

who participated in a little known covert operation in World War II—Operation Ivory Soap. During World War II, “island hopping” was a critical element in the U.S. Pacific strategy. The idea was to capture Japanese held islands of tactical or strategic importance and by-pass any far-flung or inconsequential bases. Once an island was taken it was used as a forward airfield for aircraft returning from long-range missions where they were repaired, rearmed, and made ready for the next vital mission.

General Henry H. “Hap” Arnold, Commander of the Army Air Forces, recognized the need for forward-based, mobile air depots to support American bombers and fighters in the Pacific war. General Arnold and a panel of military officers determined the need for converting naval repair ships into hybrid aircraft depot ships. Eventually, six 440-foot-long Liberty ships and 18 smaller 180-foot-long auxiliary vessels would be modified into Aircraft Repair Units, carrying 344 men, and Aircraft Maintenance Units, manned by 48 troops. Everything from the smallest aircraft parts to complete fighter wings were carried on these ships. The repair and maintenance facilities were manned 24-hours a day and the Liberty ships included platforms to land the “new” helicopter for quick ship-to-shore repair transport.

The Army Air Force crews that manned these ships had to be trained to understand the nautical aspect of life at sea. Colonel Matthew Thompson of the Army Air Force was given the mission to turn airmen into seamen. Called back from Anzio in Italy, the Colonel had less than two weeks to organize the training program.

The Grand Hotel in Point Clear, AL, was the focal point for “Operation Ivory Soap” training. Colonel Thompson contacted the then owner, Mr. Strat White-Spunner, regarding the use of the hotel as his base of operations where he intended to instill basic seamanship, marine and aquatic training in the Army officers and men of the aircraft repair and maintenance units. As a donation to the war effort, Mr. Roberts turned the Grand Hotel and its facilities over to the US Army Air Force to be used as its Maritime Training School. Operation Ivory Soap training began on July 10, 1944.

Using the Grand Hotel, officers and men moved in and began living in “Navy style.” All personnel referred to the floors as decks, kept time by a ship’s bell and indulged in the use of tobacco only when the “smoking lamp” was lit. The courses included swimming, special calisthenics, marching, drill, navigation, ship identification, signaling, cargo handling, ship orientation, sail making, amphibious operations, and more. Two men from each ship were also trained to be underwater divers. During a five month

period, the school turned out 5,000 highly-trained Air Force seamen. When they and their ships went to war, so did Colonel Thompson. The men of the operation participated in the landings in the Philippines, Guam, Tinian, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Fighter aircraft and B-29s taking off from these bases flew continuous missions over Japan. Many lives, as well as aircraft, were saved because of the men of the aircraft repair and maintenance units.

Perhaps the greatest tribute I can make to the exploits of these sea-going airmen is to paraphrase the Merchant Marines who worked with them and who praised them as “equal to any sea-going combatants they had ever served with.” This is a testament to their skill and professionalism and the ability of this nation to adjust its resources to defeat the enemy. The Grand Hotel still stands elegantly on the banks of the Mobile Bay. A hotel whose rich southern history embodies the best traditions of this country.●

JUDGE ROMAN S. GRIBBS, JUDGE FOR THE MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to rise today to acknowledge a distinguished public servant, from my home state of Michigan, Judge Roman S. Gribbs, who will be retiring from the bench of the Michigan Court of Appeals, at the close of this year. In November, hundreds of his colleagues, friends and family will celebrate the career of this gentleman of the bench who played a distinct role in shaping Michigan’s history.

Judge Gribbs dedicated his academic and professional life to studying, teaching, enforcing, practicing and interpreting the laws that govern the citizens of Michigan. He excelled in his studies at the University of Detroit where he received his Juris Doctorate in 1954, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He taught at his alma mater from 1954 through 1956 and served as an Adjunct Professor and Faculty member at the University of Michigan and the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He implemented the law as an Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor from 1956 through 1964 and in his service to the City of Detroit as presiding Traffic Court Referee.

In 1968, Roman Gribbs’ career in the law took a new turn when he was appointed, then elected, Sheriff of Wayne County. His commitment to strong and fair enforcement of the law earned him respect far beyond the boundaries of Michigan’s most populous county.

In 1969, Sheriff Gribbs was elected mayor of the city of Detroit, just 2 years after the city had endured one of the most destructive civil disturbances in the Nation’s history. Under his leadership, the people of Detroit began to heal the city’s wounds, to bridge their

differences and to build their common future. As a newly elected member of Detroit’s City Council in those years, I can testify with first hand knowledge to the debt this great American city owes to the calm, determined leadership of Mayor Roman Gribbs.

After stepping down as mayor, Roman Gribbs followed his love for the law and won a seat on the bench of the Third Judicial Circuit and then on the Michigan Court of Appeals where he has served the people of Michigan with a high standard of ethics and courage.

In addition to being a dedicated man of the bench, Judge Gribbs also finds solace in his involvement in the arts. His interest in the humanities and the cultural arts is evidenced through his service as a member of the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Art, the Detroit Historical Society and the Michigan Opera Theater.

Despite all that Judge Gribbs has accomplished in a life of service to others those of us fortunate enough to have enjoyed his friendship may admire him most for the quiet qualities we have seen in him over many years—his unyielding integrity, his uncommon decency and perhaps most amazingly, given the tumultuous times he has lived in, his gentleness.

Judge Gribbs can take pride in his long career of service and dedication to the law and to the people of Michigan. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting this man from Michigan, and in wishing him well in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER CATHERINE A. WILSON

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, as the 106th Congress draws to a close, I stand to pay tribute to a distinguished Navy officer who served as a Congressional Science Detail on my staff during this Congress. Commander Catherine Wilson, United States Navy, was selected for this highly coveted position as a result of her outstanding training, experience, and accomplishments. Her superb performance and impeccable credentials earned her the respect and admiration of the Senate staff. She distinguished herself rapidly as a professional who possessed a pleasant demeanor, tremendous integrity, decisive leadership style, political savvy, and unending energy. The ultimate Naval officer, Commander Wilson is a visionary thinker who has the innate ability to implement these visions. Commander Wilson is the consummate professional and nursing has never had a better ambassador nor patients a more devoted advocate.

Commander Wilson forged strong alliances and affiliations with staff from a myriad of Congressional offices, committees, and federal and civilian agencies that fostered a cohesive approach to legislative proposals. She worked

closely with staff members on the Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services and Education in support of military health issues and national nursing and health care agendas.

As an advocate of Tri-Service nursing and military health issues, Commander Wilson championed independent practice for nurse anesthetists, the continuation of the Bachelor of Science degree as the minimum level of education for entry into military nursing practice, continued funding for a graduate school of nursing at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and the Tri-Service Nursing Research Program. She was instrumental in securing appropriations language for a wide variety of health care initiatives including telemedicine, advanced medical technologies, and distance learning.

More than fifty years ago, as I was recovering in a military hospital, I began a unique relationship with military nurses. Commander Wilson embodies what I know military nurses to be—strong, dedicated professional leaders stepping to the forefront to serve our country and committed to caring for our Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Soldiers, and their family members during peacetime and at war.

Commander Wilson is an officer of whom the military and our nation can and should be justifiably proud: a unique combination of talent and devotion to duty. I want to personally acknowledge my sincere appreciation to Commander Wilson for her exemplary months of service, and to bid her a fond aloha and heartfelt mahalo.●

REPORT OF THE VETO MESSAGE ON (H.R. 4733), "ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 132

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval, H.R. 4733, the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2001." The bill contains an unacceptable rider regarding the Army Corps of Engineers' master operating manual for the Missouri River. In addition, it fails to provide funding for the California-Bay Delta initiative and includes nearly \$700 million for over 300 unrequested projects.

Section 103 would prevent the Army Corps of Engineers from revising the operating manual for the Missouri River that is 40 years old and needs to be updated based on the most recent scientific information. In its current

form, the manual simply does not provide an appropriate balance among the competing interests, both commercial and recreational, of the many people who seek to use this great American river. The bill would also undermine implementation of the Endangered Species Act by preventing the Corps of Engineers from funding reasonable and much-needed changes to the operating manual for the Missouri River. The Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are entering a critical phase in their Section 7 consultation on the effects of reservoir project operations. This provision could prevent the Corps from carrying out a necessary element of any reasonable and prudent alternative to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of the endangered least tern and pallid sturgeon, and the threatened piping plover.

In addition to the objectionable restriction placed upon the Corps of Engineers, the bill fails to provide funding for the California-Bay Delta initiative. This decision could significantly hamper ongoing Federal and State efforts to restore this ecosystem, protect the drinking water of 22 million Californians, and enhance water supply and reliability for over 7 million acres of highly productive farmland and growing urban areas across California. The \$60 million budget request, all of which would be used to support activities that can be carried out using existing authorities, is the minimum necessary to ensure adequate Federal participation in these initiatives, which are essential to reducing existing conflicts among water users in California. This funding should be provided without legislative restrictions undermining key environmental statutes or disrupting the balanced approach to meeting the needs of water users and the environment that has been carefully developed through almost 6 years of work with the State of California and interested stakeholders.

The bill also fails to provide sufficient funding necessary to restore endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest, which would interfere with the Corps of Engineers' ability to comply with the Endangered Species Act, and provides no funds to start the new construction project requested for the Florida Everglades. The bill also fails to fund the Challenge 21 program for environmentally friendly flood damage reduction projects, the program to modernize Corps recreation facilities, and construction of an emergency outlet at Devil's Lake. In addition, it does not fully support efforts to research and develop nonpolluting, domestic sources of energy through solar and renewable technologies that are vital to America's energy security.

Finally, the bill provides nearly \$700 million for over 300 unrequested projects, including: nearly 80 unrequested projects totaling more

than \$330 million for the Department of Energy; nearly 240 unrequested projects totaling over \$300 million for the Corps of Engineers; and, more than 10 unrequested projects totaling in excess of 10 million for the Bureau of Reclamation. For example, more than 80 unrequested Corps of Engineers construction projects included in the bill would have a long-term cost of nearly \$2.7 billion. These unrequested projects and earmarks come at the expense of other initiatives important to tax-paying Americans.

The American people deserve Government spending based upon a balanced approach that maintains fiscal discipline, eliminates the national debt, extends the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, provides for an appropriately sized tax cut, establishes a new voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit in the context of broader reforms, expands health care coverage to more families, and funds critical investments for our future. I urge the Congress to work expeditiously to develop a bill that addresses the needs of the Nation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 7, 2000.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 11:07 a.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:

S. 2311. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend programs established under the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1509. An act to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

H.R. 2302. An act to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 307 Main Street in Johnson City, New York, as the "James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building."

H.R. 2496. An act to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

H.R. 2641. An act to make technical corrections to title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

H.R. 2778. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2938. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 South Michigan Street in South Bend, Indiana, as the "John Brademas Post Office."

H.R. 3030. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 757 Warren Road in Ithaca, New York, as the "Matthew F. McHugh Post Office."

H.R. 3201. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the