

private sector workers, and an estimated 10 percent gap between the compensation levels of members of the uniformed services and the compensation levels of private sector workers; and

Whereas in almost every year of the past 2 decades, members of the uniformed services and civilian employees of the United States have received equal adjustments in compensation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that there should continue to be parity between the adjustments in the compensation of members of the uniformed services and the adjustments in the compensation of civilian employees of the United States.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with Senators WARNER, MIKULSKI, BINGAMAN, and KENNEDY in introducing a resolution which would express the sense of the Congress that parity between Federal civilian pay and military pay should be maintained. A comparison of military and civilian pay increases by the Congressional Research Service finds that in 17 of these last 20 years military and civilian pay increases have been identical. Disparate treatment of civilian and military pay goes against longstanding policy of parity for all those who have chosen to serve our Nation—whether that service be in the civilian workforce or in the armed services.

In the 106th Congress, an overwhelming majority of the United States Senate agreed, and approved a bipartisan pay parity amendment on February 24, 1999 by a vote of 94 to 6 during consideration of S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines Bill of Rights Act. In many instances, Federal civilian and military employees work side-by-side doing the important work of the Nation, and the Senate has recognized that we should not undermine the morale of these very dedicated public servants by failing to bring them in line with military personnel.

The rationales for an increase in military and civilian pay are the same. Both the armed services and the Federal civilian workforce need to address critical retention and recruitment problems. This year, the General Accounting Office, GAO, has added "human capital" as one of the areas of high risk for the Federal government. A wave of potential retirements threaten institutional experience and knowledge at every level. An estimated 53 percent of the Federal workforce will be eligible to retire by 2004. By that same time, approximately 60 percent of the Senior Executive Service, our top civilian managers, will be eligible for retirement.

These vacancies will occur in an era in which those entering the workforce are less likely to join public service. As the GAO has noted, the "Federal government has often acted as if its people were costs to be cut rather than assets to be valued." Congress has continually asked Federal employees to make significant sacrifices for the sake of our Nation's fiscal health. FEPCA, leg-

islation passed in 1990 to bring the pay of Federal employees in line with that offered in the private sector, has never been fully implemented. Between 1993 and 1999, the executive branch has cut 17 percent of its workforce, totaling 377,000 full time positions. In 1996, Federal employees were forced to make higher contributions to their retirement plans in order to help pay down the national debt. But through it all, Federal employees have continued to provide high quality service to the American public, usually with fewer resources and personnel.

One way to ensure the Federal government is able to attract and retain qualified public servants is to ensure parity between civil service employees and members of the armed forces. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18—RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PEACE CORPS OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. CHAFFEE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas the Peace Corps has become a powerful symbol of the commitment of the United States to encourage progress, create opportunity, and expand development at the grassroots level in the developing world;

Whereas more than 162,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 134 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, and Central and South America since 1961;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business, education, health, and the environment, and have improved the lives of individuals and communities around the world;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, have brought their communities throughout the United States a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions, thereby bringing a domestic dividend to the United States;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers embody and represent many of the most enduring values of the United States, such as a spirit of service, a commitment to helping others, and a call for friendship among nations;

Whereas the Peace Corps continues to receive broad, bipartisan support in Congress and from the American people; and

Whereas March 1, 2001, will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) the achievements and contributions of the Peace Corps over the past 40 years be celebrated;

(2) the dedication and sacrifice of Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, be recognized and their continued contributions be acknowledged not only for their service in other countries but also in their own communities; and

(3) the President is requested to honor Peace Corps volunteers and reaffirm the commitment of the United States to international peace and understanding.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the President.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps. Many of my colleagues know of my history as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic, and the great impact that that experience had on me. Serving outside of the United States and seeing the shortcomings of other nations, I grew to appreciate this nation more and more, and developed a strong sense of what it means to be an American. And, I was proud to share my experiences as a United States citizen with the people I was sent to help. At the end of the day, the smiling faces of the people in the community in which I was stationed made all my hard work worthwhile.

My experience as a Peace Corps volunteer was almost 33 years ago, when the Peace Corps was still a relatively new organization. But, under the leadership of such distinguished directors as Sargent Shriver, Loret Ruppe, Paul Coverdell, Mark Schneider, and all the other directors in the Peace Corps history, the organization has grown and grown. I am proud to stand here today and report that from its humble beginnings as a method for Americans to share their expertise and assistance with other nations, the Peace Corps has grown into an organization that sends more than 7,000 volunteers to 76 different countries a year.

These volunteers are really the heart and soul of the Peace Corps. They are the ones at the front lines, working hard and making individual connections with the citizens of the countries in which they work. Since 1961, Peace Corps volunteers have brought a wealth of practical assistance to communities in Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and the Pacific. They have worked at such disparate tasks as halting the spread of AIDS, advising small business owners, protecting the environment, educating students, and increasing farm yields. Volunteers have played a vital role in short-term disaster relief and humanitarian efforts. In the face of many personal and physical challenges, Peace Corps volunteers offer their ingenuity and an approach to problem solving that is both optimistic and pragmatic. Above all, the Peace Corps enduring success is rooted in volunteer's commitment to leave behind skills that allow people to take charge of their own futures.

Peace Corps volunteers also make a difference at home by continuing their community service and strengthening Americans' appreciation of other cultures. By visiting classrooms, working with community groups, and speaking with friends and family members, volunteers help others learn more about

the world in which we live and help build a legacy of service for the next generation.

Today, the Peace Corps continues to strengthen existing programs and expand its activities around the world, including new programs in Mozambique, Bangladesh, and Georgia. The Peace Corps also plans to graduate from several countries where volunteers have made significant progress during a critical period of transformation, including Poland, the Slovak Republic, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Current volunteers are somewhat different than the volunteers of the early years when I was a volunteer. The average age has risen from 22 to 28, the percentage of women has increased from 35 to 60, the number of volunteers with graduate degrees is growing, and today's volunteers represent the most ethnically diverse group so far. However, today's volunteers share a characteristic with their predecessors that is a cornerstone of Peace Corps service—a commitment to the spirit of volunteerism and service that President Kennedy first envisioned 40 years ago.

Today, on Peace Corps Day, thousands of returned volunteers will celebrate by sharing the knowledge and insights gained from their overseas experiences with school groups and local communities throughout the United States. A series of activities are also planned in the Peace Corps countries, where volunteers and their host country colleagues will celebrate their accomplishments and the universal goals of partnership and goodwill.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution celebrating the Peace Corps and its worldwide network on the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps, and in honoring Peace Corps volunteers, past and present, for their four decades of service to the world.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2001, in Room SR-301 Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct its organizational meeting for the 107th Congress.

For further information concerning this meeting, please contact Tam Somerville at the committee on 4-6352.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs will hold hearings entitled "The Role of U.S. Correspondent Banking In International Money Laundering." The upcoming hearings will focus on correspondent banking as a vehicle for money laundering; the role

of offshore banks in international money laundering; and the efforts of financial entities, federal regulators, and law enforcement to limit money laundering activities within the United States.

The hearings will take place on Thursday, March 1; Friday, March 2; and Tuesday, March 6, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. each day, in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate office Building. For further information, please contact Linda Gustitus of the subcommittee's minority staff at 224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 27, 2001, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to consider the nomination of Paul D. Wolfowitz to be the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 27, 2001, to hear testimony regarding Trade Globalization and American Trade Policies.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at 10:30 am for a hearing to consider the nomination of Sean O'Keefe to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. The markup will take place in Dirksen Room 226.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SUPERFUND, WASTE CONTROL AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Control and Risk Assessment be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at 10:15 am on S. 350, the Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act of 2001.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a fellow in my of-

fice, Mr. Michael Yudin, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of my statement.

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

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a legislative fellow, Navy Lieutenant Commander Dell Bull, be granted floor privileges during consideration to amend the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act.

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

JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for a joint session to be held at 9 p.m. this evening, Tuesday, February 27, 2001.

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

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN STATE OF IDAHO V. FREDRICK LEROY LEAS, SR.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 28, submitted earlier by Senator LOTT and Senator DASCHLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 280) to authorize testimony and legal representation in State of Idaho v. Fredrick Leroy Leas, Sr.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the statement of explanation appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 28) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to. (The resolution with its preamble is located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2001

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the joint session is completed this evening, the