

a feeling about this guy as he was referred to Mr. Melendez for secondary questioning, since he did not speak English. After questioning al-Qahtani and discovering many holes in his story—holes about why he was there, how long he was going to stay, who was going to meet him—and it is thought, very possibly, that it was the hijacker pilot of the first plane that went into the World Trade Center who was the guy upstairs to pick him up—Mohamed Atta. We don't know that for sure. But also there was the fact that he didn't have a return ticket or enough cash to purchase one.

After having that uneasy feeling about none of these answers and a very belligerent manner, by the way, by the man being questioned, Mr. Melendez put it into his own hands to make the decision that he was going to have him arrested, put into detention, and sent back the next day on a plane. By refusing al-Qahtani entry into the country, Mr. Melendez very well may have helped save many additional lives on September 11.

So this is a proud professionalism in the Immigration Service which so often gets nothing but complaints. I think it is time for us to stand up and salute Mr. Melendez and his service. He modestly protested to me last Friday that he was only doing his job. But we know because of the replicated actions of folks like him being done every day, not only in our Border Patrol and other immigration activities, but in the State Department and in decisions being made as to whether or not to grant a visa in embassies around this country, and with all of our intelligence services as they are making these decisions day by day, hour by hour, it is working to protect us.

Mr. Melendez has shown us what correct protection of our borders looks like. Now we want to rededicate and congratulate all of the hard-working colleagues at the Department of Homeland Security. We want to provide them with the resources they need to protect our borders and the ports of entry. Dedicated security personnel are not there to make travel more difficult; they are there to make us safer. Mr. Melendez in this instance apparently prevented the compounding of a national tragedy on September 11, 2 years ago.

Mr. President, I thank you for the opportunity that I could recognize a wonderful American, an American who spent 27 years in the U.S. Army.

When Mr. Melendez retired, he decided to continue his Federal service, in this case with the Immigration Service. He is a wonderful American who has a big family centered in Orlando, with nine grandchildren spread over several cities and some back in his native Puerto Rico.

I am very proud today to share his story so our colleagues in the Senate might also recognize his brand of modest heroism.

I thank the Chair.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### ANGEL ARELLANO

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize Angel Arellano's efforts in raising funds for the Chaffee Zoo in Fresno, CA.

On Thanksgiving Day, after listening to a family conversation about the Chaffee Zoo's financial struggles, Angel Arellano, a 9-year-old girl from Fresno, CA, wrote a letter to the editor of the Fresno Bee. Her letter contained \$1.00 and urged all Fresno residents to match her donation to help pay for the Chaffee Zoo's much needed repairs. Miss Arellano's letter expressed her anguish at the animals' precarious future. She wrote that the animals deserved food, water, and a warm home. Her plea sparked a movement to save the zoo. Her heartfelt letter caught the attention of past and present Fresno residents, inspiring thousands of individuals to send donations, ranging from \$1.00 to \$10,000.00. Currently, total pledges and donations have reached nearly \$180,000.00 and have come from as far away as Great Britain.

Angel Arellano's concern motivated people in Fresno and around the world to help save a Fresno institution. Her letter conjured memories of past visits to the zoo and reminded people of the joy felt by children when visiting with family while spending a Sunday in the sunshine, enjoying one of Fresno's treasures.

Angel is a wonderful example of one person making a difference. To her, I say thank you. She has set a great example for all of us.●

#### 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

At 9:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House insist upon its amendment to the bill (S. 1920) to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11 of the United States Code is reenacted, and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon. Ordered, That the following Members be the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of the bill and the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. HYDE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CANNON, Ms. HART, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. WATT of North Carolina.

From the Committee on Financial Services, for consideration of sections 901-906, 908-909, 911, and 1301-1309 of the House amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. OXLEY, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. SANDERS.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 11054 of the Antitrust Modernization Commission Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 1 note), and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Speaker appoints the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Antitrust Modernization.

Commission: Mr. Donald G. Kempf, Jr., of New York, New York; Mr. John L. Warden of New York, New York.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-6027. A communication from the Auditor of the District of Columbia, transmitting, a report entitled "Fiscal Year Annual Report on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6028. A communication from the Auditor of the District of Columbia, transmitting, a report entitled "Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C for Fiscal Years 1999 Through 2003 as of March 31, 2003"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6029. A communication from the Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's 2003 Annual Report; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6030. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-238, "Comprehensive Housing Strategy Act of 2003" received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6031. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-239, "Nurse Staffing Agency Act of 2003" received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6032. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-240, "Authorization of the Spending of the Commercial Trust Fund Temporary Act of 2003" received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6033. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of D.C. Act 15-241, "Freedom Forum Newseum Real Property Tax Exemption and Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Temporary Act of 2003" received on January 13, 2004; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.