

perfect match. However, State Department red tape prevented Ms. Astafanous from flying to America to help her brother. Because of these bureaucratic hurdles, Ms. Astafanous was being denied the opportunity to help save her brother's life. At the request of the Astafanous family, I contacted the American Ambassador in Cairo who guaranteed his personal assistance in helping Wedad, and less than 24 hours later, she was granted the necessary visa.

Once a visa was secured, it was necessary to obtain an airline ticket for the trip to New York. TWA responded to my request for help in this situation. TWA CEO and president, Jeff Erickson, ensured that Ms. Astafanous' travel plans were arranged in a proper and timely manner. TWA then flew Ms. Astafanous from Egypt to New York so that she would be able to give her critically ill brother one of the greatest gifts of all, the gift of hope. Mr. Erickson's actions, along with the cooperation of TWA employees, have helped to provide the support the Astafanous family needs in this critical time.

Ms. Astafanous arrived in New York on the morning of Christmas Eve and immediately went to her brother's hospital bedside for a joyous reunion. Mouris' spirits have been immeasurably lifted by the arrival of his sister as have the spirits of all who have been touched by this wonderful family. I have had the honor of meeting Mouris and the entire Astafanous family. They are a family of great strength and courage. My prayers, and I am sure the prayers of all my colleagues, are with Mouris Astafanous, his sister Wedad, and the entire Astafanous family.

Thank you, Mr. President.●

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO MR. DAVID COLE

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Mr. David Cole for his outstanding 34-year career with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Mr. Cole is currently Officer in Charge at the I&NS office in Memphis. I was recently informed that he will be retiring very soon. In fact, I believe his retirement party is set for January 13. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank David Cole for the outstanding work he has done in this difficult and often frustrating profession.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, the public discourse on immigration and immigrants is largely negative. We do not hear enough about the success stories that occur everyday as a result of the hard work of people like David Cole.

David Aaron Cole began duty as an Immigration Patrol Inspector on August 15, 1961, at Laredo, TX. Following several years of front-line work, Mr. Cole was promoted and transferred to

Boston, MA, as a records and information specialist. In 1970, he assumed the post of officer in charge at Memphis, where he has worked to the present day.

Although the Memphis office does not directly serve Arkansas, I know that David Cole's work has impacted my State. Mr. Cole has helped hundreds of impoverished immigrants get their new lives off to a positive start. I would guess that a good number of those immigrants eventually made their way to Arkansas, where they have been productive members of my State.

Mr. President, the mission of the I&NS is not just enforcement, it is not just about keeping people out of the country. It is also about helping the legal immigrants who come here to assimilate into American society. David Cole has always understood that mission, and we will certainly miss his work at the Immigration and Naturalization Service. I know all my colleagues join me in wishing Mr. Cole the best of luck in the future.●

HARRY KIZIRIAN POST OFFICE BUILDING DESIGNATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on H.R. 1606, a bill to designate the U.S. Post Office building located at 24 Corliss Street, Providence, RI, as the "Harry Kizirian Post Office Building."

The President Office laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved: That the House disagree to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1606) entitled "An Act to designate the United States Post Office building located at 24 Corliss Street, Providence, Rhode Island, as the 'Harry Kizirian Post Office Building'."

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recede from its amendments and the motion to reconsider be laid on table.

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

DAVID J. WHEELER FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from the further consideration of H.R. 2061, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2061), to designate the Federal building located at 1550 Dewey Avenue, Baker City, Oregon, as the "David J. Wheeler Federal Building."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be

read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements on the bill be placed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The bill (H.R. 2061) was read the third time and passed.

VETERANS' MEDICAL BENEFITS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to consideration of calendar 264, S. 991.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES.

(a) *AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE PRIORITY HEALTH CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.—(1)(A) Effective June 29, 1995, section 1710(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out "after June 30, 1995," and all that follows through "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "after December 31, 1996".*

(B) *Any hospital or nursing home care or medical services furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by virtue of section 1710(a)(1)(G) of title 38, United States Code, during the period beginning on June 30, 1995, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act is hereby ratified.*

(2) *Section 1712(a)(1)(D) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996".*

(b) *DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE.—Section 1720A(e) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".*

(c) *PILOT PROGRAM FOR NONINSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO NURSING HOME CARE.—Section 1720C(a) of such title is amended by striking out "September 30, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996".*

(d) *DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO GUARANTEE ADJUSTABLE RATE MORTGAGES.—Section 3707(a) of such title is amended by striking out "fiscal years 1993, 1994, and 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "fiscal years 1993 through 1997".*

(e) *AGREEMENTS FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 3735(c) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".*

(f) *USE OF DATA ON COMPENSATION FOR CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS.—(1) Effective March 31, 1995, section 7451(d)(3)(C)(iii) of such title is amended by striking out "April 1, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1999".*

(2) *The use of any director of a Department of Veterans Affairs health-care facility of data on rates of compensation paid to certified nurse anesthetists in a labor market area under section 7451(d)(3)(C) of title 38, United States Code, during the period beginning on April 1, 1995, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act is hereby ratified.*

(g) *HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 7618 of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996".*

(h) *ENHANCED-USE LEASES OF REAL PROPERTY.—Section 8169 of such title is amended by*