

environment and labor issues and to establish mechanisms to support those efforts. The FTA obligates each country to enforce its own labor and environmental laws and makes clear that domestic labor or environmental protections may not be reduced in order to encourage trade or investment. The Agreement also preserves our right to pursue other legitimate domestic objectives, including the protection of health and safety, consumer interests, and national security.

Trade and openness contribute to development, the rule of law, economic growth, and international cooperation. Singapore is a close partner of the United States, and this Agreement will strengthen those ties.

With the approval of this Agreement and passage of the implementing legislation by the Congress, we will advance U.S. economic, security, and political interests, while encouraging others to work with us to expand free trade around the world.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2003.

LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO IMPLEMENT THE UNITED STATES-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—PM 45

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 Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Agreement will further open Chile's markets for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, services, and investors. It will increase competition and consumer choice. The FTA will enhance prosperity in the United States and Chile, serve the interest of expanding U.S. commerce, and advance our overall national interest.

The U.S.-Chile FTA is the first United States free trade agreement with a South American country. We hope the FTA will add momentum to Chile's continued implementation of the free market economic policies that have made Chile a model for its Latin American neighbors. This Agreement will also encourage other countries in the Western Hemisphere to follow Chile's path, furthering our efforts to establish a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

My Administration is strongly committed to securing a level playing field for America's workers, farmers, and businesses. The Congress helped advance that policy by passing Trade Promotion Authority in the Trade Act of 2002 (the "Trade Act"). The Congress can help us take another important step by approving this Agreement and the implementing legislation. United

States workers and businesses are currently at a competitive disadvantage in the Chilean market. Chile is an associate member in Mercosur and has FTAs with many other countries, including Canada, Mexico, and the 15 members of the European Union. Securing an FTA with Chile will ensure that U.S. workers and businesses will receive treatment in the Chilean market that is as good as or better than their competitors.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the negotiating objectives set out in the Trade Act. More than 85 percent of trade in consumer and industrial goods between the United States and Chile will be free of duties immediately upon implementation, and most remaining tariffs on U.S. exports to Chile will be eliminated within 4 years after that. More than three-quarters of U.S. farm goods will enter Chile duty free within 4 years and all duties on such goods will be phased out over 12 years. At the same time, the Agreement includes measures to ensure that U.S. firms and farmers have an opportunity to adjust to imports from Chile.

This Agreement opens opportunities for our services businesses, which now account for nearly 65 percent of our gross domestic product and more than 80 percent of employment in the United States. Chile will grant substantial market access to U.S. firms across nearly the entire spectrum of services, including banking, insurance, securities and related financial services, express delivery services, professional services, and telecommunications.

This Agreement provides for state-of-the-art intellectual property protection and recognizes the importance of trade in the digital age by including significant commitments on trade in digital products. In addition, it ensures that electronic commerce will stay free of duties and discriminatory rules.

United States citizens and businesses that invest in Chile will have significant increased protections. This Agreement promotes rule of law and enhances transparency and openness in order to foster a more secure environment for trade and investment. Furthermore, Chile will provide U.S. investors with important substantive protections that Chilean investors already enjoy in the United States.

The United States and Chile have also agreed to cooperate on environment and labor issues and to establish mechanisms to support those efforts. A number of important cooperative projects that will promote environmental protection are identified for future work. The FTA encourages the adoption of high labor and environmental standards, obligates each country to enforce its own labor and environmental laws, and makes clear that domestic labor and environmental protections may not be reduced in order to encourage trade or investment. The Agreement also preserves our right to pursue other legitimate domestic ob-

jectives, including the protection of health and safety, consumer interests, and national security.

Trade and openness contribute to development, the rule of law, economic growth, and international cooperation. Chile is a close partner of the United States, and this Agreement will strengthen those ties.

With the approval of this Agreement and passage of the implementing legislation by the Congress, we will advance U.S. economic and political interests, while encouraging others to work with us to expand free trade around the world.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 15, 2003.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:17 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 709. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2330. An act to sanction the ruling Burmese military junta, to strengthen Burma's democratic forces and support and recognize the National League of Democracy as the legitimate representative of the Burmese people, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2673. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House had agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 215. A concurrent resolution honoring and congratulating chambers of commerce for their efforts that contribute to the improvement of communities and the strengthening of local and regional economies.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1) 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 savings accounts, to provide for the disposition of unused health benefits in cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, 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:

For consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendments, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr.

DELAY, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. BERRY.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 7:03 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 bill:

S. 709. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Prime Minister Tony Blair.

MEASURE REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 215. Concurrent resolution honoring and congratulating chambers of commerce for their efforts that contribute to the improvement of communities and the strengthening of local and regional economies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-181. A joint resolution adopted by the Assembly of the State of Nevada relative to trade between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, it is our belief that it is the responsibility of the United States to promote the values of freedom, democracy, and a commitment to open markets and the free exchange of both goods and ideas both at home and abroad; and

Whereas, the Republic of China on Taiwan shares these values with the United States and has struggled throughout the past 50 years to create what is today an open and thriving democracy; and

Whereas, the United States must continue to support the growth of democracy and ongoing market opening in Taiwan if this relationship is to evolve and reflect the changing nature of the global system in the 21st Century; and

Whereas, despite the fact that Taiwan only recently became a member of the World Trade Organization and that it has no formal trade agreement with the United States, Taiwan has nevertheless emerged as the United States' eighth largest trading partner; and

Whereas, American businesses and workers have benefited greatly from this dynamic trade relationship, most recently in the computer and electronics sector; and

Whereas, Taiwan is a gateway to other Pacific Rim markets for United States exports, helping to preserve peace and stability within the entire region; and

Whereas, United States agricultural products have been particularly underrepresented in the list of United States exports to the region despite the importance of the market for growers of corn, wheat and soybeans; and

Whereas, a free trade agreement would not only help Taiwan's economy dramatically expand its already growing entrepreneurial class, but it would also serve an important political function; and

Whereas, the United States needs to support partner countries that are lowering trade barriers; and

Whereas, Taiwan has emerged over the past two decades as one of the United States' most important allies in Asia and throughout the world; and

Whereas, in the interest of supporting, preserving and protecting the democratic fabric of the government of the Republic of China on Taiwan, it is made clear that the United States supports the withdrawal of missiles deployed as a threat against Taiwan by the People's Republic of China; and

Whereas, Taiwan has forged an open, market-based economy and a thriving democracy based on free elections and the freedom of dissent; and

Whereas, it is in the interest of the United States to encourage the development of both these institutions; and

Whereas, the United States has an obligation to its allies and to its own citizens to encourage economic growth, market opening, and the destruction of trade barriers as a means of raising living standards across the board; and

Whereas, a free trade agreement with Taiwan would be a positive step toward accomplishing all of these goals; and

Whereas, the United States should also support the entry of Taiwan into the World Health Organization, the United Nations and other relevant international organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge President George W. Bush and Congress to support a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan; and be it further

Resolved, That United States policy should include the pursuit of some initiative in the World Trade Organization that will give Taiwan meaningful participation in a manner that is consistent with the organization's requirements; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of State, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the Senate, the Government of Taiwan, the World Trade Organization and the members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-82. A resolution from the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the Combat Medical Badge; to the Committee on Armed Services.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the United States Army has denied the Combat Medical Badge to personnel of the 91 MOS who were assigned to duty aboard helicopter ambulances (DUSTOFF); and

Whereas, from 1962 through 1973, 496,573 missions were flown by DUSTOFF and more than 900,000 casualties were safely evacuated; and

Whereas, DUSTOFF missions are more hazardous than other rotary-wing operations as proven by the aircraft loss rate versus insertion and extraction missions; and

Whereas, the bravery and the medical skills of the aeromedic functioning in the heat of hard combat has often meant the difference between survival and death; and

Whereas, aeromedical personnel are able to triage and provide necessary emergency medical treatment en route to a definitive care facility, and many medics leave the helicopter to load multiple casualties, often under the intense enemy fire unarmed medevacs attract; and

Whereas, selective expansion of the Combat Medical Badge award occurred in the Persian Gulf War when the United States

Army Chief of Staff authorized if for medics assigned to armor and ground cavalry units; and

Whereas, the conduct of the Persian Gulf War was characterized by armor and ground cavalry operations, while airmobile operations dominated the Vietnam War from logistics to combat to medevac; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation requiring the retroactive award of the Combat Medical Badge to all Vietnam personnel serving in the 91 MOS who were assigned to helicopter ambulances; and be it further

Resolved, That no inference of any diminution of the prestige of this award be assigned to the lawful and realistic expansion of eligibility; and be it further

Resolved, That initial presentations of the Combat Medical Badge be received by survivors of aeromedical personnel whose names appear on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President, presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania

POM-183. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to funding for the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 71

Whereas, for over a century, the American Red Cross has served as a link between the people of the United States and their Armed Forces; and

Whereas, under its Congressional Charter of 1905, the American Red Cross is entrusted to deliver emergency messages to members of the Armed Forces and their families; and

Whereas, Military commanders around the world rely on the Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services (AFES) to verify the need to approve leave for military personnel, and to provide financial support to enable them to return home when necessary; and

Whereas, in order to meet the Department of Defense requirements for emergency leave verification, Red Cross AFES is on call every hour of everyday and night for 13 million service members and their families; and

Whereas, the Red Cross AFES program maintains a global emergency communications network supported by 392 employees and 28,000 volunteers located in 961 chapters across the nation, on 108 military installations around the world, and at two AFES Centers located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Falls Church, Virginia; and

Whereas, Michigan's 26 Red Cross chapters and its work on three installations provided emergency communications assistance to 6,238 military personnel and their families in fiscal Year 2002. Since last July, the American Red Cross in Michigan has seen a 43% increase in the number of military cases served over last year; and

Whereas, Operation Enduring Freedom, the war on terrorism, and the Iraq conflict have placed increased demands on this vital program. The Red Cross and Congress can no longer rely on charitable contributions from the American public to support this required service, especially during the current economic downturn: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize Congress to include funding for the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services in the National Defense Authorization Act and the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2004 to help fund costs associated with AFES