

Whitten Peters has lead his Service to new heights of achievement, and the world is better for it. At a time when the global security environment became less predictable with each passing day, Whit Peters understood the need for the Air Force to become more responsive, more versatile, and more powerful—all at the same time. With boundless energy and enthusiasm, he set out help the United States Air Force do those things and more.

As the leading architect of aerospace power, Whit Peters drove a fundamental re-examination of the relationship between air, space, and information systems. As a result, the Cold War Air Force he inherited is well on its way to becoming a modern, integrated aerospace force, designed to meet the challenges of a new millennium.

During Secretary Peters' tenure, in the troubled skies over Serbia, a war was won for the first time with aerospace power alone—and we did it without losing a single American to enemy action. Today, despots and dictators hesitate to act because they know America's Air Force can bring power to bear at the point of decision in a matter of minutes or hours. And, millions of people, the world over, live better lives because of the humanitarian missions undertaken by our United States Air Force in the last four years.

While busy guiding the evolution of the Air Force's operational capabilities, Secretary Peters also directed significant improvements in acquisition, logistics, and sustainment programs to ensure the best possible use of defense resources. He presided over the development of the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle—a revolutionary pairing of Russian propulsion technology with the best US commercial space-launch capabilities—which will drastically lower the cost of placing commercial and defense payloads in earth orbit. He led the consolidation of five Air Force aircraft depots into three, reducing depot over-capacity by 40 percent and saving the taxpayers over \$377 million a year. And, he arrested a 10-year drop in aircraft readiness rates by putting two billion dollars worth of additional spares on the shelf where they will be useful to aircraft maintainers.

Most important, Whit Peters took care of his people. As every member of this body knows, he fought hard for improved pay, housing, and medical benefits for every member of America's Air Force. He fought for better re-enlistment bonuses for people in hard-to-fill skills such as air traffic control, computer network administration, and over a hundred others. He pushed relentlessly for better child-care facilities to meet the demands of working families, and today 95 percent of all Air Force child care centers meet federal accreditation standards, compared to just 10 percent of child care facilities nation-wide.

No wonder the enlisted men and women of the Air Force honored him with their most prestigious recognition: induction into the Air Force Order of the Sword. In the 53-year history of America's youngest service, no other Air Force Secretary has ever been so honored. Nor has any service secretary been so respected by the men and women he leads.

Like the men and women of the Total Air Force—the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve, and the Regular Air Force—we hate to see Whit Peters go, and I know my colleagues will join me in wishing him the fondest of farewells. He is a rare leader and an even rarer person in this town: a true gentleman who cares more about others than himself. As the Air Force slogan says, "No one comes close."•

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, 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 Governmental Affairs.

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

REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 3

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 Finance.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 203(f) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) of 1991, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3201 et seq.), I transmit herewith the third report to the Congress on the Operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 5, 2001.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 235. A bill to provide for enhanced safety, public awareness, and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire:

S. 245. A bill to make permanent the moratorium on the Federal imposition of taxes on the Internet; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire:

S. 246. A bill to extend the moratorium on the imposition of taxes on the Internet for an additional 5 years; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 247. A bill to provide for the protection of children from tobacco; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 248. A bill to amend the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001, to adjust a condition on the payment of arrearages to the United Nations that sets the maximum share of any United Nations peacekeeping operation's budget that may be assessed of any country; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REID:

S. 249. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs.

HUTCHINSON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAU, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MILLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 250. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit to holders of qualified bonds issued by Amtrak, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire):

S. 251. A bill to require the Food and Drug Administration to establish restrictions regarding the qualifications of physicians to prescribe the abortion drug commonly known as RU-486; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 252. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for State water pollution control revolving funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. GREGG, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. ENZI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 253. A bill to reauthorize the Rural Education Initiative in subpart 2 of part J of title X of the Elementary and Secondary