval Operations. He retired from military service in 1994 as the senior naval aviator on active duty, receiving the prestigious honorary title of the Navy's "Gray Eagle."

Admiral Johnson's selfless devotion to service and quest for excellence continued long after he left active duty. For 10 years, he served as president and chief executive officer of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, which provides financial, educational, and other assistance to active-duty and retired sailors, marines, and their family members. He also was elected to the board of directors of the Retired Officers Association in 1998, became the chairman of the board, and oversaw the organization's successful transformation into the Military Officers Association of America. Through his responsible stewardship, MOAA continues to support Congress by advocating legislative initiatives that improve readiness and quality of life for all current and retired members of our services, as well as their families.

We are grateful to Admiral Johnson for his outstanding leadership in uniform and in private life by supporting members of the Armed Forces, the military coalition, and all veterans. We offer Admiral Johnson a sharp salute, and wish him "fair winds and following seas." ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker of the House of Representatives has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 265. An act to provide for an adjustment of the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1521. An act to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1616. An act to authorize the exchange of certain lands within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for lands owned by the City of Atlanta, Georgia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1648. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution systems of the Cachuma Project, California, to the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District.

H.R. 1658. An act to amend the Railroad Right-of-Way Conveyance Validation Act to validate additional conveyances of certain lands in the State of California that form part of the right-of-way granted by the United States to facilitate the construction of the transcontinental railway, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1732. An act to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Williamson County, Texas, Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2696. An act to establish Institutes to demonstrate and promote the use of adaptive ecosystem management to reduce the risk of wildfires, and restore the health of fire-adapted forest and woodland ecosystems of the interior West.

H.R. 3209. An act to amend the Reclamation Project Authorization Act of 1972 to clarify the acreage for which the North Loup division is authorized to provide irrigation water under the Missouri River Basin project.

H.R. 3249. An act to extend the term of the Forest Counties Payments Committee.

H.R. 3768. An act to expand the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida.

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

At 2:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

S. Con. Res. 137. Concurrent resolution calling for the suspension of Sudan's membership on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

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

H.R. 2449. An act to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

H.R. 2528. An act to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3589. An act to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

H.R. 3734. An act to designate the Federal building located at Fifth and Richardson