

deepest appreciation for sharing this outstanding soldier and humanitarian with us. Ben was a true national hero, and his many contributions made significant and lasting impacts throughout the world. You may be justifiably proud of his contributions which extend above and beyond the call of duty.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am deeply concerned by the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the eastern and northeastern regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In the east, the FDLR rebels have deliberately and brutally targeted civilians in response to a new military offensive, while the Congolese military—an undisciplined force now including several former militias—has also targeted civilians with killings, rapes, and looting amidst ongoing operations. Last week, a coalition of 84 humanitarian agencies released a report stating that more than 1,000 civilians have been killed and nearly 900,000 displaced in eastern Congo since January. In addition, the United Nations reports that there have been over 5,000 cases of rape in South Kivu Province in the first 6 months of this year alone, and that number is increasing. With the offensive continuing and the onset of the dry season, the level of violence is likely to increase in the months ahead.

Meanwhile, Doctors without Borders reported last week that hundreds of thousands of people in northeastern Congo are fleeing from renewed attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army. For two decades, the LRA operated in northern Uganda and southern Sudan, but they have shifted their base of operations in recent years into northeastern Congo. This year, facing renewed pressure from a cross-border Ugandan military offensive, the LRA have scaled up their attacks on civilians, killing an estimated 1,200 Congolese and abducting 1,500 in the first 6 months alone. Ongoing Ugandan military operations have reportedly had some success, but the LRA leader Joseph Kony continues to evade capture and his forces exploit the region's porous borders. The Congolese military has deployed new forces to the northeast, but their inability to protect civilians from the LRA and their own abuses against civilians have only made things worse.

Over the last decade, the people of eastern Congo have already lived through violent conflict and humanitarian crisis. According to the best estimates, more than 5.4 million people have been killed, making this the single deadliest conflict since the Second World War. Millions have been displaced from their homes, forced to live in squalid conditions. Women and girls and even some men and boys in the Congo have endured horrific levels of sexual violence. Yet, rather than coming to an end of this nightmare, I am worried that Congo is now entering an-

other chapter of it. Without a clear and viable plan for civilian protection, continuing military operations and deployments will likely lead to further reprisal attacks by armed groups and greater displacement. At the same time, without real progress to demilitarize the economy and reform the Congolese military, any security gains are likely to be short-lived.

I was very pleased that Secretary Clinton chose to travel to eastern Congo during her trip to Africa in August and pledged \$17 million in new funds to address the sexual violence there. I also know the State Department has been exploring ways to build on her historic visit. And last week, the United States hosted meetings with our European and U.N. partners under the auspices of the Great Lakes Contact Group to discuss our collective efforts going forward. This is all well and good. I hope the international community will take immediate steps to bolster civilian protection and humanitarian access in both the east and northeast. But as we go forward, we also need to finally get serious about pressing regional governments to address the underlying causes of the conflict: the continued plunder and militarized trade of eastern Congo's rich mineral base, the region's porous and unregulated borders, outside support of armed groups, and the lack of accountability and discipline in the Congolese army.

Addressing these issues will not be easy. But continuing to rely on half-measures and focusing on the symptoms offer little hope of ending Congo's crises. It is time for a comprehensive and concerted international effort toward the Congo and the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and I am confident that there is no better administration in recent history to lead such an effort. President Obama has already demonstrated his commitment to and understanding of this issue with his work on the DRC Relief, Security and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006. Secretary Clinton was reportedly the most senior U.S. Government official to ever visit eastern Congo. And finally, Johnnie Carson is perhaps the most experienced Assistant Secretary for African Affairs that we have ever had. Together, we have an opportunity to reverse the trends and address Congo's crises—both in the east and with the LRA—and I hope we will seize it. For Africa, few achievements could be more important for the sake of regional stability and saving lives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure today to congratulate the Union Missionary Baptist Church on its 100th anniversary. This wonderful church was the first African-

American Baptist church in Lansing, established by a small group of worshippers meeting in a living room. In 2001, the congregation built a Family Life Center, which ministers to the community with classrooms, a computer lab, a chapel, a prayer garden, and a commercial kitchen. The congregation today consists of over 700 members.

The church has been blessed by excellent leadership over the years. The first pastor was Rev. H.C. Randolph, who was succeeded by many other distinguished pastors over the years, including Rev. G.W. Carr, Rev. J.G. Bruce, Rev. S.L. Johnson, Rev. Norris Jackson, Rev. Joel L. King (uncle of Dr. Martin Luther King), Rev. Charles J. Patterson, and the current pastor, a wonderful leader and a dear friend, Rev. Melvin T. Jones.

Throughout its great history, Union Missionary Baptist Church has enriched the lives of thousands of people who have come through its doors to worship. It has been my privilege to work with Reverend Jones over the years. He and his church truly reflect what Paul urged of the Galatians: "Whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all." I congratulate Reverend Jones and the congregation, and I look forward to participating in the church's centennial celebrations. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3319. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Gullwing Street in Portola, California, as the "Army Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery Post Office Building".

H.R. 3763. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide for an exclusion from Red Flag Guidelines for certain businesses.

H.R. 3819. An act to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime.

At 1:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1818. An act to amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to honor the legacy of Stewart L. Udall, and for other purposes.

At 3:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1793. An act to amend title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the program for providing life-saving care for those with HIV/AIDS.

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

S. Con. Res. 43. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to former Senator Edward Brooke.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1818. An act to amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to honor the legacy of Stewart L. Udall, and for other purposes.

H.R. 621. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

H.R. 2892. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3319. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 South Gullwing Street in Portola, California, as the "Army Specialist Jeremiah Paul McCleery Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3763. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide for an exclusion from Red Flag Guidelines for certain businesses; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3819. An act to extend the commercial space transportation liability regime; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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-3423. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Supplemental Foods Programs Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC): Vendor Cost Containment" (RIN0584-AD71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3424. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3425. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert Wilson, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3426. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Ronald S. Coleman, United States Ma-

rine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3427. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Terry L. Gabreski, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3428. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3429. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Production Incentives for Cellulosic Biofuels; Reverse Auction Procedures and Standards" (RIN1904-AB73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3430. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Approval of Tungsten-Iron-Fluoropolymer Shot Alloys as Nontoxic for Hunting Waterfowl and Coots; Availability of Final Environmental Assessment" (RIN1018-AW46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2008; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3431. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Repairs to American Vessels" ((CPB Dec. 09-40)(RIN1505-AB71)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3432. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments to List of User Fee Airports: Removal of User Fee Status for Roswell Industrial Air Center, Roswell, New Mexico and March Inland Port Airport, Riverside, California and Name Change for Capital City Airport, Lansing, Michigan" (CPB Dec. 09-39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3433. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Malignant Neoplastic Diseases" (RIN0960-AG57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3434. A communication from the Office Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rate, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2010" (RIN0938-AP48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3435. A communication from the Office Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Part A Premium for Calendar Year 2010 for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" (RIN0938-AP43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3436. A communication from the Office Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts for Calendar Year 2010" (RIN0938-AP42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 668. A bill to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-90).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. HARKIN for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Craig Becker, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2009.

*Craig Becker, of Illinois, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2014.

*Brian Hayes, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2012.

*Mark Gaston Pearce, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2013.

*Rolena Klahn Adorno, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014.

*Marvin Krislov, of Ohio, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014.

*Robert James Grey, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2011.

*John Gerson Levi, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2011.

*Martha L. Minow, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2011.

*Julie A. Reiskin, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2010.

*Gloria Valencia-Weber, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2011.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to