TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL RHODE, JR.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today to note the passing of and to pay tribute to Michael Rhode, Jr., of South Carolina. Mike Rhode died after a brave bout with cancer in May, only too briefly after he retired from his position as Secretary of the Panama Canal Commission. I only recently learned of Mike’s death.

I first met Mike when he served as Chief of the Army’s Senate Legislative Liaison Office in the early 1970’s when I was a newly elected Member of the U.S. Senate. My combat experience in Korea and Vietnam, literally took me under his wing and played a major role in my education about the capabilities of the U.S. Army and the other services. He accompanied me on my official travels, particularly to the territory of our NATO allies. Mike was extremely knowledgeable about NATO and my first-ever report to the Armed Services Committee on NATO specifically cited Mike’s invaluable assistance and expertise on NATO matters.

I continued my association with Mike when, upon his retirement from the Army after 26 years of dedicated service to our Nation, he became the Secretary of the Panama Canal Commission. Mike had that unique ability to explain complex issues in a plain, conversational manner. I am most struck by his dedication to duty and his warm and gregarious personality. He always had a broad smile and his plans for retirement were purely social calls. We reminisced about the past, talked about the future, and laughed. Mike Rhode died after a brave bout with cancer in May, only too briefly after he retired from his position as Secretary of the Panama Canal Commission.

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3103) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3517) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and based realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3845) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

At noon, a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, 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. 2670. An act to provide for the release of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain property located in the County of Iosco, Michigan.

H.R. 3367. An act to designate the Southern Piedmont Conservation Research Center located at 1420 Experimental Station Road in Watkinsville, Georgia, as the “J. Phil Campbell, Senior Natural Resource Conservation Center.”

H.R. 3464. An act to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements.

At 12:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3448) to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947, to reduce the amount of wages paid to employees who use employer owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers in applying the minimum wage and overtime requirements under that act.

At 2:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (S. 1316) to authorize and amend title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (commonly known as the “Safe Drinking Water Act”), and for other purposes.

At 5:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 268. Concurrent resolution to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage to simplify the administration of health insurance, and for other purposes.

At 6:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3953. An act to combat terrorism.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 47. Concurrent resolution to provide for a Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

S. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution authorizing the rotunda of the United States Capitol to be used on January 20, 1997, in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice-President-elect of the United States.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2739) to authorize and amend title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (commonly known as the “Safe Drinking Water Act”), and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. Thurmond].

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

H.R. 3560. An act to designate the Federal building located at 250 Broadway in New York, New York, as the “Ronald H. Brown Federal Building.”

H.R. 3718. An act to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 611 North Florida Avenue in Tampa, Florida, as the “Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse.”

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution:

H. Con. Res. 207. Concurrent resolution approving certain regulations to implement provisions of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 relating to management relations with respect to covered employees, other than employees of the House of Representatives and employees of the Senate, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 123. An act to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States; to Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 2670. An act to provide for the release of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain property located in the County of Iosco, Michigan; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 3367. An act to designate the Southern Piedmont Conservation Research Center located at 1420 Experimental Station Road in Watkinsville, Georgia, as the “J. Phil Campbell, Senior Natural Resource Conservation Center”; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 3464. An act to make a minor adjustment in the exterior boundary of the Devils Backbone Wilderness in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, to exclude a small parcel of land containing improvements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.