

Colonel Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc, Sr., passed away on Thursday, November 22, 2007. Colonel DeBlanc was the last living World War II Medal of Honor recipient from Louisiana. Although he did not perceive his achievement as a fighter pilot as out of the ordinary, many Louisianans will long remember the gallantry, bravery, and valor he exhibited throughout his life.

Thus, today, I am proud to rise to honor a fellow Louisianan, Colonel Jefferson Joseph DeBlanc, Sr., and thank him for his dedicated and tireless service to our country. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, 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 and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1396. An act to authorize a major medical facility project to modernize inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

S. 1896. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office".

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

H.R. 3793. An act to amend title 37, United States Code, to require the continued payment to a member of the uniformed services who dies or is retired or separated under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, bonuses and similar benefits that the member was entitled to before the death, retirement, or separation of the member and would be paid if the member had not died, retired, or separated, to prohibit requiring the member to repay any portion of the bonuses or similar benefits previously paid, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that in accordance with the request of the Senate, the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, and all accompanying papers are hereby returned to the Senate.

At 3:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 863. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1216. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

H. J. Res. 72. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of H.R. 660.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 660) to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1585. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2761. An act to extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3648. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude discharges of indebtedness on principle residences from gross income, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 5:46 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3996) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the resolution from the Senate (S. Con.

Res. 61) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives, do pass with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2499. An act to amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 4040. An act to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), amended by division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (22 U.S.C. 6901), and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker reappoints the following members on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for terms to expire December 31, 2009: Ms. Carolyn Bartholomew of the District of Columbia, and Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of Great Falls, Virginia.

At 6:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to Amendment #2 of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2640) to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1916. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the program for the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees by terminating the authority for the removal of chimpanzees from the system for research purposes.

S. 2436. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

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

H.R. 4839. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.