

Colonel Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc, Sr., passed away on Thursday, November 22, 2007. Colonel DeBlanc was the last living World War II Medal of Honor recipient from Louisiana. Although he did not perceive his achievement as a fighter pilot as out of the ordinary, many Louisianans will long remember the gallantry, bravery, and valor he exhibited throughout his life.

Thus, today, I am proud to rise to honor a fellow Louisianan, Colonel Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc, Sr., and thank him for his dedicated and tireless service to our country. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1396. An act to authorize a major medical facility project to modernize inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

S. 1896. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office".

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

H.R. 3793. An act to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the continued payment to a member of the uniformed services who dies or is retired or separated under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, bonuses and similar benefits that the member was entitled to before the death, retirement, or separation of the member and would be paid if the member had not died, retired, or separated, to prohibit requiring the member to repay any portion of the bonuses or similar benefits previously paid, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that in accordance with the request of the Senate, the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, and all accompanying papers are hereby returned to the Senate.

At 3:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 863. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1216. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

H. J. Res. 72. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 660.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 660) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1585. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2761. An act to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3648. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principle residences from gross income, and for other purposes.

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

At 5:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3996) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the resolution from the Senate (S. Con.

Res. 61) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives, do pass with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2499. An act to amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 4040. An act to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker reappoints the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2009: Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew of the District of Columbia, and Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of Great Falls, Virginia.

At 6:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to Amendment #2 of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2640) to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1916. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the program for the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees by terminating the authority for the removal of chimpanzees from the system for research purposes.

S. 2436. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

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

H.R. 4839. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOYER) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2271. An act to authorize State and local governments to divest assets in companies that conduct business operations in Sudan, to prohibit United States Government contracts with such companies, and for other purposes.

S. 2488. An act to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

H.R. 366. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Earnest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

H.R. 3996. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 19, 2007, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

S. 597. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

S. 2174. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building".

S. 2484. An act to rename the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development as the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

S.J. Res. 13. Joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.J. Res. 15. Joint resolution recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 254. Concurrent resolution recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 3793. To amend title 37, United States Code, to require the continued payment to a member of the uniformed services who dies or is retired or separated under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, bonuses and

similar benefits that the member was entitled to before the death, retirement, or separation of the member and would be paid if the member had not died, retired, or separated, to prohibit requiring the member to repay any portion of the bonuses or similar benefits previously paid, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4040. An act to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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-4442. A communication from the Regulatory Officer, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Timber Sale Contracts; Purchaser Elects Government Road Construction" (RIN0596-AC40) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4443. A communication from the Regulatory Officer, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Modification of Timber Sale Contracts in Extraordinary Conditions; Noncompetitive Sale of Timber" (RIN0596-AB70) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4444. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of General William T. Hobbins, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4445. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Mark-to-Market Program Revisions" (RIN2502-AH86) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4446. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Closure (New Jersey 2007 Summer Flounder Commercial Fishery)" (RIN0648-XE00) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4447. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Final Temporary Rule for Interim Measures to Address Overfishing of Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper During 2007" (RIN0648-AT87) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4448. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

"Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Halibut in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XE00) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4449. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement 2008 First Season Atlantic Shark Commercial Management Measures" (RIN0648-AV93) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4450. A communication from the Regulatory Officer, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 1, Approval of Operations" (RIN0596-AC20) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4451. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, two documents recently issued by the Agency related to its regulatory programs; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4452. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Nevada; Washoe County 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 8509-2) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4453. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Glufosinate-ammonium; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 8342-3) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4454. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan; South Dakota; Revisions to New Source Review Rules" (FRL No. 8509-4) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4455. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Area Sources: Clay Ceramics Manufacturing, Glass Manufacturing, and Secondary Nonferrous Metals Processing" ((RIN2060-AM12)(FRL No. 8508-5)) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4456. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Area Sources: Electric Arc Furnace Steelmaking Facilities" ((RIN2060-AM71)(FRL No. 8509-5)) received on December 18, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4457. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office