

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, 25 years ago, on April 12, 1981, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It marked the beginning of a historic two day mission, and more importantly, it was the first of many future shuttle missions. I am pleased to support passage of H. Con. Res. 366, commemorating this important anniversary.

I applaud the tremendous bravery of the STS-1 crew—Commander John W. Young and Pilot Robert L. Crippen—on accomplishing the mission safely and successfully. This anniversary is a testament to the thousands of people who worked to bring the Space Shuttle Program to life and to those who have sustained it throughout the years.

The Space Shuttle Program brought our Nation commercial and government satellite deliveries, in-orbit satellite repairs, delivery of large science observatories such as the Hubble Space Telescope, Space Lab science missions, historic dockings with the Russian Mir Space Station and assembly of the International Space Station.

Since the STS-1 launch in 1981, this Nation has launched more than 100 flights. Sadly, the *Challenger* and *Columbia* were lost in 1986 and 2003, respectively. What we learned about safety in spaceflight, brought by the sacrifices of the *Challenger* and *Columbia* crews, has made our space program stronger.

Today the great challenge facing our space program is one of transition. We must complete the construction of the station and retire the shuttle fleet with dignity. And equally important, we must work together to preserve the workforce that will soon become the backbone of the new Crew Exploration Vehicle and the next human space project.

With the 25th anniversary of STS-1, let us all rededicate ourselves to the unfinished mission of exploration and discovery. Let us pledge to complete the journey that Commander Young and Pilot Crippen began by returning safely to flight with STS-121 later this summer, and move forward in leading the world in space exploration.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 366) was agreed to.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN DULY ENROLLED BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the

adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and senior Senator from North Carolina be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session; provided further that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following Coast Guard nominations: PN 1332, PN 1333, PN 1334, and PN 1335; provided further that the Senate proceed to their consideration; I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, with the motions to reconsider laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment as Commander, Atlantic Area of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under Title 14, U.S.C., Section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. David B. Peterman, 8115

The following named officer for appointment as Commander, Pacific Area of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under Title 14, U.S.C., Section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Charles D. Wurster, 7274

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under Title 14, U.S.C., section 50a:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Robert J. Papp, 7417

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard in the grade indicated under Title 14, U.S.C., section 47:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Vivien S. Crea, 5806

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 382 until 2 p.m. on Monday, April 24. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. We will return after the Easter/Passover break and begin consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill. As I indicated earlier, there will be no votes on Monday, April 24. However, Senators will be able to come to the floor for opening statements on the supplemental bill. We will begin consideration of the bill on Tuesday, and therefore votes will occur on Tuesday.

We also have two district judges on the calendar and may well schedule votes on them on that Tuesday as well.

I certainly wish everyone a restful and safe break.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2006, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 382.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:34 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 24, 2006, at 2 p.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF REAR ADM. DAVID B. PETERMAN TO BE VICE ADMIRAL.
COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF REAR ADM. CHARLES D. WURSTER TO BE VICE ADMIRAL.
COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT J. PAPP TO BE VICE ADMIRAL.
COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF VICE ADM. VIVIEN S. CREA TO BE VICE ADMIRAL.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Friday, April 7, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DORRANCE SMITH, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.
THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDER, ATLANTIC AREA OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. DAVID B. PETERMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS COMMANDER, PACIFIC AREA OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CHARLES D. WURSTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 50A:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ROBERT J. PAPP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE COMMANDER OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 47:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. VIVIEN S. CREA