

named ROTC cadet colonel in his senior year.

As a distinguished military graduate, in June of 1950, John was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Infantry. On June 17, 1950, he married Joan Adele Garrett of Belmont, MA.

Lieutenant General Blount's long career was distinguished as he rose through the ranks of the U.S. Army, with distinguished combat tours in Korea and Vietnam. Among the many highlights of his career were his testimony at the Army-McCarthy hearings and his command of Fort Jackson, SC, one of the U. S. Army's most important and strategic training centers.

John was promoted to brigadier general on September 1, 1974. He was promoted to major general in October of 1977, and on June 30, 1983, John was promoted to lieutenant general and became chief of staff of the Allied Forces South, a large NATO command consisting of units from five countries, including Greece, Italy, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Upon completion of this appointment, John retired from active service in Columbia, SC, near Fort Jackson, but did not discontinue his service to the Army that he loved. From 1985 to 1988, he served as director of defense study programs at the University of South Carolina. From 1988 to 1994, he served as chairman of the Army Retiree Council. For many years, he served as national vice president of the Association of the U. S. Army and as the retiree representative on the board of directors of the Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Association and headed the National Military Retirees Golf Tournament at Myrtle Beach, SC. He also served as the president of the South Carolina Korean Veterans War Memorial Committee and was instrumental in establishing the memorial in downtown Columbia, SC.

In recognition of his integrity, exemplary leadership, and outstanding service, the University of Rhode Island proudly conferred upon Lieutenant General Blount the honorary degree of doctor of laws in June 2000.

Lieutenant General Blount is a highly decorated soldier whose awards include the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Silver Star and Purple Heart earned in Vietnam and Korea, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Korean Campaign Service Medal with Four Campaign Stars, Vietnam Service Medal with Four Campaign Stars, and others too numerous to mention. In a rare distinction, he was twice awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian honor in South Carolina, first by Governor James Edwards and again by Governor Carroll Campbell.

Lieutenant General Blount is survived by his wife and beloved partner of 66 years, Joan Adele Garrett Blount; by his children, Gail Leslie Blount of south Florida, Carol Linell Blount of

Columbia, John Bruce Blount, Jr., of Washington DC, and Garrett Christopher Blount and his wife, Martha Ivey Blount, of Chicago; and by his grandchildren, John Bruce Blount III, Elizabeth Blount, Christopher Blount, Frances Blount, and Caroline Blount.

Mr. President, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in saluting Lieutenant General Blount's many contributions and sacrifices made in the defense of our great Nation. A true American hero, LTG John Bruce Blount will be sorely missed.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KITTY PIERCY

● Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to state my congratulations to Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy on her retirement after 12 years of service.

Throughout my time in public office, I have worked with Mayor Piercy at countless events and meetings covering a range of important issues. In my experience with Mayor Piercy, I have been particularly impressed by her work to save our environment with a new sustainability commission and local ordinance to cut carbon emissions, to fight for women and families, to revitalize downtown Eugene, and to move forward through a difficult recession.

Whether it be serving as a grassroots activist, the House Democratic Leader in the Oregon State Legislature, a board member for the Lauren Hill Center for individuals with mental illnesses, or the public affairs director for Planned Parenthood Health Services of Southern Oregon, Mayor Piercy has always been a fierce advocate for vulnerable community members in need.

When elected mayor of Eugene in 2004, Mayor Piercy took her commitment to her community to a new level—especially through her work on environmental justice. She was a key leader on the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, working with 800 mayors across the country to push for changes at the congressional level. At the beginning of her time in office, she led an 18-month initiative to examine how Eugene could support the growth of businesses that create sustainable products or those that adopt more sustainable practices. Thanks to Mayor Piercy's commitment to environmental issues, Eugene has decreased its city carbon emissions by 10 percent.

Throughout her time in office, Mayor Piercy acted on her concern for children and families by serving as chair of the Lane County Commission on Children and Families and the Oregon Commission for Child Care. With these groups, she worked to strengthen families through early intervention and prevention services, as well as advised the Governor and legislature on the importance of high quality child care to Oregon's families and its economy. Mayor Piercy has also been a tireless advocate for homeless youth as a member of the State Commission for Chil-

dren and Families, linking local efforts with those at the State level and advocating with the Oregon Coalition for Runaway and Homeless Youth for an effective State response to the many homeless youth in our State.

We need more leaders like Mayor Kitty Piercy in office. I thank Mayor Piercy for her hard work and dedication to public service and wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TERMINATING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13396 OF FEBRUARY 7, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO CÔTE D'IVOIRE, AND REVOKING EXECUTIVE ORDER 13396—PM 54

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order that terminates the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 of February 7, 2006, and revokes that Executive Order.

The President issued Executive Order 13396 to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire, which had resulted in the massacre of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and attacks against international peacekeeping forces leading to fatalities. In Executive Order 13396, the President addressed that threat by blocking the property and interests in property of, among others, persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to constitute a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire, to be responsible for serious violations of international law in Côte d'Ivoire, or to have supplied arms to Côte d'Ivoire. Executive Order 13396 also implemented United States sanctions obligations under United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1572 and subsequent resolutions.

I have determined that the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire that gave rise to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 has improved significantly as a result of the progress achieved in the stabilization of Côte d'Ivoire, including the successful conduct of the October 2015 presidential election, progress on the management of arms and related materiel, and the combating of illicit trafficking of natural resources. With these advancements, and with the United Nations Security Council's termination of sanctions obligations on April 28, 2016, in UNSCR 2283, there is no further need for the blocking of assets and other sanctions measures imposed by Executive Order 13396. For these reasons I have determined that it is necessary to terminate the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13396 and revoke that order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 14, 2016.

**NOTIFICATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTENT TO END THE SUSPENSION OF BURMA AS A BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRY UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) PROGRAM, AND TO DESIGNATE BURMA AS A LEAST-DEVELOPED BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRY FOR PURPOSES OF THE GSP PROGRAM—PM 55**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am writing to inform you of my intent to end the suspension of preferential treatment for Burma as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, and to designate Burma as a least-developed beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program. I have carefully considered the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461, 2462(c)). After considering the criteria set forth in section 502(c), I have determined that it is appropriate to add Burma to the list of GSP beneficiary developing countries in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) of the United States. After considering the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have determined that it is appropriate to add Burma to the list of GSP least-developed beneficiary developing countries in the HTS.

I submit this notice in accordance with section 502(f)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(1)).

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 14, 2016.

**MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

At 12:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3590. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the increase in the income threshold used in determining the deduction for medical care.

H.R. 5587. An act to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.

H.R. 5985. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

**ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED**

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, September 14, 2016, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 1579. An act to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

H.R. 3969. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Laughlin, Nevada, as the "Master Chief Petty Officer Jesse Dean VA Clinic".

**MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR**

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

S. 3318. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to subject the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to the regular appropriations process, and for other purposes.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME**

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3326. A bill to give States the authority to provide temporary access to affordable private health insurance options outside of Obamacare exchanges.

**ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED**

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 14, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1579. An act to enhance the integrated Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

**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. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3321. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to empower the States to set the maximum annual percentage rates applicable to consumer credit transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE:

S. 3322. A bill to provide an exemption to the individual mandate to maintain health coverage for certain individuals residing in service areas with no health insurance issuers offering plans on an Exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 3323. A bill to improve the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3324. A bill to amend the Fair Housing Act to establish that certain conduct, in or around a dwelling, shall be considered to be severe or pervasive for purposes of determining whether a certain type of sexual harassment has occurred under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3325. A bill to promote sustainable economic development in Burma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3326. A bill to give States the authority to provide temporary access to affordable private health insurance options outside of Obamacare exchanges; read the first time.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 3327. A bill to require sponsoring Senators to pay the printing costs of ceremonial and commemorative Senate resolutions; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KING, Mr. UDALL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3328. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3329. A bill to ensure transparent enforcement of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 3330. A bill to reduce the benefits of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who are medical professionals and were convicted of violent crimes against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3331. A bill to exempt health insurance of residents of the United States territories from the annual fee on health insurance providers; to the Committee on Finance.

**SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS**

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr.