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the future. If we take these actions now, we can help to assure that the system that has served our parents and grandparents so well will be there to serve our children and grandchildren well into the 21st century.

Thanks to the advocates who are here—Senator Harkin and others—I'm confident that is exactly what we will do next year.

Thank you very much, and happy holidays.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Margaret Dixon, immediate past president, American Association of Retired Persons; Deborah Briceland-Betts, executive director, Older Women's League; and George J. Kourpias, president, National Council of Senior Citizens.

Statement on International Maritime Organization Action To Protect the Northern Right Whale

December 7, 1998

Today's vote by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to strengthen protections for the northern right whale is a vital step to ensure the survival of these majestic but endangered creatures.

Like many other marine mammals, the northern right whale once was hunted nearly to extinction. The 300 or so that survive spend much of the year in waters off Cape Cod and off the Georgia and Florida coasts. Biologists believe the greatest human threat they face today is collisions with large ships.

In April I instructed our representatives to the IMO to seek strong measures to address this threat. Under our proposal, approved unanimously today by the IMO, commercial ships entering the whale's calving and feeding grounds will be required to report by radio to the U.S. Coast Guard, which will relay back the latest information on the whales' locations and advice on avoiding collisions.

Today's action by the IMO demonstrates once again that through international cooperation we can restore and protect our precious oceans and the magnificent diversity of life they sustain.

Proclamation 7157—Death of Albert Gore, Sr.

December 7, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Albert Gore, Sr., was the embodiment of everything public service ought to be. The Nation has lost a great patriot and a true role model for young people everywhere.

As a mark of respect for the memory of Albert Gore, Sr., former Senator from the State of Tennessee, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, that the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions on Tuesday, December 8, 1998. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff on that day at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., December 8, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 9.

Executive Order 13106—Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay and Delegation of a Federal Pay Administration Authority

December 7, 1998

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the