

speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the 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.

POM-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 262nd and 264th regiments, including 35 Texans; and

Whereas, The underwater grave, located five and a half miles off the coast of Cherbourg, France, cradles to this day the 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, portholes, 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 their silent rest in dignity; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby honor the American servicemen who were lost when the troopship SS Leopoldville was sunk by an enemy torpedo on December 24, 1944; and, be it further

*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 of the senate of the 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.

POM-138. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the Minerals Management Service plan to proceed with the Outer Continental Shelf Lease Sale 181; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

Whereas, A strong domestic oil and gas industry is vitally important to the United States economy and national defense; and

Whereas, This nation's domestic oil and gas production has decreased by 2.7 million barrels per day during the last 13 years, a 17 percent decline, at the same time that domestic consumption of oil has increased by more than 14 percent; and

Whereas, Currently, the United States imports approximately 55 percent of the oil needed for the American economy, while the demand for refined petroleum products is projected to increase by more than 35 percent and the demand for natural gas is projected to increase by more than 45 percent over the next two decades; and

Whereas, Much of the nation's greatest potential for future domestic production lies in areas that are currently off limits to oil and natural gas exploration and development, including areas under congressional or presidential 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 southwest 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 are many of the oil field 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 for the eastern Gulf of Mexico scheduled for December 5, 2001; and, be it further

*Resolved*, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the Director of the Minerals Management Service, to the Secretary of the Interior, to the President of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

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 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:

Mr. LEAHY, Mr. President, for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Robert D. McCallum, Jr., of Georgia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Roger L. Gregory, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Sam E. Haddon, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

Richard F. Cebull, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

Eileen J. O'Connor, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. 1197. A bill to authorize a program of assistance to improve international building practices in eligible Latin America countries; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 1198. A bill to reauthorize Franchise Fund Pilot Programs; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr.

BREAUX, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CHAFEE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LOTT, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. AL-LARD, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1199. 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 delay rental payments; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1200. A bill to direct the Secretaries of the military departments to conduct a review of military service records to determine