

Mark Langdale, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica.

Brenda LaGrange Johnson, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica.

Alexander R. Vershbow, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea.

Patricia Louise Herbold, of Washington, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Singapore.

William Paul McCormick, of Oregon, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to New Zealand, and serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Samoa.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

H. Dale Hall, of New Mexico, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, vice Steven A. Williams, resigned.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Edward McGaffigan, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2010. (Reappointment)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

George M. Gray, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Lyons Gray, of North Carolina, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

FOREIGN SERVICE

PN796 Foreign Service nomination of Robert S. Connan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 29, 2005.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to address the nomination of Stewart Baker to be Assistant Secretary for Policy at the Department of Homeland Security.

Last week, when Mr. Baker's nomination came before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, I voted no. That is my position today.

Mr. Baker is an intelligent and accomplished man, but he does not have the experience necessary to fill this important post at this important time. Mr. Baker is a lawyer with experience in national security, trade, and technology. He has been widely published on topics such as cyber-security and civil liberties. I understand that he performed capably as the general counsel of the Silverman-Robb Commission on WMD intelligence capabilities. Mr. Baker might be well qualified for many positions at DHS, but he is not qualified to be Assistant Secretary for Policy.

During his confirmation hearing before our committee, Mr. Stewart testified that he expected to be the "central player" at DHS on "lessons learned" from Hurricane Katrina, to develop emergency response policy, and to be a key player on immigration reform,

among other matters. Yet when asked at his hearing if he had emergency response experience, he said "no." He also admitted to having little expertise on immigration issues.

While no one could be expected to be an expert on all of the issues addressed by DHS, it makes little sense to me to appoint a person with no emergency response experience to be the central player on lessons learned from Katrina, or to appoint a person with little immigration expertise to articulate Federal immigration policy, especially when, over the next few years, both issues—emergency response and immigration—will be so prominent at the Department. As we have learned from the Katrina disaster, we cannot afford to have inexperienced people in senior positions at DHS for on-the-job training.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL OF NOMINATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask consent that when the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs reports the nomination of Julie Myers, the nomination then be sequentially referred to the Judiciary Committee for up to 30 calendar days; provided further that if not reported by that time, the nomination be automatically discharged from the Judiciary Committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZATION SIGNING

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and senior Senator from Virginia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE ADJOURNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or nonparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by current action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, when the Senate receives from the House the adjournment resolution, the text of which is at the desk, the concurrent resolution be considered agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FUTURE STATUS OF KOSOVO

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to consider Senate Resolution 237.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 237) expressing the sense of the Senate on reaching an agreement on the future status of Kosovo.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 237) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 237

Whereas, on June 10, 1999, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1244 which authorized the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish an interim administration for Kosovo to assume the supreme legal authority in Kosovo with the task of promoting "substantial autonomy and self-governance" in Kosovo and facilitating a political process to determine the future status of Kosovo;

Whereas, on December 10, 2003, the United Nations interim administration, known as the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, presented the Standards for Kosovo document which set out the requirements to be met to advance stability in Kosovo;

Whereas the Standards for Kosovo require the establishment of functioning democratic institutions in Kosovo, including providing for the holding of elections, establishing the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government, and establishing media and civil society, the establishment of rule of law to ensure equal access to justice and to implement mechanisms to suppress economic and financial crime, and the establishment of freedom of movement in Kosovo, including the free use of language;

Whereas the Standards for Kosovo further require sustainable returns and the rights of communities and their members, improvements in economic and financial institutions, including the prevention of money laundering and the establishment of an attractive environment for investors, the establishment of property rights, including the

preservation of cultural heritage, and the development of a sustained dialogue, including a Pristina-Belgrade dialogue and a regional dialogue;

Whereas the ethnic violence that occurred in Kosovo from March 17, 2004 through March 19, 2004, represented a severe setback to the progress the people of Kosovo achieved in implementing the Standards for Kosovo and resulted in 20 deaths and damage to or destruction of approximately 900 homes and 30 Serbian Orthodox churches and other religious sites;

Whereas the bomb attacks against the people and international institutions in Kosovo that occurred from July 2, 2005 through July 4, 2005, were unacceptable events that work counter to the interests and efforts of the majority of the people of Kosovo and signal that more work must be done to promote the implementation of the Standards for Kosovo;

Whereas the status of Kosovo, which is neither stable nor sustainable, is a critical issue affecting the aspirations of Southeast Europe for stability, peace, and eventual membership in the European Union;

Whereas the authorities and institutions of Kosovo must be empowered to act independently to achieve the Standards for Kosovo so that such authorities and institutions may assume responsibility for any progress or setbacks;

Whereas 2005 must be a year of decision for representatives of Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, and the United Nations to move forward on the status of Kosovo;

Whereas the basic values of multi-ethnicity, democracy, and market-orientation must remain at the heart of any effort to resolve the question of the future status of Kosovo; and

Whereas the support of all of the people of Kosovo is required to achieve a successful outcome that addresses those basic values: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the unresolved status of Kosovo is neither sustainable nor beneficial to the progress toward stability and peace in Southeast Europe and its integration with Europe;

(2) the leaders of Kosovo and Serbia and Montenegro and the representatives of the United Nations should work toward an agreement on the future status of Kosovo and a plan for transformation in Kosovo;

(3) such agreement and plan should—
(A) address the claims and satisfy the key concerns of the people of Kosovo and the people of Serbia and Montenegro;

(B) seek compromises from both Kosovo and Serbia and Montenegro to reach an agreement;

(C) promote the integration of Southeast Europe with the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(D) reinforce efforts to encourage full cooperation by the governments of Kosovo and of Serbia and Montenegro with the International Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia;

(E) promote stability in the region and take into consideration the stability of democracy in Kosovo and in Serbia and Montenegro;

(F) promote the active participation of Serbians in Kosovo in elections and in the government of Kosovo; and

(G) require the fulfillment of the Standards for Kosovo, the requirements that the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo established to advance stability in Kosovo, in accordance with prior commitments and in support of the initiation of discussions on status with particular emphasis on the problem of human rights in minority communities;

(4) the anticipated discussions of the long-term status of Kosovo should result in a plan for implementing the Standards for Kosovo, particularly with regard to minority protections, return of property, and the development of rule of law as it relates to the improvement of protection of minorities, the return of internally displaced persons, the return of property, and the prosecution of human rights violations; and

(5) Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro, and the United Nations, during the negotiations related to the long-term status of Kosovo, should require—

(A) increased monitoring and reporting of the progress on the implementation of the Standards for Kosovo and any incidents of human rights violations, and should broaden the involvement of minorities and community-level representatives in monitoring, reporting, and publicizing that progress;

(B) that the authorities and institutions of Kosovo be given greater authority and independence in fulfilling the Standards for Kosovo, including assuming the responsibility for any setbacks and progress and acquiring experience in assuming greater autonomy; and

(C) a broad public awareness campaign to raise awareness of both the plan to resolve the question of the status of Kosovo and the requirements for the transition of Kosovo to a permanent status, including the importance of the progress in implementing the Standards for Kosovo and the necessity of ensuring peace and suppressing all forms of discrimination and violence so that the region may move forward toward a future of greater prosperity, stability, and lasting peace.

EXTENDING AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3765 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will please report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3765) to extend through December 31, 2007, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments (Nos. 2057 and 2058) were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2057

(Purpose: To modify the reauthorization period of a certain water resource program)

On page 2, line 10, strike "December 31, 2007" and insert "March 31, 2006".

AMENDMENT NO. 2058

Amend the title so as to read: "To extend through March 31, 2006, the authority of the

Secretary of the Army to accept and expand funds contributed by non-Federal public entities and to expedite the processing of permits."

The bill (H.R. 3765), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future editing of the RECORD.)

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 271, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 271) designating the week beginning October 16, 2005, as "National Character Counts Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 271) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 271

Whereas the well-being of the Nation requires that the young people of the United States become an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas the character education of children has become more urgent as violence by and against youth increasingly threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character and the positive effects that good character can have in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and that, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by institutions and individuals that influence youth, to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas, although character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, the efforts of faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play an important role in fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas Congress encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the importance of character education in preparing young people to play a role in determining the future of the Nation;