

CONGRATULATING RUTH ABBEY

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Ruth Abbey of Malta, MT on her 99th birthday. Ruth is a pillar of her community and an inspiration to many, including her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Ruth was a teacher for many years and subsequently served as County Superintendent of Schools.

Ruth is exemplary of our Montana way of life, and I am honored to offer my congratulations on this special occasion.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in West Chester, OH. On September 11, 2001, a member of the West Chester's Islamic Center was brutally attacked in the mosque's parking lot. After the beating, members of the Islamic Center received a series of physical threats and the mosque was forced to close its doors.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

ART STEPHENSON'S EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to Art Stephenson, former Director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

Mr. Stephenson joined Marshall in 1998, and has overseen the Center's work on critical NASA initiatives such as development of new reusable launch vehicles, Space Shuttle propulsion, advanced space transportation systems, research in microgravity, and science payload operations aboard the International Space Station, as well as the launch and continuing successful operation of the Chandra X-ray Observatory. Under his guidance the National Space Science Technology Center, a NASA partnership with local universities conducting cutting-edge propulsion research, was established and ground was broken for the critical Propulsion Research Laboratory.

For his exceptional contributions to the space program and the nation, Art Stephenson has been recognized with the NASA Outstanding Leadership

Medal, the NASA Group Achievement Award, and the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal. In 2001, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by The University of Alabama System and was selected by the American Society for Engineering Management as the 2001 Engineering Manager of the Year. In 2002, he received the Career Achievement Award from the University of Redland, CA. Most recently, he was selected as the 2003 Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Award recipient by the Huntsville, AL, chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He also received the 2003 Community Service Award from Oakwood College in Huntsville, AL.

The multiple honors and awards Art received are an indication of his devotion to our country and his dedication to NASA. Without question, Art Stephenson is a man of honor and ability, and I would like to add my thanks to those provided by so many others. His work has been given to the success of the NASA programs and he has done so without ever seeking personal gain or glory. I have been extraordinarily impressed with his integrity and commitment to service.

The State of Alabama, NASA, and the nation are immensely proud of Art's service. He will be missed by his colleagues at Marshall Space Flight Center and those at NASA Headquarters. Our Nation owes a great deal to the Stephenson family. Art's vision pushed us all toward the ultimate goal of space exploration. His vision and that goal are both worth noting today, and I am pleased to bring them to the attention of the Senate.●

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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of January 7, 2003, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 30, 2003, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution:

H.R. 2350. An Act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2474. An Act to authorize the Congressional Hunger Center to award Bill Emerson and Mickey Leland Hunger Fellowships for fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

Under the authority of the order of January 7, 2003, as modified on June 27, 2003, the enrolled bills were signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN) on June 30, 2003.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:18 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a voluntary program for prescription drug coverage under the Medicare Program, to modernize the Medicare Program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction to individuals for amounts contributed to health savings security accounts and health saving accounts, to provide arrangements, and for other purposes.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolutions were read, and held over, under the rule.

S. Res. 192. An executive resolution to discharge the David W. McKeague nomination.

S. Res. 193. An executive resolution to discharge the Susan Bieke Neilson nomination.

S. Res. 194. An executive resolution to discharge the Henry W. Saad nomination.

S. Res. 195. An executive resolution to discharge the Richard A. Griffin nomination.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on July 2, 2003, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 858. An act to extend the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST:

S. Res. 192. An executive resolution to discharge the David W. McKeague nomination; which was ordered to lie over, under the rule.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. Res. 193. An executive resolution to discharge the Susan Bieke Neilson nomination; which was ordered to lie over, under the rule.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. Res. 194. An executive resolution to discharge the Henry W. Saad nomination; which was ordered to lie over, under the rule.

By Mr. FRIST:

S. Res. 195. An executive resolution to discharge the Richard A. Griffin nomination; which was ordered to lie over, under the rule.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 11

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S.