

even more critical to recognize the first genocide of the 20th Century. We must send a message that genocide and genocide denial will never be tolerated.

To that end, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of Senator RICHARD DURBIN's S. Res. 106, calling on the President to accurately characterize the Armenian Genocide in his annual message around April 24 and to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian genocide.

It is important that we recognize the Armenian genocide while its survivors are still with us to tell their stories. We must recognize the genocide for the survivors. We must recognize the genocide because it is the right thing to do. We must recognize the Armenian genocide to help shed light on the darkness and move toward a more humane world.

VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to explain to the Senate my absence during today's vote to invoke cloture on S. 372, the Intelligence Authorization Act.

I am in Florida, and my flight was due to arrive in Washington this afternoon. However, because of the inclement weather, my flight was delayed and I am still in Tallahassee.

I am a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and I have already voted in favor of this measure. As such, had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye" on the resolution.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GERALD E. HARMON, M.D.

● Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, today I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Dr. Gerald E. Harmon, MD, on the occasion of his retirement from the South Carolina Air National Guard, SCANG. A native South Carolinian, "Gamecock Doc" joined the military in 1973 as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Air Force, USAF after graduating from the University of South Carolina USC. He began studying medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina through the Air Force Health Professions Scholarship Program achieving his M.D. in 1976.

Dr. Harmon completed his family practice residency at Eglin AFB in Florida. After fulfilling several USAF flight surgeon assignments in Texas and South Carolina, he transferred to the SCANG to serve as the commander of the 169th Tactical Clinic at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. Under his leadership, his unit was

twice awarded the SCANG Outstanding Unit award and received "Excellent" evaluations by the USAF Inspection Agency.

In 1992, President George H. W. Bush recognized Dr. Harmon for his medical humanitarian work in Africa, and both in 1998 and 2003 the South Carolina General Assembly recognized him as the Doctor of the Day for his unselfish duty and devotion to the medical profession. Dr. Harmon was also a recipient of the American Heart Association Research Grant at the USC School of Medicine and was recognized as the Air National Guard's 1993 National Physician of the Year.

Over the last 7 years, Dr. Harmon served as the Air National Guard Assistant Surgeon General for the USAF providing critical advice and information on Air National Guard medical activities to the United States' Surgeon General. Part of his responsibilities included coordinating medical policies, plans, and programs for the Air National Guard. Dr. Harmon is the first South Carolinian to serve as the Air National Guard Assistant Surgeon General.

Dr. Harmon is currently a family practitioner the Waccamaw Medical Center on Pawleys Island, where he and his wife of 35 years reside. He is also President-elect of the South Carolina Medical Association having served on its board directors for many years.

A true patriot and a fine American, Dr. Harmon formally retired as a major general with over 700 flying hours on February 16, 2007. His military career will forever be marked by his extraordinary vision, sacrifice, and community spirit. I wish Dr. Harmon the very best in his retirement and ask that the Senate join me in thanking him for his service.●

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 2:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761 and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the British-American

Interparliamentary Group: Mr. CHANDLER of Kentucky, Chairman.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. OBERSTAR of Minnesota, Chairman, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Vice Chairman, Ms. SLAUGHTER of New York, Mr. STUPAK of Michigan, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. HODES of New Hampshire, Mr. WELCH of Vermont.

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-1469. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2005 Section 32 Hurricane Disaster Programs; 2006 Livestock Assistance Grant Program" (RIN0560-AH45) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1470. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2006 Emergency Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs" (RIN0560-AH62) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1471. A communication from the Regulatory Contact, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice Governing Proceedings Under the Packers and Stockyards Act" (RIN0580-AA97) received on April 11, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1472. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving exports to India; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1473. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; State Implementation Plan Corrections" (FRL No. 8300-1) received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1474. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: Renewable Fuel Standard Program" (FRL No. 8299-9) received on April 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1475. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the integration of mental health services into daily activities of Service members; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1476. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the TRICARE Program for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.