

United States trading partner and has the 11th largest economy in the world. The Chamber of Commerce in Korea expects that demand for travel to the United States by Koreans may increase. This should be encouraged, rather than discouraged, especially when other countries are offering Korean travelers visa-free travel.

I encourage my colleagues to look into the merits of this legislation and support its ultimate passage.●

COMMANDER JOHN J. JASKOT

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and Senator BREUX to say thank you to a dedicated public servant whose career serves to remind us that it is honest hard work and devotion to duty that makes this Government work.

Comdr. John J. Jaskot, United States Coast Guard, has served on Capitol Hill since 1992, first as a Coast Guard Congressional Fellow to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and most recently as the Coast Guard's Liaison Officer to the U.S. Senate. During his tenure on Capitol Hill, Commander Jaskot has proven his unquestionable integrity and steadfast loyalty while demonstrating the tireless commitment to putting forth the effort required to make a difference.

Mr. President, Senator BREUX and I, and our staffs, have worked extensively with Commander Jaskot in achieving our shared objectives. In cases where those objectives were not mutually shared, it has been Commander Jaskot who has helped bridge the gap between the Senate and the Coast Guard. His untiring work ethic and creativity have helped find solutions to some challenging problems which would otherwise have tarnished the already embattled reputation of the Federal Government.

On issues specific to Louisiana, Commander Jaskot has ensured that a proper dialog has been maintained on tough issues such as the enforcement of the use of the contentious Turtle Excluder Devices [TEDs] by the Gulf Coast shrimp fleet, the placement of aides to navigation on the newly opened Red River Waterway, and the replacement of the dangerous Florida Avenue Bridge. He has made similar efforts on issues of national and international scope such as the implementation of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Haitian and Cuban refugee crises, and maintaining funding to help keep our waterways operating safely.

More importantly, Mr. President, through his hard work, ingenuity, integrity, and genuine good nature, Commander Jaskot has proven that it is people who really make the difference between a government that works for its people and one that fails. We can all learn from his example, that on local, as well as national issues, an individual can make a difference. Commander Jaskot certainly has.

Commander Jaskot is retiring after 20 years of highly decorated public service in the United States Coast

Guard. Senator BREUX and I thank him for his dedication to our country and wish he and his family "fair winds and following seas" in their future endeavors.

SYCAMORES HAVE BEEN FELLED; WE WILL GROW CEDARS INSTEAD

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, the Members of the Senate are familiar with Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz's historic contribution both to the field of Jewish scholarship and to the resurgence of Jewish life in the former Soviet Union. In 1989, Rabbi Steinsaltz founded the Judaic Studies Center and synagogue in the Kunseva section of Moscow, the first such new school in the Soviet Union since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. I am privileged to serve on the center's board of advisors and to have hosted Rabbi Steinsaltz on his all-too-infrequent trips to Washington, DC.

It is my unpleasant duty to share with the Senate the disturbing news that a fire of undetermined nature broke out last Friday night, July 12, in Rabbi Steinsaltz's Judaic Studies Center. All 50 students and worshipers in the building at the time were safely evacuated. Except for the Torah scrolls which were saved from the raging flames, the entire building was destroyed, including thousands of books and other equipment.

The center had been a focal point of Russian Jewish life since its establishment. It was the key spiritual center for thousands and the first Jewish institution of learning officially permitted to function during the Glasnost period. During its years of operation, more than 1,000 Russian Jews were enrolled in intensive Judaic studies courses and many thousands more attended seminars and workshops. On Jewish holidays hundreds of Jews flocked there for communal celebrations.

When the fire broke out, the center was hosting a seminar for Jewish communal workers from cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Cities such as Chellabinsk, Siberia, Berdichev, Ukraine, and Vitebsk, Belarus, had sent one representative each for an intensive 3-month course in Jewish and communal service studies. Graduates of this program are expected to return to their native cities—far from the major Jewish centers—and apply what they have learned.

Rabbi Steinsaltz, who is best known for his monumental modern commentary on the Talmud, was recently given the title of Duchovny Ravin—an historic title connoting the spiritual leader of Russian Jewry.

In Jerusalem, Rabbi Steinsaltz responded to the news by quoting Isaiah 9:9. "Bricks have fallen—we will rebuild with dressed stone. Sycamores have been felled—we will grow cedars instead."

I know I speak for the entire Senate and for all Americans who cherish reli-

gious freedom and scholarship when I add my words of consolation and encouragement to Rabbi Steinsaltz on this occasion.●

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK—S. 1965

Mr. STEVENS. On behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1965, introduced earlier today by Senator HATCH, be held at the desk and printed in the RECORD.

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

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be immediately discharged from further consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 64 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 64) to recognize and honor the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals and their important contribution to the outcome of World War II.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

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

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution appear in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 64) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 64

Whereas the Commonwealth of the Philippines was strategically located and thus vital to the defense of the United States during World War II;

Whereas the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines were called into the United States Armed Forces during World War II by Executive order and were put under the command of General Douglas MacArthur;

Whereas the participation of the military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor and in other smaller skirmishes delayed and disrupted the initial Japanese effort to conquer the Western Pacific;

Whereas that delay and disruption allowed the United States the vital time to prepare the forces which were needed to drive the Japanese from the Western Pacific and to defeat Japan;

Whereas after the recovery of the Philippine Islands from Japan, the United States