

toxic agents or environmental or wartime hazards to which U.S. service members may have been exposed during the Persian Gulf war.

The National Academy of Sciences would be required to identify those diagnosed and undiagnosed illnesses among Persian Gulf war veterans. In addition, it would be responsible for reviewing potential treatment for chronic undiagnosed illnesses. As it did under the Agent Orange legislation, the Academy would also be authorized to make recommendations for additional scientific studies regarding the exposure that Persian Gulf war veterans may have had to toxic agents or environmental or wartime hazards.

Based upon the assessments of the National Academy of Sciences and any other relevant scientific and medical information, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs would then determine whether a presumption of service connection is warranted for various diagnosed or undiagnosed illnesses. The Secretary would provide compensation when there is a positive association between the illness and exposure to one or more toxic agents or environmental or wartime hazards during the Persian Gulf war. A positive association is regarded as one where credible evidence for the association is equal to or outweighs credible evidence against the association. Like the Agent Orange Act, this legislation provides for ongoing Academy reviews and puts a mechanism in place whereby the Secretary may provide compensation for additional illnesses as the scientific evidence warrants.

The bill Senator ROCKEFELLER and I are introducing today also requires the VA to collaborate with the Pentagon to operate a computerized database for the collection, storage, and analysis of information on the diagnosed and undiagnosed illnesses suffered by Persian Gulf war veterans. I should point out that the database would also include information on the treatment veterans receive for chronic undiagnosed illnesses. The VA would be required to continuously compile and analyze the information in this database that is likely to determine the association between the diagnosed and undiagnosed illnesses suffered by veterans and their exposure to toxic agents or environmental or wartime hazards during the Persian Gulf war.

In June, the General Accounting Office issued a report stating that, "although efforts have been made to diagnose veterans' problems and care had been provided to many eligible veterans, neither DOD nor VA has systematically attempted to determine whether ill Gulf War veterans are any better or worse today than when they were first examined." The database we are proposing would correct that deficiency. It would permit VA and DOD to determine whether Persian Gulf war veterans are getting better over time and whether they are responding to the treatment they are receiving.

The bill we are introducing today also calls for enhanced outreach to those who served in the Persian Gulf war. Specifically, it would require the VA to consult with DOD and HHS to create an ongoing program to provide information to veterans and their families. For example, they would receive information pertaining to the possible health risks to Persian Gulf war veterans who were exposed to toxic agents or environmental or wartime hazards. In addition, veterans would receive valuable information on any services or benefits available to them.

Mr. President, as I mentioned previously, we have made great strides to determine the cause of illnesses suffered by Vietnam veterans and their children and agreed to provide them with just compensation. We must now enhance our efforts to help those who served our country during the Persian Gulf war. Passage of this legislation is essential to providing answers to the many questions we have about the causes of Persian Gulf war illnesses. More importantly, it will ensure that our veterans are receiving proper medical care and the compensation they have earned. I again thank Senator ROCKEFELLER for his leadership on this issue and hope my colleagues will support this important legislation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—RELATIVE TO INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BROWNBAC, and Mr. Inouye) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S. RES. 140

Whereas restrictive and discriminatory Japanese port practices have been a significant source of international concern for many years, have increased the cost of transporting goods to and from Japan for American consumers, and all ocean carriers and their customers, and have restricted United States carriers' operations in Japan while Japanese carriers have not faced similar restrictions in the United States.

Whereas for many years the Federal Maritime Commission, and the United States Departments of State and Transportation, have investigated and monitored these practices and urged the Japanese Government to remedy the problems caused by these restrictions; and

Whereas recent actions by the Federal Maritime Commission and negotiations conducted by the Departments of State and Transportation with the Government of Japan have reportedly produced agreements which would, when implemented, reform the Japanese port practices and remedy these problems: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate express strong support for—

(1) the efforts of the President and executive branch to achieve removal of Japanese port restrictions, and

(2) vigilant, continued monitoring and enforcement by the Federal Maritime Commission of changes in port practices promised by the Japanese Government that will benefit international trade.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I, Senator FAIRCLOTH, Senator LOTT, Senator BREAUX, Senator HOLLINGS, Senator BINGAMAN, Senator BROWNBAC, and Senator INOUE are submitting today a sense-of-the-Senate resolution which commends the administration for its actions in attempting to end the Japanese blockade of American ships who wish to use Japanese port facilities. We are also urging the administration to remain firm and stand behind the Federal Maritime Commission in these negotiations with the Government of Japan.

This issue is a no brainer. The Japanese are simply throwing up a blockade against American ships, who seek to dock at Japanese ports.

Mr. President, this protectionist stand has increased cost of shipping for the American consumer and all American ocean carriers and their customers. We simply will not tolerate that kind of treatment from Japan or any other trading partner.

The Federal Maritime Commission is to be commended for taking a tough line toward the Japanese port authorities. We encourage the administration to stand squarely behind the Commission's efforts to achieve fairness for American ships, especially because we allow the Japanese open access to our ports.

There is the Biblical saying of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The Japanese version is the complete reverse of that.

We accommodate Japanese shipping and we should expect no less of them.

Mr. President, I urge the Senate to swiftly adopt this resolution.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 61

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 61, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend eligibility for veterans' burial benefits, funeral benefits, and related benefits for veterans of certain service in the United States merchant marine during World War II.

S. 412

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to provide for a national standard to prohibit the operation of motor vehicles by intoxicated individuals.

S. 943

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 943, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the application of the Act popularly known as the "Death on the High Seas Act" to aviation accidents.

S. 1096

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS] was added as a cosponsor of S.