

memories of their captivity have faded over the years, but today the number 660177 is the number of freedom—the number of the aircraft that reunited them with their friends and families.

Notable passengers on board the “Hanoi Taxi” include retired Navy Rear Admiral Jeremiah Denton, who later served as a United States Senator. Then Air Force Captain Ed Mechenbier also was a passenger. Today, Brigadier General Ed Mechenbier still serves his country in the United States Air Force Reserve. The significance of the “Hanoi Taxi” is best illustrated by the following comments General Mechenbier provided in a recent interview:

This airplane is more than a tribute to the POW's that were fortunate to be released in 1973. It reminds us of the service of more than a million Viet Nam era veterans, and it says to those POW/MIA's who did not share in our joy, you are not forgotten.

This week our Nation honors the sacrifices and dedication to duty, honor and country that those Missing in Action and former Prisoners of War have provided. As we remember the sacrifice that has been made, let us not forget the continuing sacrifice that our present members of our armed forces have made as we forge pathways of peace in an ever changing environment of world events.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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 which were referred to the appropriate communities.

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

REPORT CONCERNING THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1997—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 155

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 Foreign Relations.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report of the activities of the United States Government in the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during the calendar year 1997. The report is required by the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79-264; 22 U.S.C. 287b).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 14, 1998.

REPORT ON THE NATION'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN AERONAUTICS AND SPACE DURING FISCAL YEAR 1997—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 156

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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit this report on the Nation's achievements in aeronautics and space during fiscal year (FY) 1997, as required under section 206 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2476). Aeronautics and space activities involved 13 contributing departments and agencies of the Federal Government, and the results of their ongoing research and development affect the Nation in many ways.

A wide variety of aeronautics and space developments took place during FY 1997. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully completed eight Space Shuttle flights. There were 23 successful U.S. Expendable Launch Vehicle (ELV) launches in FY 1997. Of those, 4 were NASA-managed missions, 2 were NASA-funded/Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-licensed missions, 5 were Department of Defense-managed missions, and 12 were FAA-licensed commercial launches. The Mars Pathfinder spacecraft and Sojourner rover captured the public's attention with a very successful mission. Scientists also made some dramatic new discoveries in various space-related fields such as space science, Earth science and remote sensing, and life and microgravity science. In aeronautics, activities included work on high-speed research, advanced subsonic technology, and technologies designed to improve the safety and efficiency of our commercial airlines and air traffic control system.

Close international cooperation with Russia occurred on the Shuttle-Mir docking missions and on the International Space Station program. The United States also entered into new forms of cooperation with its partners in Europe, South America, and Asia.

Thus, FY 1997 was a very successful one for U.S. aeronautics and space programs. Efforts in these areas have contributed significantly to the Nation's scientific and technical knowledge, international cooperation, a healthier environment, and a more competitive economy.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 14, 1998.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3 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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2538. An act to establish a Presidential commission to determine the validity of certain land claims arising out of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo of 1848 involving the descendants of persons who were Mexican citizens at the time of the Treaty.

H.R. 2863. An act to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify restrictions under that Act on baiting, to facilitate acquisition of migratory bird habitat, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3892. An act to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to help children and youth learn English, and for other purposes.

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

S. 2112. An act to make the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 applicable to the United States Postal Service in the same manner as any other employer.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3694) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for the consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. GOSS, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BASS, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DIXON, Mr. SKAGGS, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. SKELTON, and Mr. BISHOP.

From the Committee on National Security, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SPENCE, Mr. STUMP, and Ms. SANCHEZ.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2538. An act to establish a Presidential commission to determine the validity of certain land claims arising out of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo of 1848 involving the descendants of persons who were Mexican citizens at the time of the Treaty; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2863. An act to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify restrictions under that Act on baiting, to facilitate acquisition of migratory bird habitat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 3892. An act to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a program to help children and youth learn English, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.