

\$100 billion. He has led the effort to ensure that the Marine Corps had the resources they needed for success in the current conflict and prepared to answer the nation's call in the future.

While Lieutenant General Gardner is responsible for many critical issues, he has been a champion in protecting our forces deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been a particularly strong advocate for the mine resistant ambush protected family of vehicles, or MRAP. These vehicles have the possibility of drastically reducing American casualties caused by improvised explosive devices and Lieutenant General Gardner has been leading the effort to secure support for them. Lieutenant General Gardner has taken the time to educate, encourage, guide—and when necessary to cajole and prod—decision-makers and action officers wherever necessary to accelerate the fielding of MRAP vehicles. Throughout this process, he has been everywhere and involved in every aspect of the MRAP program. So ardent has Lieutenant General Gardner been in support of this life saving program, that he has become known within Headquarters Marine Corps and throughout the Pentagon as “Mr. MRAP.”

I know that a grateful nation shares my admiration for Lieutenant General Gardner an indomitable leader whose tireless efforts have directly contributed to the timely delivery of MRAP vehicles to theater. I am confident that my colleagues will join me in expressing the gratitude of the Senate, and bestowing upon him the unofficial title of “Mr. MRAP.”●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries:

#### REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCUMULATION OF A LARGE VOLUME OF WEAPONS-USABLE FISSILE MATERIAL IN THE TERRITORY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13159 OF JUNE 21, 2000—PM 17

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

#### To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice

to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2007.

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 19, 2007.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the act (S. 1532) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 East Locust Street in Fairbury, Illinois, as the “Dr. Francis Townsend Post Office Building”.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 885. An act to support the establishment of an international regime for the assured supply of nuclear fuel for peaceful means and to authorize voluntary contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency to support the establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank.

H.R. 2127. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located 408 West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the “Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building”.

H.R. 2366. An act to reauthorize the veterans entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2397. An act to reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2563. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the “Major Scott Nisely Post Office”.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 80. Concurrent resolution calling on the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to recommit to a political solution to the conflict in northern Uganda by engaging in good-faith

negotiations, and urging immediate and substantial support for the ongoing peace process from the United States and the international community.

H. Con. Res. 148. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

H. Con. Res. 151. Concurrent resolution noting the disturbing pattern of killings of numerous independent journalists in Russia since 2000, and urging Russian President Vladimir Putin to authorize cooperation with outside investigators in solving those murders.

H. Con. Res. 155. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

The message also announced that pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 431 note, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission: Mr. MOORE of Kansas; Mr. BOSWELL of Iowa; Mr. THORBERRY of Texas; and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

At 6:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Brandon, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 57. An act to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands.

H.R. 692. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to authorize the Governor of a State, territory, or possession of the United States to order that the National Flag be flown at half-staff in that State, territory, or possession in the event of the death of a member of the Armed Forces from that State, territory, or possession who dies while serving on active duty.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 885. An act to support the establishment of an international regime for the assured supply of nuclear fuel for peaceful means and to authorize voluntary contributions to the International Atomic Energy Agency to support the establishment of an international nuclear fuel bank; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2127. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 408 West 6th Street in Chelsea, Oklahoma, as the “Clem Rogers McSpadden Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2397. An act to reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 2563. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 309 East Linn Street in Marshalltown, Iowa, as the “Major Scott Nisely Post Office”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 80. Calling on the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to recommit to a political solution to the conflict in northern Uganda by engaging in good-faith negotiations, and urging immediate and substantial support for the ongoing peace process from the United States and the international community; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 148. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. Con. Res. 151. Noting the disturbing pattern of killings of numerous independent journalists in Russia since 2000, and urging Russian President Vladimir Putin to authorize cooperation with outside investigators in solving those murders; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1639. A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 155. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day, and expressing the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and more effectively facing the challenges of the future.

#### 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-2310. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of technical data, defense services, and defense articles for the production of the Airborne Early Warning and Control System for ultimate sale to and end-use by the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2311. A communication from the Director, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Locality-Based Comparability Payments and Evacuation Payments" (RIN3206-AL09) received on June 14, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2312. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2313. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Organization's Inspector General for the period of October 1, 2006, through March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2314. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Self-Insurance Plans Under the Indian Housing Block Grant Program" (RIN2577-AC58) received on June 14, 2007; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2315. A communication from the Chief, Regulatory Management Division, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of the Immigration and Naturalization Benefit Application and Petition Fee Schedule" (RIN1615-AB53) received on June 14, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### 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-128. A resolution adopted by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners of the State of Florida urging Congress to appropriate the funds necessary to bring the Herbert Hoover Dike into compliance with current levee protection safety standards and to expedite funding for the improvements through the prompt enactment of the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-129. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to forego imposing a cap on Federal Universal Service Fund support for Maine's rural wireless carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION

We, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-Third Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the United States Congress and the Federal Communications Commission as follows:

Whereas, the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 through the establishment of the Federal Universal Service Fund was intended to promote the availability of quality services at just, reasonable and affordable prices, increased access to advanced telecommunications services throughout the Nation and the availability of quality services to all consumers, including those in low-income, rural, insular and high-cost areas, at rates that are reasonably comparable to those charged in urban areas; and

Whereas, the intended goals of that legislation have not been met in the State of Maine, and many of Maine's communities have no wireless services or inadequate wireless service; and

Whereas, the failure to achieve the goals of improved and high-quality services has, and will continue to have, a direct and substantial negative impact on the health and safety of the people living and working in Maine's rural areas; and

Whereas, the failure to achieve this goal of high-quality wireless services at just, reasonable and affordable rates to everyone is a very significant barrier to the economic development of much of rural Maine; and

Whereas, there are 2 rural wireless carriers in Maine that have successfully sought certification as eligible telecommunications carriers and have used the federal universal service funding they have received to construct significant additional wireless infrastructure in rural Maine; and

Whereas, the Maine Public Utilities Commission has certified that these Maine rural wireless carriers have used the funds re-

ceived from the federal universal service fund in a manner consistent with all laws and regulations governing the funds; and

Whereas, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service has recommended that the Federal Communications Commission impose a cap on funding for competitive eligible telecommunications carriers; and

Whereas, this recommended cap would limit Federal Universal Service Fund support for Maine's rural wireless carriers currently receiving these funds; and

Whereas, the proposed cap on funding would serve to undercut the purpose and objective of the federal telecommunications Act of 1996 by impairing the ability of Maine's wireless eligible telecommunications carriers to expand infrastructure into rural Maine so that rural and urban wireless service is equal, as promised by that act; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to request that the Federal Communications Commission reject the cap proposed by the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service; and be it further

*Resolved*, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the United States Congress take action to repeal the cap if it is adopted by the Federal Communications Commission; and be it further

*Resolved*, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-130. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the Secretary of the Interior to fully fund the interagency airtanker base programs for wildland fire suppression in Battle Mountain, Minden and Stead; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, the United States Department of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, has provided vital fire suppression services to the State of Nevada; and

Whereas, these services include air support for wildland fire suppression in northern Nevada through interagency airtanker base operations at the Battle Mountain, Minden-Tahoe and Reno Stead Airports; and

Whereas, the areas of service include the forests and watershed surrounding Lake Tahoe, one of the nation's premiere natural treasures, and the Wildland urban interface along the Sierra Front in both Nevada and California; and

Whereas, in July 2006, Nevada ranked first in the nation in the amount of wildland acreage burned by wildfire in the United States; and

Whereas, the Federal Government owns and manages 87 percent of the land in Nevada; and

Whereas, the Bureau of Land Management has provided exemplary air support for fighting the wildland fires which have threatened Nevada's residents, private property, public lands and other valuable natural resources; and

Whereas, the Sierra Front has complex and challenging conditions that generate volatile and high-intensity wildland fires which are fought over rugged terrain, and airtankers are a critical component of the fight, being used primarily for initial attack and support; and

Whereas, continued funding for the full operation of the interagency airtanker base