

region is culturally rich and historically significant as a bridge between Eastern and Western societies. Armenians have been a distinct political entity in Artsakh—the traditional Armenian name for the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh—since the 2nd Century B.C. Christianity in the region grew and strengthened following the construction of the historic Monastery in Amaras in 330 A.D. Repeatedly destroyed by generations of invaders and rebuilt, the Monastery in Amaras currently stands as a symbol of faith and perseverance for Armenians.

The Soviet Union's oppression of independence in the region began in the 1920s as Nagorno Karabagh and its predominantly Armenian population were attached to Azerbaijan. Most recently, Armenians in Nagorno Karabagh struggled to fight the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the Caucasus region.

Finally, on September 2, 1991, the Armenians of Nagorno Karabagh declared their independence and survived a three-year war with Azerbaijan to create legitimate government institutions. Residents of Nagorno Karabagh have participated in national elections for parliament and president since then.

Many challenges face the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh and Armenians in the region. I applaud efforts undertaken earlier this year to bring together Armenia and Azerbaijan in Key West, Florida, to discuss a peaceful end to the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. As Secretary of State Powell noted, "achieving a durable and mutually acceptable resolution to Armenia's conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabagh is key to several US interests." In addition to helping to restore stability in the Caucasus region, a lasting peace agreement would allow Armenia to improve its relations with Turkey and focus much of its economic resources on internal development and social improvements.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I will continue to work to secure funding to support a settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. These funds are critical to the peace process and to post-settlement reconstruction in Azerbaijan and Armenia as part of a coordinated international donor effort.

Again, I commend the Armenians of the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh for their courage and perseverance on this anniversary of their independence. I look forward to years of peace and economic vitality in the region. ●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 8, 2001, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 93. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that the mandatory separation age for Federal firefighters be made the same as the age that applies with respect to Federal law enforcement officers.

H.R. 271. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a former Bureau of Land Management administrative site to the city of Carson City, Nevada, for use as a senior center.

H.R. 364. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5927 Southwest 70th Street in Miami, Florida, as the "Marjory Williams Scrivens Post Office."

H.R. 427. An act to provide further protections for the watershed of the Little Sandy River as part of the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 558. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 504 West Hamilton Street, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

H.R. 821. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1030 South Church Street in Asheboro, North Carolina, as the "W. Joe Trogdon Post Office Building."

H.R. 988. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 40 Centre Street in New York, New York, as the "Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse."

H.R. 1183. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 South Main Street in Sylvania, Georgia, as the "G. Elliot Hagan Post Office Building."

H.R. 1753. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 419 Rutherford Avenue, N.E., in Roanoke, Virginia, as the "M. Caldwell Butler Post Office Building."

H.R. 2043. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2719 South Webster Street in Kokomo, Indiana, as the "Elwood Haynes 'Bud' Hillis Post Office Building."

H.R. 2213. An act to respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American agricultural producers.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the enrolled bills were signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) on August 8, 2001.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 4. An act to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3289. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Workforce Security, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Labor Certification Process for the Permanent Employment of Aliens in the United States; Refiling of Applications" (RIN1205-AB25) received on August 7, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3290. A communication from the Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, a report relative to the impacts of recent and ongoing research; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3291. A communication from the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report deciding habeas corpus death penalty petitions for the period beginning July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3292. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Justice Management Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nationwide Joint Automated Booking System" (DOJ-005) received on August 9, 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3293. A communication from the Administrator of the General Service Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Federal Employees Clean Air Incentives Act for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3294. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee for Purchase from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of additions to the procurement list received on August 8, 2001; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3295. A communication from the Director of Employee Benefits, AgriBank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report disclosing the financial condition of the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the Seventh Farm Credit District and the audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2000; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-3296. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Anti-Deficiency Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-3297. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indiana Regulatory Program" (IN-151-FOR)