

nearby Air Force Bases. They will be sorely missed, but they leave an organization committed to the pursuit of excellence. I wish him good luck and God speed.●

COMMENDING WILLIAM F.
HOFMAN

● Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I welcome this opportunity to commend a distinguished citizen of Massachusetts, William F. Hofmann III of Belmont, who is now completing his highly successful term as president of the nation's largest insurance association—the Independent Insurance Agents of America.

Bill is partner in Provider Insurance Group, which has offices in Belmont, Brookline and Needham in Massachusetts, and his career has long been notable for his outstanding contributions, and dedication to his community and his profession.

Bill began his service in the insurance industry with the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents where he served as president. He also served the State as its representative on the national board of the Independent Insurance Agents of America.

Bill was elected to IIAA's Executive Committee in 1995, and became its president last fall. He has worked effectively through the IIAA to strengthen the competitive standing of independent insurance agents by helping to provide the support they need to run more successful businesses. He served as chairman of IIAA's Education Committee for four years, and in 1994 he received a Presidential Citation for his work in this area.

For many years, Bill has also been an active and concerned member of his community. He served as president and as a member the Board of Directors for the Boston Children's Service, and has been active in the Belmont Youth Basketball program. He served as chairman of the Belmont Red Cross, and as treasurer for the Belmont Religious Council. Bill is an elected town meeting member, finance committee member, and registrar of voters in Belmont.

I commend Bill for his leadership in all these aspects of his brilliant career, and I know he will continue his service to our community in the years ahead. Massachusetts is proud of him for all he has done so well.●

THE STATE OF IDAHO'S PROCLAMATION OF WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a proclamation signed by the Governor of the State of Idaho.

Rapid population growth and urbanization have become catalysts for many serious environmental impacts and they apply substantial pressures on many facets of our infrastructure. These pressures often result in transportation, health, sanitation, and pub-

lic safety problems, making urbanization an issue that cannot be ignored.

It is, therefore, important for us to recognize the problems associated with rapid population growth and urbanization. The Governor of the State of Idaho has proclaimed the week of October 21–27, 2001, as World Population Awareness Week in my State. I would like to commend the Governor for his commitment to this issue.

I ask that the proclamation be printed in the RECORD.

The proclamation follows:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the world population stands today at more than 6.1 billion and increases by some one billion every 13 years; and

Whereas, the most significant feature of the 20th century phenomenon of unprecedented world population growth was rapid urbanization; and

Whereas, cities and urban areas today occupy only 2% of the earth's land, but contain 50% of its population and consume 75% of its resources; and

Whereas, the most rapid urban growth over the next two decades is expected in cities with populations ranging from 250,000 to one million; and

Whereas, along with the advantages and amenities, the rapid growth of cities leads to substantial pressure on their infrastructure, manifested in security, health and crime problems, as well as deterring the provision of basic social services; and

Whereas, in the interest of national and environmental security, nations must redouble voluntary and humanitarian efforts to stabilize their population growth at sustainable levels, while at all times respecting the cultural and religious beliefs and values of their citizens; and

Whereas, World Population Awareness Week was proclaimed last year by Governors of 32 states, as well as Mayors of more than 315 United States cities, and co-sponsored by 231 organizations in 63 countries; and

Whereas, the theme of World Population Awareness Week in 2001 is "Population and the Urban Future";

Now Therefore, I, Dirk Kempthorne, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim the week of October 21 through 27, 2001, to be World Population Awareness Week in Idaho and urge all citizens of our state to take cognizance of this event and to participate appropriately in its observance.●

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I rise today to alert my colleagues that October is Spina Bifida Awareness month.

Many Americans don't know much about Spina Bifida. For instance, most don't know Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect and occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of a child's development in the womb. Even fewer Americans realize that the most severe form of Spina Bifida occurs in 96 percent of children born with this disease. However, thanks to the good work that the Spina Bifida Association of America is carrying out to promote the prevention of Spina Bifida and to enhance the lives of all affected by this condition, we are all learning more every day.

During the month of October the Association makes a special push to increase public awareness about Spina Bifida, and future parents about prevention. Simply by taking a daily dose of the B vitamin, folic acid, found in most multivitamins women of child-bearing age have the power to reduce the incidence of Spina Bifida by up to 75 percent. That such a simple change in habit can have such a profound effect should leave no question as to the importance of awareness.

However, awareness is not the only important work done by the Spina Bifida Association of America. The Association was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the Spina Bifida community and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. There are more than 60 chapters serving over 100 communities nationwide.

One such chapter in Wichita, KS, was started by Tammy and Tim Wolke. Tammy and Tim have four children, two of whom are adopted. Not only do these heroic parents care for one child born with Spina Bifida, but also a child with cerebral palsy. But caring for their own children just hasn't been enough to keep Tammy and Tim busy. So, in their "free time," the Wolkes have developed and cultivated a chapter of the Spina Bifida Association of America which serves about 200 families in their part of Kansas.

As we discuss the wonderful work of the Spina Bifida Association of America and the Wolkes, I would be remiss if I failed to mention another great Kansan. In 1988, the Association established a scholarship fund to enhance opportunities for individuals with Spina Bifida to achieve their full potential through higher education. This year's four year scholarship of \$20,000 was recently awarded to Jennifer Maxton of Derby, KS. Thanks to this scholarship, Jennifer will be able to attend the school of her dreams at the University of Kansas. Jennifer is a truly amazing person who wants to become a pediatric surgeon and study abroad in Nepal. As if those goals weren't lofty enough, Jennifer hopes to some day climb Mount Everest. Jennifer wants to improve the lives of others who have not been as fortunate as she. This scholarship will start her down this path. I wish her the best of luck as she begins her academic life this fall as a Jayhawk.

I would also be remiss if I failed to mention that this evening, the Spina Bifida Association of America will be holding its 13th annual event to benefit the Association and its work in local communities around the country. Washington Post Sports columnist, Tony Kornheiser will be roasted at this event by a number of distinguished members of the Washington community, including our Congressional colleagues Senator CLINTON and Representative STEVE LARGENT. I regret that I will be unable to join my friends

tonight, but wish to commend the Association for all of its hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our Nation. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

God bless the Spina Bifida Association and God bless America.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COMMANDER RONALD JAMES VAUK

● Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to a wonderful man, Lieutenant Commander Ronald James Vauk, whose life was cut short on September 11, 2001, while he was doing what he loved to do, serving his country. He was a Reservist on duty as Watch Commander at the Naval Command Center when terrorists attacked the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. This tragedy was not only a savage blow to the United States, but will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of a loving family, a strong Idaho community, and many loyal friends.

Ron was a devoted husband and good father who was born to Dorothy and Hubert Vauk and raised in Nampa, ID. He was the youngest of nine children and attended St. Paul's Catholic School and Nampa High School, graduating in 1982. I had the pleasure of recommending Ron for an appointment to the United States Naval Academy after he served a year as an enlisted sailor. He graduated the Naval Academy in 1987 and married an incredible young woman by the name of Jennifer Mooney. Ron had an exemplary career as a Naval Officer and submariner, serving on both the USS Glenard P. Lipscomb and the USS Oklahoma City. His love for the Navy continued with his service as a Reservist and a project manager for the Delex Corporation and then as an assistant group supervisor in submarine technology for the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Ron's work at Johns Hopkins was extremely important, but he was always ready to serve our Nation as a Naval Reserve Officer whenever called upon. He was a quiet genius who wasn't afraid to work hard to get the job done. And, he was a very good man who loved his family and was devoted to his wife Jennifer and their pride and joy, Liam, who is almost four years old. The entire family is excited and looking forward to the upcoming birth of Ron and Jennifer's second child, expected in November.

Ron will also be sorely missed by his parents, Dorothy and Hubert, and their eight other grown children. Ron's brothers and sisters all came together to be with Jennifer and son Liam at their home in Mt. Airy, MD. They are Charles Vauk, of Boise, Teri and Bill Masterson, Carson City, NV; Celia and Ken Shikuma, Huntington Beach, CA;

David and Suzie Vauk, Nampa; Lynne and Alan Caba, Nampa; Gary and Julie Vauk, Grapevine, TX; Patricia Vauk and Paul Wilson, Minneapolis, MN; and Dennis and Donna Vauk, Houston, TX. Ron is also survived by his father and mother-in-law Patrick and Carol Mooney of Baltimore, and sister and brother-in-law Alissa and Chris DeBoy of Mt. Airy, MD, and 18 nieces and nephews. I know I speak for all my colleagues in the Senate in expressing my profound sorrow to the Vauk family for their loss.

LCDR Ronald James Vauk was awarded the Purple Heart in the name of the United States President for his ultimate sacrifice. General George Washington, this Nation's Founding Father, established the Badge of Military Merit in 1782 as a means of recognizing courage and steadfastness in actual combat against the enemies of our Country. From the original three Badges of Military Merit awarded by General Washington, we now have the Purple Heart. LCDR Vauk was one of the first casualties of the War on Terrorism. Rest assured, this war will be won and the United States will continue to lead the world in protecting freedom. Ron was at the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, because he was bravely doing what he believed in and what needed to be done. He was a thorough professional who believed in his country and his duties as a Naval Officer.

On Monday I visited Jennifer, Liam and members of the Vauk family. Jennifer is a remarkable woman, who bears the burden of this tragedy with tremendous grace and dignity. I am very proud to recognize LCDR Ronald Vauk and tell him and his family, Thank you from a grateful Nation.●

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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:58 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 bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 169. An act to require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of

antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws, to require that each Federal agency post quarterly on its public Web site, certain statistical data relating to Federal sector equal employment opportunity complaints filed with such agency; and for other purposes.

H.R. 203. An act to amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a pilot program to provide regulatory compliance assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1161. An act to authorize the Government of the Czech Republic to establish a memorial to honor Tomas G. Masaryk in the District of Columbia.

H.R. 1384. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route in Arizona and New Mexico which the Navajo and Mescalero Apache Indian tribes were forced to walk in 1863 and 1864, for study for potential addition to the National Trails System.

H.R. 1456. An act to expand the boundary of the Booker T. Washington National Monument, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2385. An act to convey certain property to the city of St. George, Utah, in order to provide for the protection and preservation of certain rare paleontological resources on that property, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2666. An act to amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a vocational and technical entrepreneurship development program.

H.J. Res. 42. Joint resolution memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

The message also announced that the House has disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2904) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes and has agreed to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: Mr. HOBSON, Mr. WALSH, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ADERHOLT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GOODE, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. OLVER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. BOYD, Mr. DICKS, and Mr. OBEY.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:08 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1860. An act to reauthorize the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1583. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 121 West Spring Street in New Albany, Indiana, as the "Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

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

NOTE: In the RECORD of September 19, 2001, on page S9503, the following items were inadvertently omitted: