

all the faculty members, volunteers, mentors, and supporters who were instrumental in their victory.●

41ST BRIGADE DEPLOYMENT

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to show my appreciation for the dedication and commitment of the Oregon National Guard. They are the best that Oregon has to offer. The best our Nation has to offer. I am honored, this weekend, to personally see off the largest Oregon guard deployment since World War II.

Right now, 2,700 citizen soldiers from across my State are gearing up for a 10-month deployment to Iraq, and I am positive that their actions will bring honor to the United States and to the great State of Oregon.

Despite progress, Iraq remains a dangerous place. But our National Guard soldiers are well-trained, well-led and well-equipped. I know they will do their best to complete their missions and return to their families. I also know that our Nation has done its best to give them the tools they need to do so safely and expeditiously.

I have been fortunate enough to meet with many of Oregon's citizen soldiers more than once—first in the dust and heat of southern Idaho last summer then in their armories in the days leading up to training at Camp Roberts. I made a promise to see them off when they are deployed and I intend to be there to welcome all of them home after their courageous service is complete.

These are uncertain times—not only in the United States but around the world. It is a world that is once again turning its eyes toward America for leadership and inspiration. Now, more than ever, it is time for America to be strong for those in need.

The Oregon National Guard is the face of that strength. Our men and women in uniform are this country's greatest representatives to the world. While being strong, we must also demonstrate our values through compassion, justice, and integrity.

I realize these soldiers have a difficult road ahead, which will involve both professional and personal struggles. Whether this is their first deployment or their fourth, their dedication and commitment will be tested on a daily basis—but, courage and determination are their hallmarks.

Members of the Oregon National Guard are exactly the kind of soldiers that our Founding Fathers believed could best defend this Nation—volunteer citizen soldiers with roots in the community and a patriotic spirit.

I salute Oregon's great band of citizen soldiers. May God bless them and see each and every one of them home safe.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:23 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 586. An act to direct the Librarian of Congress and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out a joint project at the Library of Congress and the National Museum of African American History and Culture to collect video and audio recordings or personal histories and testimonials of individuals who participated in the Civil Rights movement, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1626. An act to make technical amendments to laws containing time periods affecting judicial proceedings.

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

At 12:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 735. An act to ensure States receive adoption incentive payments for fiscal year 2008 in accordance with the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

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

H.R. 46. An act to provide for payment of an administrative fee to public housing agencies to cover the costs of administering family self-sufficiency programs in connection with the housing choice voucher program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

H.R. 1913. An act to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 45. A joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic

of China: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Co-Chairman; Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio; Mr. HONDA of California; Mr. WALZ of Minnesota; Mr. WU of Oregon; Mr. SMITH of New Jersey; Mr. MANZULLO of Illinois; Mr. ROYCE of California; and Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania.

The message further announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Speaker re-appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. Joseph Cooper of Baltimore, Maryland.

The message also announced that pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, the Republican Leader reappoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Mr. Jeffrey W. Thomas of Ohio.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 333(a)(2) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-229), the Republican Leader appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino: Mr. Danny Vargas of Herndon, Virginia, as a voting member.

Furthermore: Dr. Aida Levitan of Key Biscayne, Florida, and Mrs. Rosa J. Correa of Bridgeport, Connecticut, were previously appointed and shall remain voting members.

At 5:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, 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. 627. An act to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 333(a)(2) of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-229), the Republican Leader appoints the following member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino: Mr. Nelson Albareda of Miami, Florida.

Furthermore: Dr. Aida Levitan of Key Biscayne, Florida, Mrs. Rosa J. Correa of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Mr. Danny Vargas of Herndon, Virginia, were previously appointed and shall remain voting members.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 46. An act to provide for payment of an administrative fee to public housing agencies to cover the costs of administering family self-sufficiency programs in connection with the housing choice voucher program of the Department of Housing and