

OCTOBER 15, 1976

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed H.R. 14503 -- Michael J. Kirwan Post Office and H.R. 15546 -- Ray J. Madden Post Office Building which provides for naming post offices after former or retiring Congressmen.

The President has signed H.R. 11809 -- Relief of Ljudevit Previc, to grant citizenship to an elderly permanent resident alien of the United States who is unable to pass the English proficiency requirement for naturalization.

The President has signed H.R. 14773 -- To amend the military Survivor Benefit Plan.

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) became effective on September 21, 1972. The SBP defines the terms and conditions under which annuities may be provided to survivors of members of the uniformed services who are retired or receiving retainer pay and who have elected to participate in SBP. Deductions are made from retired or retainer pay in order to provide future annuities for survivors.

H.R. 14473 would make the following changes in the terms and conditions of the SBP:

- Reduce from two years to one year the duration of marriage requirement for a new spouse of a military retiree to be eligible for SBP benefits;
- Clarify that a retiree may designate a dependent child or children as beneficiaries instead of a spouse, if the retiree so desires;
- Eliminate the irrevocable election provisions of SBP which require continuous deductions from the retired pay of a participating member on behalf of an intended beneficiary, even if that intended beneficiary predeceases the member; and ,
- Increase the annuity to "minimum income widows" of uniformed service personnel who retired before SBP went into effect so that the widow's annual income, exclusive of their VA widow's pension, is increased from \$1,400 per year to \$2,100 per year.

The President has signed S. 3441 -- Preservation of Congressional Cemetery which authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to restore and maintain Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

The President has signed H.J. Res. 967 -- Murals in the House of Representatives which authorizes the acceptance by the Congress of preliminary design sketches and funds for the painting of murals in the House wing of the Capitol.

The President has signed H.J. Res. 1119 -- Convening of the first session of the Ninety-fifth Congress which provides that the first regular session of the Ninety-fifth Congress will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 1977.