

and Social Security. In particular, Members and their staffs came to depend on Kathy's thorough knowledge of the Social Security Program as they developed proposals for addressing the program's financial status and benefit structure. She also made major contributions to CBO's reports on the economic and budget outlook and the re-estimates of the President's budget. Her analyses always displayed those characteristics of CBO's reports that we in the Congress most value—impartiality, clarity, and comprehensiveness. In fact, Kathy was a principal architect of the formats of many tables on which the Budget Committee has come to rely so heavily.

The Congress will feel the loss of a dedicated public servant who selflessly worked extraordinary hours in helping us advance the legislative process. We will miss Kathy's expertise and counsel.

I know that I speak for all of the Members who have served on the Budget Committees of the House and Senate during the past 25 years and all of our staff when I express our gratitude to Kathy for all of her contributions to the legislative process. ●

#### MESSAGES 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 having proceeded to reconsider the bill (H.R. 810) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, it was resolved, that the said bill do not pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives not agreeing to pass the same.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS) reported that he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 5117. An act to exempt persons with disabilities from the prohibition against providing section 8 rental assistance to college students.

At 12:23 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2389. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the Pledge of Allegiance.

H.R. 5683. An act to preserve the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3711. A bill to enhance the energy independence and security of the United States by providing for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes.

#### 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-7585. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the date on which a report on the budgeting of the Department of Defense for the sustainment of key military equipment will be submitted; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7586. A communication from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, (3) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Department, received on July 17, 2006; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7587. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2006-2007 Marketing Year" (Docket No. FV06-985-2 IFR) received on July 13, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7588. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus Thuringiensis CryIA.105 Protein and the Genetic Material Necessary for Its Production in Corn in or on All Corn Commodities; Temporary Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8076-5) received on June 13, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7589. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2005 Statement on System of Internal Controls, audited financial statements, and Report of Independent Auditors on Internal Control over Financial Reporting; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7590. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's 92nd Annual Report, which covers the Board's operations for calendar year 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7591. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's semiannual Monetary Policy Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7592. A communication from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that funding for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a result of the influx of evacuees from

areas struck by Hurricane Katrina beginning on August 29, 2005, and continuing, has exceeded \$5,000,000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7593. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Debt Interest Payment Charges" ((RIN2502-AI41)(FR-4945-F-01)) received on July 17, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7594. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Agreement on the Establishment of the ITER International Fusion Energy Organization for the Joint Implementation of the ITER Project"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7595. A communication from the Director, Minerals Management Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations and Leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)—Recovery of Costs Related to the Regulation of Oil and Gas Activities on the OCS" (RIN1010-AD23) received on July 18, 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7596. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 06-155-06-169); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7597. A communication from the Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Development Assistance and Child Survival and Health Programs Fund; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7598. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Section 589 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Act, 2006 ("the Act") in regards to permitting the continued use of funds appropriated by the Act for assistance to the Government of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7599. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual report on the continued compliance of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan with the 1974 Trade Act's freedom of emigration provisions, as required under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7600. A communication from the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a program to be initiated in Nepal by the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### 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-393. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Florida relative to urging Congress to support a National Catastrophe