

responded to the disaster, even earning the Coast Guard's Public Service Commendation. As one newspaper headline put it, "Obscure team gains respect at TWA site."

Corps officers also pilot NOAA aircraft through hurricanes at low altitudes, the only pilots trained with such skills anywhere in the world. The information they collect is essential for projecting the track and strength of hurricanes so that people in the path can prepare.

It should be clear to all of us that the NOAA Corps provides a unique and valuable service. Speaking frankly, I do not understand the efforts to disestablish the Corps or let it wither and die through a hiring freeze. None of the studies on converting the Corps to civilian status have shown a significant cost savings. A GAO study showed savings of 2 percent, another study by Arthur Andersen showed a cost increase of 2 percent, and the Hay/Huggins report concluded that costs were essentially the same for the Corps or civilians. It seems to me that there is not a justification for doing away with the Corps based on these studies of cost savings.

This is an issue that must be resolved. The Corps has not been permitted to recruit new officers since October 1994, and this methodical, de facto elimination of positions has continued without the oversight of approval of the Congress. While we have been discussing the issue, the natural retirements and attribution of time have been slowly bleeding the strength out of the NOAA Corps. The Corps stands now at 248 members, down 44 percent from its highest level of 439 in 1995.

That is why we are introducing the NOAA Corps Continuation Act today. We cannot let the members of this service continue in limbo. NOAA's recently released plan to restructure the Corps is not acceptable. It takes into account neither the reductions in personnel already achieved nor the need for officers to have shore assignments. We need to set a realistic strength level for the Corps, designate a Director of the Corps from within the ranks, and life the hiring freeze. I thank Senator KERRY for his leadership on this issue and urge my colleagues to act swiftly on this legislation so that NOAA can continue to have the Corps' expertise in carrying out the agency's vital missions.●

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2257. A bill to reauthorize the National Historic Preservation Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**MEASURE TO EXTEND THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND**

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I introduce a measure to extend the authorization for appropriations for the

National Historic Preservation Fund, as established in the Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1976. On September 30, 1997, the authorization for deposits into the Historic Preservation Fund from revenues due and payable to the United States under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act expired. I am introducing this legislation today with the purpose in mind of re-authorizing the deposits at the same level of \$150,000,000 annually through the year 2004.

The Historic Preservation Fund is based on the idea that a part of proceeds from depletion of a non-renewable resource, off shore gas and oil, should be invested in the enhancement of other non-renewable resources: historic properties. The Historic Preservation Fund account supports roughly half the cost of the Nation's historic preservation program as created by the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470). State governments contribute the other half of the cost. This is a true Federal-State partnership.

States and certain local governments and Indian tribes carry out the Nation's historic preservation program under the Act for the Secretary of the Interior and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The historic preservation program involves the identification of historic places, working with property owners in nominating significant places to the National Register, consulting with federal agencies on projects that may adversely impact historic places, advising investors on tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, and offering information and educational opportunities to the private and public sectors on historic preservation.

The national historic preservation program, made possible by the Historic Preservation Fund (plus the State match), contributes significantly to community revitalization for the benefit of residents, to heritage tourism by identifying places people want to visit, and to economic development through the rehabilitation of commercial buildings and rental housing (\$1.7 billion in construction costs in fiscal year 1997).

I believe this is an extremely worthwhile program that works. We should re-authorize this fund so that important restoration and revitalization efforts may continue across the country, done with the assistance of State Historic Preservation Offices and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be entered into the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2257

*Be in enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT.**

The second sentence of section 108 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C.

470h) is amended by striking "1997" and inserting "2004".

**ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS**

S. 38

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 38, a bill to reduce the number of executive branch political appointees.

S. 59

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 59, a bill to terminate the Extremely Low Frequency Communication System of the Navy.

S. 520

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 520, a bill to terminate the F/A-18 E/F aircraft program.

S. 643

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 643, a bill to prohibit the Federal Government from providing insurance, reinsurance, or noninsured crop disaster assistance for tobacco.

S. 982

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States and free speech, and for other purposes.

S. 1151

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1151, a bill to amend subpart 8 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support the participation of low-income parents in postsecondary education through the provision of campus-based child care.

S. 1275

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1275, a bill to implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. MACK, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1924, a bill to restore the standards used for determining whether technical workers are not employees as in effect before the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

S. 1929

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1929, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to encourage production of oil and gas within the United States, and for other purposes.