

stress disorder, or who were victims of traumatic brain injuries. Countless veterans in South Dakota have been able to make it to their VA appointments because of the DAV's transportation network and Gene's efforts in this area. Gene has brought awareness and education to elected officials and the general public on veterans mental health issues. He is keenly aware that military service impacts family members of veterans as well and has been an advocate on their behalf, too. Gene has also been instrumental in working to get the American Veterans' Disabled for Life Memorial built in Washington, DC, serving on the foundation's board of directors and as the treasurer of the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, Inc.

The native South Dakotan has been hawkish on budget issues facing the VA, making sure that the voices of veterans—young and old—are heard. Any effort to minimize, decrease or eliminate services to veterans would meet a stern challenge from Gene Murphy. He is aware of the financial impacts of increased copayments on indigent veterans. He remains steadfastly passionate that veterans, no matter what category or priority they are placed in, receive the full faith and commitment of their government when it comes to care and benefits.

I have always been impressed by Gene's passion and commitment to veterans, their families and their issues—whether it be a widow seeking benefits, a veteran seeking consideration of their overdue claim, or an era of veterans seeking compensation due to chemical exposure in a war zone. I have always valued and appreciated Gene's input on the plethora of issues impacting veterans. During my early years in Congress, Gene was very helpful in providing me with a better understanding of the many important issues facing veterans and their families, and I have relied upon Gene's insight on such issues throughout my congressional career. Gene never sugar-coats his requests or his statements; it is always done with candor and frankness. Nobody can second-guess Gene Murphy's passion for veterans.

Although Gene's term as adjutant of the South Dakota Disabled American Veterans is scheduled to end with the South Dakota DAV's State convention, and there are rumors that Gene may be stepping back from his consistently full plate of activities on behalf of South Dakota's and the Nation's veterans, I cannot believe that Gene's voice will be silent. I hope he will continue to provide me with advice and counsel on veterans issues.

I commend the lifetime of work by Gene Murphy on behalf of the Nation's veterans. I congratulate him on his numerous awards and the leadership roles he has held and taken for veterans over the past many decades. Veterans and their families have a true advocate in Gene Murphy and are better off today because of him. I commend his work

with the DAV and other veterans organizations and wish Gene and his wife Eldine well in his retirement.●

#### 2013 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—PM 8

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit the 2013 National Drug Control Strategy, my Administration's blueprint for reducing drug use and its consequences in the United States. As detailed in the pages that follow, my Administration remains committed to a balanced public health and public safety approach to drug policy. This approach is based on science, not ideology—and scientific research suggests that we have made real progress.

The rate of current cocaine use in the United States has dropped by 50 percent since 2006, and methamphetamine use has declined by one-third. New data released this year suggest that we are turning a corner in our efforts to address the epidemic of prescription drug abuse, with the number of people abusing prescription drugs decreasing by nearly 13 percent—from 7 million in 2010 to 6.1 million in 2011. And the number of Americans reporting that they drove after using illicit drugs also dropped by 12 percent between 2010 and 2011.

While this progress is encouraging, we must sustain our commitment to preventing drug use before it starts—the most cost-effective way to address the drug problem. The importance of prevention is becoming ever more apparent. Despite positive trends in other areas, we continue to see elevated rates of marijuana use among young people, likely driven by declines in perceptions of risk. We must continue to get the facts out about the health risks of drug use and support the positive influences in young people's lives that help them avoid risky behaviors.

The Strategy that follows presents a sophisticated approach to a complicated problem, encompassing prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery support, criminal justice reform, effective law enforcement, and international cooperation.

I look forward to working with the Congress and stakeholders at all levels in advancing this 21st century approach to drug policy.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 24, 2013.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY) announced that on today,

April 24, 2013, he had signed the following enrolled bill, previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 1246. An act to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to provide that the District of Columbia Treasurer or one of the Deputy Chief Financial Officers of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia may perform the functions and duties of the Office in an acting capacity if there is a vacancy in the Office.

At 2:30 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1067. An act to make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements.

H.R. 1068. An act to enact title 54, United States Code, "National Park Service and Related Programs", as positive law.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Holding of North Carolina.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1067. An act to make revisions in title 36, United States Code, as necessary to keep the title current and make technical corrections and improvements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1068. An act to enact title 54, United States Code, "National Park Service and Related Programs", as positive law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 788. A bill to suspend the fiscal year 2013 sequester and establish limits on war-related spending.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 799. A bill to provide for a sequester replacement.

#### 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-1290. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methyl Jasmonate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9382-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 15, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.