

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, September 10, 2001

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 10, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1885. An act to expand the class of beneficiaries who may apply for adjustment of status under section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act by extending the deadline for classification petition and labor certification filings, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 149. An act to provide authority to control exports, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 58. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the tenth annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL MICHAEL E. RYAN

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to

rise to pay tribute to a great American, General Michael E. Ryan, the chief of staff of the United States Air Force. His departure on September 6 last week from active duty signaled an evolutionary change: the first time in 63 years, if you can believe that, that a Ryan is absent from the roles of the United States Air Force. His father, General John Ryan, also served as a senior uniformed Air Force officer.

General Mike Ryan's career spanned over 3 decades during which he distinguished himself as an airman leader and trusted advisor to both the President and the United States Congress.

After graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1965, General Ryan began his illustrious career of faithful service to this Nation.

During his 36 years of service, he commanded at the squadron, wing, numbered air force and major command levels. He flew combat missions in southeast Asia, including 100 missions over north Vietnam.

He was a fighter pilot, I can tell you that. I was one, too; and he was a fighter pilot's fighter pilot.

He also served in key assignments at the major command level, headquarters of the United States Air Force and the joint staff right here in Washington, DC.

As commander of the 16th Air Force and allied forces southern Europe in Italy, he directed the NATO air combat operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina that directly contributed to the Dayton peace accords. He was the head of the Air Force at the time when we used the B-2 bomber to great effectiveness in that war.

General Ryan is a command pilot with more than 4,100 hours flying time in seven different aircraft, including 153 combat missions.

His decorations and medals include: the Defense Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster; the Distinguished Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters; the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Air Medal with 11 oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters; and the Vietnam Service Medal with three service stars.

After serving as the commander of the United States Air Force in Europe and commander of the allied air forces in central Europe, General Ryan took the stick of the Air Force as its 16th chief of staff.

He has exemplified the quiet dignity and honor of that office. His leadership,

integrity and foresight set the right vector for our 21st century Air Force, and his expeditionary force concept is now in being.

History has proven that a true leader sets the right vector and then clears the path to allow his commanders to truly command their units.

General Ryan personifies this type of leader, and I quote, "I do not think leadership should be personalized. Good ideas are best when they do not have a single identity. Leadership is a team effort."

I want to take a moment, if I can, to identify the remarkable accomplishments of General Ryan's team effort.

He and his leadership team have successfully arrested the Air Force readiness decline of the last decade. They have built stability into the expeditionary operations our Nation demands by reorganizing the United States Air Force.

He has led the Air Force retention and recruiting effort that ensured quality was never sacrificed for quantity in an all-volunteer force competing in a strong job market.

He led the effort to provide lifetime health care and a retirement system that properly compensates the member's service to his country. He was a people person, and he believed in the people that were in the United States Air Force.

In a period of leadership challenges, General Ryan led our Air Force through 4 tumultuous years, balancing reduction in force with increased operational tasking.

Without question, the United States Air Force is the world's premier aerospace force, and our country owes a debt of gratitude to General Mike Ryan.

One key contributor to the U.S. Air Force "One family, one Air Force" and a person General Ryan owes much of his success to is his wife, Jane Ryan, who was instrumental in dealing with the personnel problems of the military throughout the Air Force.

With dignity and grace, she selflessly gave her time and attention to the men and women of the Air Force family. Her sacrifice and devotion served as an example and inspiration for others.

The Air Force lost not one but two very exceptional people.

Last Thursday's review ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base was a demonstration of the total force concept that exemplified the superb ability of our airmen and officers that General Ryan has led and improved during his tenure.