Mr. Speaker, I am going to close in just about 2 or 3 minutes and yield back my time to the Chair, but I want to close this way by saying that I am a person who believes that this country's strength is the fact that we are a Nation under God, and those people that are opposed to this legislation, in my opinion, do not either understand the history of America and the history of the Johnson amendment, or they are for whatever reason concerned about the churches and the synagogues having the freedom, the total freedom of speech that they enjoyed in 1953, that was taken away from them in 1954.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, with the help of my colleagues, and I thank the Democrats who have joined me in this effort, we will continue to fight this battle for returning the First Amendment to our churches and synagogues.

I want to close by a certain way I close in my district every time I speak, and that is to ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the Members of Congress, both House and Senate, and their families. I ask God to please bless the President of the United States as he has some very difficult decisions in the days ahead of him, as we do. And I always close by saying three times, I ask God to, please, God, please, God, please, continue to bless America.

HONORING GENERAL BERNARD A. SCHRIEVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PENCE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for the remainder of the majority leader's hour, 44 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for his courageous stand, and his desire to ask for the Almighty's blessings on this country again and again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bernard A. Schriever, United States Air Force (retired), for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States of America.

He was born in Bremen, Germany in 1910. Bernard Schriever came to America in 1917 and became a naturalized citizen in 1923. After graduating from Texas A&M, he began his military career in 1931 as an Army artillery officer, later transferring to the Army Air Corps for flight school and flying 36 combat missions during World War II. In 1943, General Schriever became chief of staff for the Maintenance and Engineering Division of the Fifth Air Force Service Command, and then commander of the advance headquarters, Far East Service Command, which supported theater operations from bases in Hollandia, New Guinea, Leyte, Manila, and Okinawa.

He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in August 1943 and then to full colonel in December at the young age of 33.

Following World War II, General Schriever was assigned to the position of Chief of the Scientific Liaison Section under the Deputy Chief of Staff for Materiel, Army Air Force headquarters, and while in that post, he developed planning documents that linked ongoing research and development efforts with long-range military planning.

In 1954, the Air Force's highest priority was the development of the first intercontinental ballistic missile, the Atlas, and soon thereafter development of that missile became a top national priority under the Eisenhower administration to counter the Soviet nuclear threat. At that time the Soviet Union had produced nuclear and thermonuclear bombs and was pursuing an aggressive rocket technology program culminating in the October 1957 launch and orbit of the Sputnik satellite.

General Schriever led the development of the new United States ballistic missile program and headed the Western Development Division, later called the Ballistic Missile Division, which was solely responsible for planning, programming and developing the intercontinental ballistic missile. In fact, the size and funding of the Western Development Division was actually larger than the Manhattan Project.

On December 17, 1957, the Air Force conducted the first successful test launch of an Atlas missile, and by 1963 the Strategic Air Command had deployed 13 Atlas missile squadrons with nearly 120 missiles on alert to meet the contemporary Soviet Union threat. General Schriever oversaw the simultaneous development of the Atlas missile and the intermediate-range ballistic missile, Thor, which achieved an initial operating capability in 1959. Furthermore, the more advanced Titan intercontinental ballistic missile reached initial operating capacity by April 1962. And by October of 1962, 10 Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles were placed in service in response to the Cuban missile crisis.

Mr. Speaker, it is nothing short of amazing that General Schriever's efforts produced, within only 8 years, four complete missile systems for the United States, each system being more advanced and more complicated than its predecessor. Both the Atlas and the Titan systems were modified and became the workhorses for America's space program, and the Atlas missile is still used as a satellite launch vehicle today.

General Schriever retired in 1966 as a four star general, and continued his service to the United States as a member of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the Defense Science Board, and the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization Advisory Committee. His expertise is still sought in the continuous development of America's space systems.

Walter J. Boyne, former director of the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, wrote, ''Today's navigational, meteorological, intelligence, and communication satellites owe their existence to the work of Schriever and his team.'' Furthermore, the Air Force in its official biography of General Schriever recognizes him as ''the architect of the Air Force's ballistic missile and military space program.''

Furthermore, the Falcon Air Force base outside of Colorado Springs was renamed the Schriever Air Force Base.

Mr. Speaker, during my service in the United States Air Force, I had the opportunity to work on many of the systems that General Schriever and his team pioneered. His name was spoken with an air of reverence, and the enormity of his accomplishments in developing a viable deterrent to the Soviet threat and ensuring American predominance in space was not lost on all of the Air Force personnel. I remember an article in Air Force News back in 1999 where General Schriever stated, ''We envisioned that space would become critical to our warfighters. Even back in the 1950s when we were talking about deterrent capabilities, we believed space would become an important factor. Nowadays, thanks to space, in the first few days of a conflict, we can shut their eyes, ears and their ability to talk. Then you can apply your forces with much less risk. Just look at what happened in the Persian Gulf and the Balkans, entirely different from Korea and Vietnam. Space had everything to do with that.''

General Schriever continues to uphold that premise, as he recently stated at a ceremony last month honoring space and missile pioneers when he said, ''We have to be number one in space. We need to keep that position to deter that kind of capabilities to make war.''

Mr. Speaker, America's dominance in space today is due in large part to the leadership, talent, and selfless service of General Bernard A. Schriever. I stand here today to state that Congress recognizes and honors him for his dedication and service to the United States Air Force, for his essential service in the development of the United States ballistic missile program, and for his lifetime of work to enhance the security of the United States.

Thank you, General Schriever. God bless you, and God bless America.

HONORING JOHNNY UNITAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the untimely death

of Johnny Unitas, whom I think everyone would agree is the greatest football quarterback of all time.

Johnny, ''The Golden Arm,'' died Wednesday, September 11, 2002 of a heart attack at age 69. The Hall of Famer came to Baltimore from Pittsburgh to work for Bethlehem Steel at Sparrow's Point. He played for the Baltimore Colts from 1956 until 1973.

The Baltimore Sun described Johnny's legacy perfectly: ''Baltimoreans fell in love with a plain-spoken, roughhewn hero who epitomized their city of steelworkers and longshoremen.'' Unitas retired in 1973, holding 22 NFL records. He completed at least one touchdown pass in 47 straight games, a record that no one has even come close to matching. He did that during the years from 1956 through 1960. He led the Baltimore Colts to the NFL championship in 1958 and 1959, and the Super Bowl in 1970. Johnny Unitas was inducted into the Football Hall of Fame in 1979.

On the NFL's 50th anniversary, Johnny was voted the greatest quarterback of all times. With the aid of national television, Johnny catapulted the NFL into the public's eyes every day, driving the growing popularity of professional football.

Mr. Speaker, he was responsible for developing the national phenomenon of enjoying football the way we do today.

Johnny's trademark hunched shoulders, crew cut, black high-top cleats and stern look found a home in the heart of every Baltimorean. I was a teenager when Johnny Unitas played for the Colts. I remember fondly the days of his 18-year NFL career. More than a football player, Johnny touched the community with his devoted service to charitable causes; he was kind, warmhearted and affable.

This past week I had the opportunity to be with him at Towson University. He was continuing his community service. He never denied a person an autograph, not because he thought he was a star, but he knew that he would disappoint the youngster, or even an older person, if he would not give that person his autograph. He was always available to help in our community for charitable events.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Johnny Unitas, a legacy not only in Baltimore, but across the Nation. On the field, he will always be known as No. 19, but he will surely remain number one in our hearts. We offer our condolences to his family. We will always remember what he has meant to professional football, and what he has meant to Baltimore.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ACKERMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for September 11 and 12 on account of official business.

Mr. BONILLA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of family medical reasons.

Mr. ISSA (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending President Bush's address to the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.

Mr. MCHUGH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today until 11:00 a.m. on account of meetings at the White House.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BAIRD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BALLENGER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CARDIN, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 13, 2002, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9082. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agiculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregan, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin; Order Amending Marketing Agreement and Order No. 930 [Docket Nos. AO-370-A7; FV00-930-1] received September 6, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9083. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV02-987-1 FR] received August 29, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9084. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Celery Grown in Florida; Termination of Marketing Order No. 967 [Docket No. FV98-967-1 FR] received August 29, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9085. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Revision of Handling Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches [Docket No. FV02-916-1 FIR] received August 29, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9086. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hass Avocado Promotion, Research, and Information Order [FV-01-705-FR] (RIN: 0581-AB92) received September 6, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9087. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Change in the Minimum Maturity Requirements for Fresh Grapefruit [Docket No. FV02-905-2 IFR] received September 6, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9088. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Navy, Case Number 98-01, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

9089. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the summary of amounts for Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) programs in the Former Soviet Union, pursuant to Public Law 105—85 section 1409 (111 Stat. 1962); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9090. A letter from the Under Secretary, Deaprtment of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on Nuclear-Powered Submarine Force Structure; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9091. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report entitled, ''Recommendations from the U.S. Secretary of Defense For Additional Emergency Procurement Authority To Support Anti-Terrorism Operations''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

9092. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Performance of Security Functions [DFARS Case 2001-DO18] received September 6, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

9093. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Certification of Disclosure in Companies' Quarterly and Annual Reports [RELEASE NOS. 33-8124, 34-46427, IC-25722; File No. S7-21-02] (RIN: 3235-AI54) received September 6, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

9094. A letter from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits — received September 9, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

9095. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergency Response Criteria (RIN: 0930-AA09) received September 6, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9096. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: United