

as a leader politically, academically, and athletically.

I take a moment to recount this cherished history because George Washington is a prime example of how a school can succeed through the hard work of its students and teachers, the support of the community, and the expectation of achievement. These students have dedicated themselves to setting an example for their younger siblings and the classes that will follow them at George Washington. The teachers never stop preaching about the advantages of going to college and never let the students assume that their education ends with high school. And parents have supported these students, even if the experience of college is a new one for their families.

The most fundamental element of American competitiveness and progress is the quality of education that our children receive. We must make sure that all of our young people are educated 100 percent of them. We cannot afford to be satisfied with less. George Washington High School clearly has embraced this challenge.

I am privileged to recognize this marvelous school and the students who are graduating and going to college, for this signal achievement. It is clear that the students at George Washington have the vision and inspiration to move ahead, which is so important to their lives but also to the success of our great country. I look forward to following their achievements and supporting their dreams in the years ahead.

Below is a complete list of the remarkable George Washington High School Class of 2009:

Edgardo Aboytes, Megan Adams, Armando Alejo, Mauricio Arreola, Salvador Arteaga, Jose Arteaga, Louis Aumann, Imelda Benitez-Vasquez, Sarah Boles, Devon Brogan, Dawn Caffery, Sebastiana Campos, Aloric Carson, Ariel Casillas, Katherine Cook, Erik Cook, Cheris Drotz-Smith, Joyce East, Luis Escatel, Petra Felder.

Edith Flores, Anthony Fuller, Manuel Gil, Dortha Glenn, Noe Gonzalez, John Graves, Christopher Hall, Katey Hicks, Kaela Hunt, Kathryn Hunter, Tiffany Ingalls, Alma Jimenez, Dujuan Johnson, Cleveland Johnson, Charles Lile, James Locke, Adelmer Lopez, Rubi Lopez, Daniel Luckett, Karina Magallanes.

Jessica Martinez, Joshua Masters, Angela McClure, Ashley McClure, Patrick McDonald, Frederick McKnight, Keith McLemore, Adem Meftah, Shantina Moore, Fernando Mora, James Morris, Felicia Moy, Nohemi Ocampo, Rick Owens, Andrew Parsley, Julian Peters, Kiara Ragland, Miguel Ramirez, Tisha Ramirez, Daniel Rangel.

Matthew Reeves, Jeffery Riley, Tiffany Riley, Brittney Ritchie, Marcos Rivera, Marvin Rodriguez, Maria Rodriguez, Fernando Rojas, Marcus Ross, Emanuel Ruiz, Loniqua Smith, Erica Snyder, Gregorio Soto, Brittany Spears, Jason Stark-Jines, DeVaughn Stokes.

India Tinsley, Samantha Turner, Maria Valdez, Kenneth Valentine, Cassandra Vest, Sherry Whitescarver, Brandy Whitescarver, Victoria Wilcox, Calvin Williams, Rodshied

Williams, William Wilson, Cassandra Wilson, Jose Zelaya.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, 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.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 1007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny a deduction for excessive compensation of any employee of an employer; to the Committee on Finance.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-1740. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Etoxazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL-8413-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1741. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance; Technical Amendments" (FRL-8417-9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1742. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report relative to the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12938 with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1743. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1744. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Assistant Sec-

retary for Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA): Rule To Simplify and Improve the Process of Obtaining Mortgages and Reduce Consumer Settlement Costs; Withdrawal of Revised Definition of 'Required Use'" ((RIN2502-AI61)(FR-5180-F-06)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 26, 2009; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1745. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishing U.S. Ports of Entry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Implementing the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program; Change of Implementation Date" (RIN1651-AA77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1746. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Western Electricity Coordinating Council Regional Reliability Standard Regarding Automatic Time Error Correction" (Docket No. RM08-12-000) as received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 16, 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1747. A communication from the Director, Office of Human Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, (4) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1748. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Carolina; Approval of Section 110(a)(1) Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard for Cherokee County" (FRL-8911-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1749. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Continuous Instrumental Test Methods; Correction" (FRL-8910-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1750. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the New Source Review Program for Particulate Matter Less Than w.5 Micrometers (PM2.5)" (FRL-8910-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 27, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1751. A communication from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Wintering Population of the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) in Texas" (RIN1018-AV46) received in the Office of the