Best remembered as a distinguished military hero, Zachary Taylor was known as a resourceful, steadfast, modest, and compassionate commander who fought many successful battles, earning from his soldiers and countrymen the affectionate nickname “Old Rough and Ready.”

Zachary Taylor’s personal popularity increased as his national prominence spread. General Taylor defeated Henry Clay, Winfield Scott and Daniel Webster for the Whig Party Presidential nomination. Although he had not sought office, Zachary Taylor was elected the 12th President of the United States.

Slavery was the driving issue of the campaign and the primary challenge of Zachary Taylor’s brief Presidency. In his inaugural address, Zachary Taylor promised that the preservation of the Union would be his first obligation. He was determined to find a solution to end slavery even though he was a southerner and a slave holder. Zachary Taylor urged settlers in New Mexico and California to bypass the territorial stage and draft constitutions for statehood. As Southern Democrats called for a secession convention, Zachary Taylor reacted with a bristling statement that he would hang anyone who tried to disrupt the Union by force or by conspiracy, setting the stage for the Compromise of 1850.

During his 15 months in office, Zachary Taylor also created the Department of the Interior and signed a treaty with Great Britain guaranteeing a neutral canal connecting North and South America.

After laying the cornerstone of the Washington Monument on July 4, 1850, Zachary Taylor fell ill and passed away. An unprecedented 100,000 people lined the funeral route to see the hero laid to rest.

On November 24, 2009, representatives of local, State and Federal Government will pay tribute to one of Kansas City’s most famous native sons. First Day Issue Zachary Taylor Dollar coins will be given to county schoolchildren. Please join me in commemo-rating the life of Zachary Taylor and the courage and efforts during his term of office to bring a peaceful end to slavery in the United States.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PETER S. LEVI

- Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a fine Missourian, Peter S. Levi, for his distinguished career as the Executive Director of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. As one of the chamber’s most effective presidents has seen the chamber grow to represent about 9,000 area businesses while expanding the chamber’s annual budget to over $30 million. In addition, along with Levi’s work with the Chamber of Commerce he has been an active member of several boards including the Kansas City Symphony, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Midwest Research Institute, University of Kansas Medical Center, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City.

- Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am honored to remember Lewis Millett—a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a retired Army colonel and a proud American who passed away on November 11, 2009.

- Mr. PATE. Mr. President, I am honored to pay tribute to the City of Kansas City and to Peter S. Levi who has always worked to inspire those around him with his vigor, sense of duty, and pride in his community.

- Mr. PATTE. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize Lewis Millett’s service to the City of Kansas City and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

- The military community, the State of California, and our Nation have lost a proud American and a great warrior.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Nanad, 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. 3738. An act to amend the Small Business Act to establish a neutral canal connecting North and South America.
- H.R. 1839. An act to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Administration’s entrepreneurial development programs, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 3014. An act to amend the Small Business Act to provide loan guarantees for the acquisition of health information technology by eligible professionals in solo and small group practices, and for other purposes.
- H.R. 3738. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to establish a program for the Small Business Administration to provide financing to support early-stage small businesses in targeted industries, and for other purposes.