

and defend lives and property of our citizens. With courage, compassion and devotion to duty they epitomize the phrase "public servant." Indeed, I am honored to humbly recognize this noble profession and this outstanding individual, Chief James Bennett, on the occasion of his retirement.

I ask that you join me in paying tribute to Chief Bennett on this milestone and ask that you also recognize his devoted wife Kaiji who this June retired from her own career as an elementary school secretary after many years of loyal service. As a grateful community we recognize the immense contributions made by people like James and Kaija Bennett to the cherished quality of life in this great Nation. Please join me and the Bennett's wonderful daughters, Kerrie and Stacie, their many friends and colleagues in this much deserved retirement celebration.●

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.)

MEASURES REFERRED—on September 11, 2003

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

H.R. 911. An act to authorize the establishment of a memorial to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1538. An act to posthumously award congressional gold medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and perished and to people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who helped resist the hijackers and caused the plane to crash, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America, recognizing the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2433. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans who participated in certain Department of Defense chemical and biological warfare testing with health care for their illness without requirement for proof of service-connection; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2595. An act to restore the operation of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program during fiscal year 2003 to the scope of that program as in effect on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2622. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act, to prevent identity theft, improve resolution of consumer disputes, improve the accuracy of consumer records, make improvements in the use of, and consumer access to, credit information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following concurrent resolution was ordered held at the desk by unanimous consent:

S. Con. Res. 68. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Johnny Cash.

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-258. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to antiterrorism funding; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-259. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey relative to increasing the minimum allotment for the Food Stamp Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

POM-260. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to stronger protections for Lake St. Clair, the Heart of the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

POM-261. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the Protect Children from E-Mail Smut Act of 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-262. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire relative to the Telemarketing Sales Rule and the Know Your Caller Act of 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-263. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to reopening La Linda Bridge as a border crossing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-264. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the history of a slave quarters located on the site of the planned Liberty Bell Pavilion; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-265. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to legislation that would ban bear baiting on Federal lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-266. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to nuclear power; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-267. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to Pennsylvania's veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

POM-268. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the Second Regiment United States Sharpshooters, Company C, during the Civil War; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-258. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to antiterrorism funding; to the Committee on Appropriations.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, The heinous terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, have deeply impacted the fabric of American life, provided a wakeup call to every American's awareness of the nation's vulnerability to terrorists attacks, and changed Americans' lives forever; and

Whereas, Californians are gravely concerned about the continued threat of violence and their own personal safety; and

Whereas, The takeover of airplane flights by unconscionable terrorists has increased the need for security by state and local governments at all airports and public facilities, including water systems, hospitals, bridges, and dams; and

Whereas, Recent horrific incidents of sending anthrax through the mail, other threats of bioterrorism, and hoaxes have increased demands upon public services, including public health departments and laboratories, public safety and fire protection agencies, hospitals, and emergency rooms, and state and local emergency response agencies; and

Whereas, City and county governments have experienced an increased awareness and demand from the general public for more public services in the area of public health and safety; and

Whereas, Cities and counties have appropriated millions of dollars for increased response and preparedness for potential terrorist threats and anticipate the need for additional funds to continue these efforts; and

Whereas, In this period of economic uncertainty and unprecedented need for enhanced local public safety and health services, cities and counties cannot afford these increased costs of security without additional funding; and

Whereas, There may be continued terrorism activities in California. For example, in San Diego County investigations revealed that some of the hijackers of September 11, 2001, were training in San Diego training facilities in preparation for the attacks; and

Whereas, Public safety officials require specialized training at all levels and local governments have seen an increased demand for additional personnel to effectively protect and serve citizens in the event of a major local incident; and

Whereas, Hazardous material teams lack the specialized equipment and protective gear to deal with bioterrorism and new public health threats; and

Whereas, Due to the continued bioterrorism threats and hoaxes, public health departments need additional staff to increase their surveillance activities for the identification of biological and chemical threats at the earliest possible stage; and

Whereas, Local health departments are the early warning system in the defense against bioterrorism; local health departments rely on strong linkages with other county agencies including emergency medical services, hospitals, county outpatient services, laboratories, mental health departments, and environmental health agencies in preparing for and responding to disasters; and

Whereas, The budgets of many public health departments have been neglected for several years, and in order to assure an adequate response, if necessary, to any potential bioterrorism threat, public health infrastructure needs significant investment of state and federal resources. For example, Orange County has identified the need for \$2.1 million for public health infrastructure and training in order for their public health system to respond to a public health crisis; and