

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: