

its kind nationwide. I look forward to visiting, once again, with thousands of attendees in Indianapolis this weekend.

I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of Reverend Charles Williams. At this difficult time, my thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL HANG CHAO

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the life and work of a truly remarkable American and long-time Detroit resident, Hang Chao. Born in 1939 in the city of Pha Leong, Xiengkhoua Province, in Laos, he was among the thousands of Hmong young men who gave their support to the United States during the Vietnam war. By joining with American soldiers to fight against Lao and Viet communists in the jungles of Laos, these young men put their lives at risk. In the face of considerable personal risk, the heroism of these brave men saved countless American soldiers. Hang Chao continued his strong stand defending and promoting democracy throughout his life and leaves a legacy of selfless dedication to helping and enriching the lives of others. His family, colleagues, and many friends mourned his death in October 2003, and he will be remembered as a man of honor and goodwill, whose heroism and deep faith inspired all who knew him.

During the Vietnam war, Hang Chao trained in the Lao Royal Army and rose through its ranks. He was appointed lieutenant colonel by General Oun Latikun and Prime Minister Souvanhna of Laos. During his service, he earned the respect of his peers and leaders because of his courage, principled leadership, and devotion to democracy. The Lao government in exile honored him in 1982 by appointing him Deputy Minister of Interior. Ten years later, Hang Chao was appointed Advisor to the King of Laos, LangXang Houng Kau, government in exile.

Hang Chao immigrated to the United States with his family after the war. He valued learning and education and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science while making a new life for himself and his family in Michigan. While he spoke Hmong and English fluently, he was also fluent in Tao, Lao, and French. He was committed to the Hmong community, and his active leadership helped pave the way for many Hmong refugees to assimilate into American life. Hang Chao was also a devout Christian and was elected elder in ten Hmong churches. His faith, family, and commitment to public service guided his vision of community growth and the promotion of cultural understanding of the Hmong heritage. Hang Chao was a loving husband to his wife of 50 years, Mia Lee Vang, and a nurturing father to his five children, Tou Yi, Tou Chue, Mai, Youa, and Pang Nhia.

I would like to express my admiration for the life story and the accom-

plishments of Hang Chao. We can all benefit from his example of courage, perseverance and leadership. He has left an indelible mark on his community, and his family can be proud of his legacy. I know my Senate colleagues join me in paying tribute to Hang Chao.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, 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. 4380. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4737 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office Building".

H.R. 4755. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 144. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Dinah Washington should be recognized for her achievements as one of the most talented vocalists in American popular music history.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 103. An act for the relief of Lindita Idrizi Heath.

H.R. 218. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

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

At 6:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4613) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes for the two Houses thereon and appoints the following members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House:

Ordered, that Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. DICKS, Mr. SABO, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. OBEY, be the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4380. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4737 Mile Stretch Drive in Holiday, Florida, as the "Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 144. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Dinah Washington should be recognized for her achievements as one of the most talented vocalists in American popular music history; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-8453. A communication from the Acting Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Implementation of the National Construction Safety Team Act" (RIN0693-AB53) received on July 6, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8454. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Groundfish Fishery; Groundfish Observer Program" (RIN0648-AK26) received on July 7, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8455. A communication from the Acting Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of the Quarter II Fishery for Loligo Squid" (ID060804G) received on July 7, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8456. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Amendment 13 Regulatory Amendment" (RIN0648-AN17) received on July 7, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8457. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Export and Reexport Restrictions on Cuba" (RIN0694-AD17) received on July 7, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-8458. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations to Remove Certain Regional Stability and Crime Control License Requirements to New North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Member Countries" (RIN0694-AD11) received on July 7, 2004; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.