

tonight, but wish to commend the Association for all of its hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our Nation. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

God bless the Spina Bifida Association and God bless America.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER RONALD JAMES VAUK

● Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to a wonderful man, Lieutenant Commander Ronald James Vauk, whose life was cut short on September 11, 2001, while he was doing what he loved to do, serving his country. He was a Reservist on duty as Watch Commander at the Naval Command Center when terrorists attacked the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. This tragedy was not only a savage blow to the United States, but will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of a loving family, a strong Idaho community, and many loyal friends.

Ron was a devoted husband and good father who was born to Dorothy and Hubert Vauk and raised in Nampa, ID. He was the youngest of nine children and attended St. Paul's Catholic School and Nampa High School, graduating in 1982. I had the pleasure of recommending Ron for an appointment to the United States Naval Academy after he served a year as an enlisted sailor. He graduated the Naval Academy in 1987 and married an incredible young woman by the name of Jennifer Mooney. Ron had an exemplary career as a Naval Officer and submariner, serving on both the USS Glenard P. Lipscomb and the USS Oklahoma City. His love for the Navy continued with his service as a Reservist and a project manager for the Delex Corporation and then as an assistant group supervisor in submarine technology for the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Ron's work at Johns Hopkins was extremely important, but he was always ready to serve our Nation as a Naval Reserve Officer whenever called upon. He was a quiet genius who wasn't afraid to work hard to get the job done. And, he was a very good man who loved his family and was devoted to his wife Jennifer and their pride and joy, Liam, who is almost four years old. The entire family is excited and looking forward to the upcoming birth of Ron and Jennifer's second child, expected in November.

Ron will also be sorely missed by his parents, Dorothy and Hubert, and their eight other grown children. Ron's brothers and sisters all came together to be with Jennifer and son Liam at their home in Mt. Airy, MD. They are Charles Vauk, of Boise, Teri and Bill Masterson, Carson City, NV; Celia and Ken Shikuma, Huntington Beach, CA;

David and Suzie Vauk, Nampa; Lynne and Alan Caba, Nampa; Gary and Julie Vauk, Grapevine, TX; Patricia Vauk and Paul Wilson, Minneapolis, MN; and Dennis and Donna Vauk, Houston, TX. Ron is also survived by his father and mother-in-law Patrick and Carol Mooney of Baltimore, and sister and brother-in-law Alissa and Chris DeBoy of Mt. Airy, MD, and 18 nieces and nephews. I know I speak for all my colleagues in the Senate in expressing my profound sorrow to the Vauk family for their loss.

LCDR Ronald James Vauk was awarded the Purple Heart in the name of the United States President for his ultimate sacrifice. General George Washington, this Nation's Founding Father, established the Badge of Military Merit in 1782 as a means of recognizing courage and steadfastness in actual combat against the enemies of our Country. From the original three Badges of Military Merit awarded by General Washington, we now have the Purple Heart. Lcdr Vauk was one of the first casualties of the War on Terrorism. Rest assured, this war will be won and the United States will continue to lead the world in protecting freedom. Ron was at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, because he was bravely doing what he believed in and what needed to be done. He was a thorough professional who believed in his country and his duties as a Naval Officer.

On Monday I visited Jennifer, Liam and members of the Vauk family. Jennifer is a remarkable woman, who bears the burden of this tragedy with tremendous grace and dignity. I am very proud to recognize Lcdr Ronald Vauk and tell him and his family, Thank you from a grateful Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 169. An act to require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of

antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws, to require that each Federal agency post quarterly on its public Web site, certain statistical data relating to Federal sector equal employment opportunity complaints filed with such agency; and for other purposes.

H.R. 203. An act to amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a pilot program to provide regulatory compliance assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1161. An act to authorize the Government of the Czech Republic to establish a memorial to honor Tomas G. Masaryk in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 1384. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route in Arizona and New Mexico which the Navajo and Mescalero Apache Indian tribes were forced to walk in 1863 and 1864, for study for potential addition to the National Trails System.

H.R. 1456. An act to expand the boundary of the Booker T. Washington National Monument, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2385. An act to convey certain property to the city of St. George, Utah, in order to provide for the protection and preservation of certain rare paleontological resources on that property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2666. An act to amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a vocational and technical entrepreneurship development program.

H.J. Res. 42. Joint resolution memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The message also announced that the House has disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2904) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes and has agreed 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: Mr. HOBSON, Mr. WALSH, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GOODE, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. OLVER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. BOYD, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. OBEY.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1860. An act to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1583. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 West Spring Street in New Albany, Indiana, as the "Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

NOTE: In the RECORD of September 19, 2001, on page S9503, the following items were inadvertently omitted:

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 7:18 p.m., message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 231. A concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1424. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of "S" visa non-immigrants.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 169. An act to require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 203. An act to amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a pilot program to provide regulatory compliance assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1384. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Navajo Long Walk to Bosque Redondo as a national historic trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1456. An act to expand the boundary of the Booker T. Washington National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2385. An act to convey certain property to the city of St. George, Utah, in order to provide for the protection and preservation of certain rare paleontological resources on that property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2666. An act to amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a vocational and technical entrepreneurship development program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4217. A communication from the Associate General for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to Cost Limits for Native American Housing" (RIN2577-AC14) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4218. A communication from the White House Liaison, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination confirmed

for the position of General Counsel, Department of Education, received on September 26, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4219. A communication from the Director of the Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4220. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report on the Operations of the Office of Workers Compensation Programs for Fiscal Year 2000; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4221. A communication from the Inspector General, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the commercial inventory report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4222. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, Office of Insurance Programs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Enrollment in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program to Enroll in TRICARE" (RIN3206-AJ36) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4223. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, Workforce Compensation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Regulation on Pretax Allotments for Health Insurance Premiums" (RIN3206-AJ16) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4224. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions and Clarifications to the Export Administration Regulations—Chemical and Biological Weapons Controls: Australia Group; Chemical Weapons Convention" (RIN0694-AC43) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4225. A communication from the Deputy Legal Counsel, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Funds Availability Inviting Applications for the Community Development Financial Institutions Program—Core and Intermediary Components" received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4226. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) Kosovo Sanctions Regulations; Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) Milosercic Regulations" received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4227. A communication from the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Biomass Research and Development Initiative; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4228. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tuber-

culosis in Cattle, Bison, and Captive Cervics; State and Zone Designations" (Doc. No. 99-092-2) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4229. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Limiting the Volume of Small Red Seedless Grapefruit" (Doc. No. FV01-905-11FR) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4230. A communication from the Acting Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Suspension of Continuing Assessment Rate" (Doc. No. FV01-948-21FR) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4231. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebufenozide; Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6804-3) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4232. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Waiver of Advance Notification Requirement to Import Acetone, 2-Butanone (MEK), and Toluene" (RIN1117-AA53) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4233. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4234. A communication from the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2000 Activities of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and the 2000 Judicial Business of the United States Courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4235. A communication from the Acting Director of Endangered Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Scaleshell Mussel" (RIN1018-AF57) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4236. A communication from the Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Ohlone Tiger Beetle (Cincindela ohlone)" (RIN1018-AF89) received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4237. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidelines for Implementing the Three Percent Set-Aside Provision Contained in the State and Tribal Assistance Grants Account Section of the Agency's Fiscal Year Appropriations Act" received on October 1, 2001; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.