CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

July 19, 2001

POC–137. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the SS Leopoldville; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 201
Whereas, On Christmas Eve 1944, while carrying American soldiers of the 66th Infantry Division to reinforce Allied troops fighting the Battle of the Bulge, the SS Leopoldville was sunk in the English Channel by a U-boat torpedo, resulting in the loss of 763 members of the 362nd and 26th regiments, including 35 Texans; and
Whereas, The underwater grave, located five and a half miles off the coast of Cherbourg, France, of the senate of late United States remains of 493 unrecovered and entombed American servicemen who have been honored by monuments erected across the United States in their memory; and
Whereas, World War II combat and wreckage locations, including many at sea, have fallen prey to plunderers and looters who, in seeking souvenirs and commercial reward, have desecrated the memory of our valorous combatants and their final resting places; and
Whereas, The wreckage of the SS Leopoldville is threatened by the practice of divers who descend to remove such artifacts as brass, porpholes, and other parts of the ship and who, if unchecked, may begin to extract the personal effects and military equipment of the deceased and in so doing disturb the sanctity of their burial site; and
Whereas, The State of New York has issued a proclamation in memory of the victims of the SS Leopoldville, and at least a dozen like measures have been passed by other states to commemorate the men who lost their lives in this tragedy and to ensure that they continue to receive the personal effects and military equipment of the deceased and in so doing disturb the sanctity of their burial site; and
Whereas, The economic benefits that would result from oil and natural gas exploration and development, in including areas under congressional or presidial moratoria in the federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), where vast amounts of oil and natural gas may be available for extraction; and
Whereas, For the first time since 1988, the Minerals Management Service, a bureau of the United States Department of the Interior that manages the nation’s oil, gas, and other mineral resources in the OCS, has proposed an OCS lease sale for the eastern Gulf of Mexico in the portion of the Gulf 100 miles south of the Florida Panhandle and 15 miles south of the Alabama coastline; the bureau’s tentative schedule calls for bid opening and reading in December 2001; and
Whereas, The oil and gas industry has demonstrated that it can be a good steward of the environment while operating in the Gulf of Mexico; and
Whereas, Oil and gas production from this area of the Gulf of Mexico would help offset current domestic energy production declines and assist the nation in meeting future energy demand; and
Whereas, Numerous positive economic benefits for the State of Texas have been created by oil and gas industry activities in the Gulf, and many of the exploration and production companies that would participate in the OCS Lease Sale 181 are headquartered in Texas as well as many of the oil and gas supply and service companies that would benefit by increased activities; and
Whereas, The economic benefits that would result from oil and natural gas exploration, development, and production of leases acquired in OCS Lease Sale 181 would continue to benefit the State of Texas and all the states bordering the Gulf of Mexico; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby declare support for the Minerals Management Service plan to proceed with the Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale 181; and
Resolved, That the Texas Legislature respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States to take appropriate action to prevent further desecration of the SS Leopoldville or any of its contents; and, be it further
Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president pro tempore of the United States Senate, to the Senate of late United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

S. Res. 16: A resolution designating August 16, 2001, as ‘‘National Airborne Day’’.

S. Con. Res. 16: A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the George Washington letter to Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, which is on display at the U. S. B’nai B’rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., is one of the most significant early statements buttressing the nascent American constitutional guarantee of religious freedom.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committee were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, for the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

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. DODD (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 1196. A bill to authorize a program of assistance to improve international building practices in eligible Latin American countries; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON):

S. 1196. A bill to authorize a program of assistance to improve international building practices in eligible Latin American countries; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. HUTCHINSON (for herself, Mr. BREAX, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BACUS, Mr. CHAFFER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. MURkowski, Mr. ALARD, Mr. BROWNACK, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. Gramm, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1196. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a tax credit for marginal domestic oil and natural gas well production and an election to expense geological and geophysical expenditures and drill rental payments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CLELAND (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1300. A bill to direct the Secretaries of the military departments to conduct a review of military service records to determine

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: