

As Congress confronts the dual challenges of ensuring our national security and putting our fiscal house in order, it must remember its profound responsibility to keep our Nation safe and care for its veterans. For well over 200 years, our servicemembers and veterans, like Maj. Nathan Kline, have steadfastly served our Nation and have set a stellar example for those who will follow in the generations to come.●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 953. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans, to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, to limit earnings stripping by expatriated entities, to provide for modifications related to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

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-1461. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Horses Protection Act; Requiring Horse Industry Organizations To Assess and Enforce Minimum Penalties for Violations; Correction" ((RIN0579-AD43) (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0030)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1462. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Record-keeping for Approved Livestock Facilities and Slaughtering and Rendering Establishments" ((RIN0579-AC61) (Docket No. APHIS-2007-0039)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1463. A communication from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "United States Standards for Wheat" (RIN0580-AB12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1464. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure; Adjusting Civil Money Penalties for Inflation" (RIN3052-AC87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2013; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1465. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to three violations of the Antideficiency Act occurring with the Federal Highway Administration's Highway Infrastructure Investment and TIGER Grants accounts within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 ap-

propriation; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1466. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to several violations of the Antideficiency Act occurring with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Administrative account, Motor Carrier Safety Grant account, and the Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs account; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-1467. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general and brigadier general, respectively, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1468. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of twelve (12) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general and brigadier general, respectively, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1469. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the training of the U.S. Special Operations Forces with friendly foreign forces during fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1470. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting, a report of proposed legislation entitled "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1471. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1472. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to blocking the property of persons contributing to the conflict taking place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1473. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency relative to the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan as declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1474. A communication from the Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer Financial Civil Penalty Fund" ((RIN3170-AA38) (Docket No. CFPB-2013-0011)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1475. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Section 232 Healthcare Facility Insurance Program—Strengthening Accountability and Regulatory Revisions Update Final Rule Amendment—Revision of Date of Applicability" (RIN2502-AJ05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on

May 8, 2013; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1476. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Contractor Legal Management Requirements; Acquisition Regulations" (RIN1990-AA37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1477. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Regulations" (RIN1024-AD99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 7, 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1478. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning operations at the Naval Petroleum Reserves for fiscal year 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1479. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Education Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Performance Report and Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Performance Plan"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1480. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Wood River Levee System Reconstruction project, Madison, County, Illinois; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1481. A communication from the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2012 Performance and Accountability Report of the Administrative Conference of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1482. A communication from the Chief, Washington Field Office, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1483. A communication from the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Quarterly Report for April 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1484. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1485. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Civil Rights, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2012 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1486. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 20-54, "Permanent Supportive Housing Application Streamlining Temporary Amendment Act of 2013"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.