

expedited procedures are triggered for 15 session days in both the Senate and the House of Representatives—both Houses of Congress—for the purpose of approving or disapproving the President's recommendation—in other words, expedited procedures which provide for no filibuster. We take it up in preference to other legislation. We give it priority. So it could not be delayed.

Equally important, if the sanctions go into effect—let's say that the Congress says, "OK. Yes. Mr. President, we think this should go into effect," or if the President just chooses to put it into effect and says, "Yes, we do have multilateral support, and, yes, we do have enough support to make the sanctions really bite to make them meaningful"—if the sanctions go into effect, they remain so for two years and then this procedure is repeated on the sanctions' second anniversary, and each anniversary thereafter. In other words, there would be a time certain after every sanction in which the administration would have to consider the effectiveness of it, a report to the Congress, and Congress then would either take appropriate action as they saw fit at that time or we let the sanctions continue on for another year.

For sanctions already in effect at the time of enactment of this bill, this procedure is triggered at the next anniversary of the sanction if it has been in place for 2 years or more, or at the second anniversary for sanctions less than 2 years old.

So this proposed legislation is retrospective and prospective both. We are trying to set down rules here that would apply and make sense on how we will operate in the future with existing sanctions that are in there now and ones that might be applied in the future under current and future laws of our land.

Madam President, this bill does not give the President *carte blanche* to waive congressionally mandated sanctions, as some bills do, and does not allow a minority of the Senate to prevent sanctions from being lifted as is the case with some of our laws.

We have worked on this very hard, and I believe this bill provides a balance of responsibilities between the President and the Congress. We do not cut the President out of the equation. We do not cut the Congress out of the equation. We recognize our constitutional responsibilities at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. This would apply in the imposition and removal of sanctions, and I urge the support of my colleagues for this bill.

I know that a task force has been formed to look at some of the sanctions legislation, and I will be presenting this to that task force also for its consideration. There are several bills that will address this particular problem, but I think this bill really establishes a balance, and I hope I can rely on my colleagues for support when this subject comes to a vote.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3056

(Purpose: To increase funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency antiterrorism activities)

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of myself and Senator MIKULSKI and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND], for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 3056.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 73, line 11, strike "\$231,000,000" and insert "\$239,000,000, including \$11,000,000 for assisting state and local governments in preparing for and responding to terrorist incidents".

On page 42, line 14, strike "\$1,000,826,000" and insert "\$992,826,000".

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask it be considered en bloc as it amends the bill in two places.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, this amendment responds to the critical requirement of enhancing antiterrorist activities at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In our budget hearings with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Senator MIKULSKI and I raised the question of whether this country is ready to respond and take all appropriate actions to deal with the threat of terrorist activities in our country. The administration has submitted a budget amendment on June 8 to increase spending in several agencies for antiterrorism activities, including \$11 million more than the original budget request for FEMA's emergency planning and assistance. With this amendment we will meet the request.

The bill as reported by the committee adds \$3 million above the initial request for such activities, and this amendment now pending before the Senate would add another \$8 million, for a total of \$11 million in this key

area. These funds are to be used for such critical activities as planning at the Federal, State, and local level for the unique aspect of terrorist-related incidents.

I note this is part of a larger proposal for \$249 million to strengthen our ability to defend against and respond to terrorist incidents involving the use of biological or chemical weapons. I wholeheartedly support this effort. I think it is vitally important and I think this is a vital first step.

In a recent self-assessment by the States, they rated themselves as being unprepared in this critical area. The funds we are adding today should go a long way in helping State and local governments prepare for these instances that we hope they never have to face. But, as in all emergency management agencies' activities, we have to be prepared for things that could happen that we hope never happen.

With this amendment, FEMA funding would total almost \$18 million. The FEMA program, as I said, complements a broader initiative involving the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services. That effort includes building a civilian stockpile of antidotes to respond to any large-scale attack, improving the public health surveillance system, and providing special equipment to first responders.

We have already included in this bill assistance for first responders in dealing with a problem that is particularly acute in my State of Missouri, and that is the explosion of methamphetamine clandestine labs in our State. We have recognized in this bill the need to prepare first responders—emergency personnel, firefighters, police—when they go into a methamphetamine lab. These are very dangerous facilities that can blow up with any kind of heat or light, or even the discharge of a gun. So we recognize that the people who do the vitally important work responding to emergencies, whether they are firefighters or police or sheriffs units, the first responders as they are often called, need to be prepared. In this amendment, we are going to provide additional assistance to the people who will come on the scenes first.

These are very frightening issues. The terrorism issue—we have already experienced domestic acts of terrorism in Oklahoma City and at the World Trade Center, so we know they can occur. We need to be prepared. We need to make our country as safe as possible. It is all too easy to ship weapons of mass destruction, be they explosives or chemical or biological weapons, even in a suitcase. This risk is not acceptable, and I strongly support the amendment as an important first step towards dealing with these problems.

Our country has to be prepared to protect its citizens from the dangers of a hostile world. Unfortunately, the constant threat we face from rogue states makes it vital that Congress provide the funding for FEMA to use

towards counterterrorism measures on a local level. Our amendment gives FEMA the funding it needs to enhance the training of emergency personnel in the event that a terrorist attack occurs.

Madam President, I urge adoption of the amendment and I yield the floor to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I am pleased to join with Chairman BOND in offering this FEMA amendment. As he has indicated, it provides an additional \$8 million for the antiterrorist activities of FEMA, combined with a \$3 million increase provided in the full committee markup.

Now, this is really important. There are rogues, bums, and predators out there who want to destroy the United States of America. The United States of America can be attacked and it can be attacked by another nation by a weapon of mass destruction, or it can be attacked by an external terrorist, or even someone within our own country.

What are weapons of mass destruction? They are, of course, nuclear weapons. They are, in addition to nuclear, chemical, biological, and even cybermanipulation.

The issues around chemical and biological weapons present new and unique threats to the United States of America. I am fortunate to have two outstanding military installations in my State, Fort Detrick as well as Aberdeen, whose whole approach is to look into the research activities on what could be the possible weapons used against us, whether it be nerve gas or a despicable virus that could bring a city's population to its knees.

We were concerned in our hearing and raised this issue. Mr. James Lee Witt, the head of FEMA, said he did need to have more resources. In President Clinton's speech at the U.S. Naval Academy, he said that he had directed the administration to undertake a concerted effort to protect our people in the event of biological or chemical weapons being unleashed either by a rogue state, an international criminal organization, or a terrorist group. The key elements of this directive are, for the first time, a civilian stockpile of antidotes and antibiotics, protecting the population by public health surveillance to detect biological or chemical agents, and analyzing the results of diseases.

The President wants an additional \$294 million to go to the Justice Department, the FBI, the Department of Health and Human Services, but certainly to FEMA.

We support the FEMA request because it is very important. It is consistent with its overall mission. They receive tasking under the Nunn-Lugar-Domenici legislation that it protect us from all hazards, including weapons of mass destruction, and they need to do several things: They need to play an important role in coordination, and

they need to do preparedness by working with States for planning and for training.

It is not only planning—we are not talking about endless summers of planning—but actual exercises to prepare local agencies, from city fire departments to police departments to emergency medical personnel, on what will be the way to both contain the attack and contain the panic around the attack. If we are hit by something from a rogue state or from an international criminal organization, one of the first instances will be to contain the chemical attack or identify the biological one. But people will be scared, they will be panic-stricken. This is an unknown situation. It is FEMA's job to work with the civilian population around the preparedness to do this.

We know that our colleagues in the Department of Defense, like at Fort Detrick, we know that the National Institutes of Health and FDA will be working on the antidotes and the vaccines to protect our civilian population.

We believe that this amount of \$17 million enhances the preparedness, which is to coordinate with the Department of Defense and the National Guard, with the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as State and local governments.

DOD, except through the National Guard, doesn't have a relationship with State and local governments. They come in after the first responders. So these funds are very important in developing a new manual, in developing training in the State and local communities, particularly in the high-risk areas that we know would be targeted by rogue states, to deal with their predatory acts.

We believe that this legislation will provide them with a downpayment to prepare. We have been so focused on moving FEMA from a cold-war agency to responding to the tremendous number of civilian natural disasters we have had, and they have done an outstanding job. We now have the infrastructure for them to respond to any risk that the United States of America faces. Now when the ugly head of someone like Saddam Hussein is raised or the ugly tentacles of international crime organizations try to do their predatory acts, we need to stand sentry with our military and our intelligence agencies.

But for anyone who is thinking about doing harm in any way to the American people, know we are well on our way to being prepared. We are prepared now, so don't think, if you are listening out there on CNN, where Saddam Hussein is, don't think we are not prepared. We are prepared, but we are even going to be better prepared. So don't even think about doing it, because if you do, you will face us in return and know we will take any and all means possible to protect our people and we, the Federal emergency management appropriators, are ready to make sure

they have the resources to begin the planning and the drills to protect our people.

I support this amendment, and if there is no objection, I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3056.

The amendment (No. 3056) was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the amendment was agreed to.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I think that some of our colleagues may wish to add statements. I know we have had a number of colleagues express an interest in this. I ask unanimous consent that they be allowed to be listed as cosponsors and add statements to the RECORD by the close of business today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOND. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3057

(Purpose: To transfer land from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the University of Alabama, to clarify that States may charge loan fees to clean water state revolving fund borrowers, to make technical reforms to the Mark-to-Market program, to make technical corrections, and for other purposes)

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I send a managers' amendment to the desk on behalf of myself and Senator MIKULSKI and ask for its immediate consideration and ask unanimous consent that it be considered en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND], for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 3057.

Mr. BOND. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 16, line 20, insert the following:
"SEC. 110. LAND CONVEYANCE, RIDGECREST CHILDREN'S CENTER, ALABAMA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may convey, without consideration, to the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of real property, including any improvements thereon, described in subsection (b).

(b) COVERED PARCEL.—The parcel of real property to be conveyed under subsection (a)

is the following: A parcel of property lying in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, section 28, township 21 south, range 9 west, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, lying along and adjacent to Ridgecrest (Brewer's Porch) Children's Center being more particularly described as follows: As a point of commencement start at the southeast corner of the north half of the southwest quarter run in an easterly direction along an easterly projection of the north boundary of the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter for a distance of 888.52 feet to a point; thence with a deflection angle to the left of 134 degrees 41 minutes run in a northwesterly direction for a distance of 1164.38 feet to an iron pipe; thence with a deflection angle to the left of 75 degrees 03 minutes run in a southwesterly direction for a distance of 37.13 feet to the point of beginning of this parcel of property; thence continue in this same southwesterly direction along the projection of the chain link fence for a distance of 169.68 feet to a point; thence with an interior angle to the left of 63 degrees 16 minutes run in a northerly direction for a distance of 233.70 feet to a point; thence with an interior angle to the left of 43 degrees 55 minutes run in a southeasterly direction for a distance of 218.48 feet to the point of beginning, said parcel having an interior angle of closure of 72 degrees 49 minutes, said parcel containing 0.40 acres more or less, said parcel of property is also subject to all rights-of-way, easements, and conveyances heretofore given for this parcel of property.

(c) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States."

On page 55, after line 13, insert the following new sections and designate, accordingly: **"SEC. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998.**

(a) **SECTION 8 CONTRACT RENEWAL POLICY FOR FY 1999 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.**—Section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 is amended:

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting after "Notwithstanding paragraph (1)" The following "and subject to section 516 of this subtitle"; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following new subsections"

"(b) **INAPPLICABILITY TO PROJECTS SUBJECT TO RESTRUCTURING.**—This section shall not apply to projects restructured under this subtitle.

"(c) **SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**—Upon the repeal of this subtitle pursuant to section 579, the provisions of sections 512(2) and 516 (as in effect immediately before such repeal) shall apply with respect to this section."

(b) **REPEAL OF CONTRACT RENEWAL AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 405(a).**—Section 405(a) of the Balanced Budget Down Payment Act, I is hereby repealed.

(c) **EXEMPTIONS FROM RESTRUCTURING.**—(1) Section 514(h)(1) of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, is amended to read as follows:

(1) the primary financing for the project was provided by a unit of State government of a unit of general local government (or an agency or instrumentality of either) and the primary financing involves mortgage insurance under the National Housing Act, such that implementation of a mortgage restructuring and rental assistance sufficiency plan under this Act would be in conflict with applicable law or agreements governing such financing;"

(2) Section 524(a)(2)(B) is amended by striking "and the financing" and inserting "and the primary financing".

(d) **MANDATORY RENEWAL OF PROJECT-BASED ASSISTANCE.**—Section 515(c)(1) is amended by inserting "or" after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (B).

(e) **PARTIAL PAYMENTS OF CLAIMS.**—Section 514 of the national Housing Act is amended by—

(1) by striking "1978 or" and inserting "1978) or"; and

(2) by striking ")))" and inserting ")))".

On page 56, line 17, after the word "That" insert ", of the funds made available under this heading."

On page 69, line 15, following the last proviso and prior to the period, insert the following:

"*Provided further,* That, notwithstanding section 603(d)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, the limitation on the amounts in a water pollution control revolving fund that may be used by a State to administer the fund shall not apply to amounts a State has heretofore included, or will hereafter include, as principal in loans made by such fund to eligible borrowers where such amounts represent costs of administering the fund, except that such amounts therefore or hereafter included in loans shall be accounted for separately from other assets in the fund, shall only be used for purposes of administering the fund and shall not exceed an amount that the Administrator deems reasonable"

On page 70, line 3, insert the following: "(a) **LIMITATION ON FUNDS USED TO ENFORCE REGULATIONS REGARDING ANIMAL FATS AND VEGETABLE OILS.**—None of the funds made available by this Act or subsequent Acts may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to issue, implement, or enforce a regulation or to establish an interpretation or guideline under the Edible Oil Regulatory Reform Act (Public Law 104-55) or the amendments made by that Act, that does not recognize and provide for, with respect to fats, oils, and greases (as described in that Act, or the amendments made by that Act) differences in—

(1) physical, chemical, biological and other relevant properties; and

(2) environmental effects.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.**—Not later than March 31, 1999, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall issue regulations amending 40 C.F.R. 112 to comply with the requirements of Public Law 104-55."

On page 55, after line 13, insert the following new section:

SEC. . CLARIFICATION OF OWNER'S RIGHT TO PREPAY.

(a) **PREPAYMENT RIGHT.**—Notwithstanding section 211 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 or section 221 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 (as in effect pursuant to section 604(c) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act), subject to subsection (b), with respect to any project that is eligible low-income housing (as that term is defined in section 229 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987)—

(1) the owner of the project may prepay, and the mortgagee may accept prepayment of, the mortgage on the project, and

(2) the owner may request voluntary termination of a mortgage insurance contract with respect to such project and the contract may be terminated notwithstanding any requirements under sections 229 and 250 of the National Housing Act.

(b) **CONDITIONS.**—Any prepayment of a mortgage or termination of an insurance contract authorized under subsection (a) may be made—

(1) only to the extent that such prepayment or termination is consistent with the terms and conditions of the mortgage on or mortgage insurance contract for the project; and

(2) only if owner of the project involved agrees not to increase the rent charges for any dwelling unit in the project during the 60-day period beginning upon such prepayment or termination.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, this amendment includes clarifying provisions which have been cleared on both sides and are without controversy.

First, on behalf of Senator SHELBY, the amendment would allow the transfer of land from the Department of Veterans Affairs—Tuscaloosa VA Hospital—to the University of Alabama to use for the Ridgecrest Children's Center. VA has no objection to this language, and it is in keeping with the conveyance of land from Tuscaloosa authorized in the fiscal year 1997 VA-HUD bill.

Second, the amendment makes a technical correction to a provision under the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Third, the amendment clarifies that States, in administering their clean water State revolving fund program, may charge borrowers loan origination fees. This language has been reviewed and approved by both EPA and the authorizing committee.

Fourth, the amendment would make a number of technical amendments to the mark-to-market legislation enacted as part of the VA-HUD fiscal year 1998 Appropriations Act with the concurrence of the administration and the Senate Banking Committee.

Fifth, on behalf of Senator HARKIN, the amendment would require that EPA recognize the differences between the environmental effects caused by spills of animal fats and vegetable oils, as opposed to petroleum oil, and issue regulations to accomplish this commonsense differentiation.

Finally, the amendment would clarify the owner's right to prepay under the Preservation Program, as requested by the administration and cleared by the Senate Banking Committee.

Ms. MIKULSKI addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland is recognized.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I think this is an outstanding managers' amendment. I think it resolves several issues related to the Tuscaloosa Hospital, the American Battle Monuments Commission, as well as clarifying certain things with EPA.

I am particularly gratified that we will recognize the differences of the environmental effects between animal fats and vegetable oils and petroleum oil. And I think this will be an important clarification for EPA to issue this commonsense differentiation. I have been at oil spills and I have also spilled some oil on my floor cooking those Maryland crab cakes, and I know the difference, and it will help EPA know as well.

So I am prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3057) was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. BOND. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, July 3, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,528,258,076,325.62 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-eight billion, two hundred fifty-eight million, seventy-six thousand, three hundred twenty-five dollars and sixty-two cents).

One year ago, July 3, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,356,041,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-six billion, forty-one million).

Twenty-five years ago, July 3, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$453,254,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-three billion, two hundred fifty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,075,004,076,325.62 (Five trillion, seventy-five billion, four million, seventy-six thousand, three hundred twenty-five dollars and sixty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE MAURICE H. RICHARDSON

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I welcome this opportunity to recognize the valuable service given to Massachusetts by our state District Court Judge Maurice H. Richardson, who retired in June after serving the citizens of Norfolk County with great distinction for nearly a quarter century.

Judge Richardson dedicated his career in the law to serving the people of

our state. As a judge he applied the law with great wisdom and compassion. He was well known for his ability to distinguish between hardened, habitual criminals and those who could take advantage of opportunities for rehabilitation. He encouraged many to seek counseling, enter a drug or alcohol treatment program, or take other steps to put their lives and their families back together.

During his years on the bench, Judge Richardson was also a skillful and tireless advocate for mental health. For many years he presided over mental health commitment hearings for several Massachusetts facilities. He was dedicated to finding the most effective assistance for the mentally ill, and often worked closely with doctors, patients and their families.

Judge Richardson also took the lead in the state judicial system and state legislature to improve the way the mentally ill and the mentally retarded are treated by the state courts, and his efforts enhanced the quality of life for countless individuals and their families.

Judge Richardson has earned well-deserved recognition for his leadership and his achievements. Throughout his distinguished career, he received numerous awards, including the District Court Award for Judicial Excellence from the Massachusetts Judges' Conference, the Annual Award from the Bar Association of Norfolk County, and the Commissioners Award from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health.

I am sure that my colleagues join me in commending Judge Richardson for his distinguished service. We congratulate him on his extraordinary career and we extend our warmest wishes to Judge Richardson and his family on his retirement.

FIVE WINNERS PICKED TO "CELEBRATE AMERICA"

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, a few months ago, the American Immigration Lawyers Association held its second annual essay contest, entitled "Celebrate America" for fifth grade children across the country. The children were asked to write essays on the subject, "Why I am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants."

Thousands of children entered the contest, and I congratulate all the participants. Five winners were selected, and were judged by a panel that included our colleague Senator ABRAHAM, Washington State Governor Gary Locke, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page, and myself.

The winner of this year's contest is Jaclyn Mals, from Decatur Classical School in Chicago, who wrote about her great-grandfather's immigrant experience. In addition, four other students were honored for their essays—Tony Kudron of Livonia, MI, Samantha Fonseca-Moreira of Lexington, MA,

Mandi Steiner of West Hills, CA, and Kayla Weinstein of Encinitas, CA. All of the essays are an expression of the pride that we all share in our immigrant heritage, and emphasize what the nation gains from immigrants.

I congratulate each of these students, and I ask unanimous consent that the five winning essays from the "Celebrate America" contest be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the essays were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

(By Jaclyn Mals)

MISS LIBERTY AND ME

This man, I'm told, was an immigrant, arrived when he was young, seven dollars in his pocket, Spoke only a foreign tongue.

Miss Liberty greeted him at the shore, and he smiled with great relief, a new beginning was ahead, in freedom, her torch did reach.

The years ahead were an adventure, new language, new customs, and ways, his children were his tutors, to prosper in his days.

This man was my great grandpa, and if you look around, his story is quite familiar now, in this multi-cultural crowd.

He gave us inspiration, to welcome all who roam, and light the way like Miss Liberty, for those with no land to call home.

So whenever you meet a person, who comes from a land that's not free show them all they can be in freedom, like Great Grandpa, Miss Liberty, and me.

WHY I'M GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Tony Kudron)

Immigration has played a very important part in our country's history. Many of our past immigrants passed through Ellis Island from 1892 to 1943. It has been part of the Liberty National Monument since 1965. Many of today's immigrants come to the United States to be reunited with their families. Others come here seeking employment, while others look for political freedom.

My story of immigration is about my sister, Mia. She was adopted from Seoul, Korea. One of the steps in the adoption process was to petition the Department of INS. The Immigration and Naturalization Service is our country's government agency that administers our country's immigration laws and procedures. Our social worker helped us with the forms and procedures. There were several things that needed to be done, but the two most important were that my parents had to have their finger prints sent to the INS, and the other was to fill out Form I-600 to Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative. The citizenship process took six months. The next step was to go to the INS office in Port Huron, Michigan. So, on November 15, 1996 my family went to Port Huron.

We started the afternoon off by enjoying lunch at the Thomas Edison Inn on the St. Clair River. After lunch we went to our scheduled appointment at the INS office located by the Blue Water Bridge. Mia was dressed in a red, white and blue dress and was holding the American flag. There my parents went over the paperwork with the officers and turned in Mia's green card. They gave us a copy of her green card for her baby book. Since Mia was just under two years