

important that the Senate is moving quickly to pass it so that we can provide our military personnel the housing and facilities they need to perform their duties.

This is a good package that meets the most pressing needs of the military, both in terms of readiness and quality of life issues. It is not, of course, a perfect package. The Conference Report does not include everything that the Senate wanted; nor does it include everything that the House wanted. It does, however, address the priorities of the Department of Defense as well as both Houses of Congress. It is a carefully crafted compromise that is both balanced and bipartisan.

The Chairman highlighted several of the critical items contained in this bill, such as \$1.2 billion for new barracks, \$151 million for military hospitals and medical facilities, \$688 million for new Guard and Reserve facilities, and \$1.34 billion for new family housing for military personnel and their families.

These are important increases that signal a renewed commitment to upgrading and rebuilding the infrastructure that is truly the backbone of our Nation's military. I am proud to support funding for these important programs.

In recent years, we have made real progress in improving family housing for single service members and for families, as well as improving the workplaces for the men and women who serve America both at home and abroad. However, much remains to be done.

It is my hope that in future budgets, we will see sufficient resources to continue the Department of Defense's efforts to modernize, renovate and improve aging defense facilities and infrastructure. The effects of sustained and structural inattention by the Pentagon and the military services to basic infrastructure are apparent on nearly every military installation. This will continue to have long-term implications as facilities continue to age disproportionately without a sustained level of investment in maintenance and repair.

Mr. President, I want to thank Chairman BYRD, Senator STEVENS, and the Chairman of this subcommittee, Senator FEINSTEIN, for their unflinching support and assistance in bringing this conference agreement to the Senate. I also thank the subcommittee staff for their hard work on this measure.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the conference report be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD with no intervening action or debate.

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

The conference report was agreed to.

#### RECOGNIZING THE EXPLOITS OF THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE S.S. HENRY BACON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 411.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 411) recognizing the exploits of the officers and crew of the S.S. *Henry Bacon*, a United States Liberty ship that was sunk on February 23, 1945, in the waning days of World War II.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements regarding this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 411) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

#### NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to H.R. 3389, Calendar No. 463.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3389) to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Senator KERRY has an amendment at the desk. I ask unanimous consent the amendment be considered and agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, the bill as amended be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 4878) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To reauthorize the National Sea Grant Program, and for other purposes)

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002".

##### SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO FINDINGS.

Section 202(a)(6) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121(a)(6)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting "including strong collaborations between Administration scientists and scientists at academic institutions."

##### SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

(a) QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 204 (c)(1) of the National Sea Grant Col-

lege Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the panel, sea grant colleges, and sea grant institutes, shall develop at least every 4 years a strategic plan that establishes priorities for the national sea grant college program, provides an appropriately balanced response to local, regional, and national needs, and is reflective of integration with the relevant portions of the strategic plans of the Department of Commerce and of the Administration."

(b) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND RATING.—

(1) EVALUATION AND RATING REQUIREMENT.—Section 204(d)(3)(A) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(3)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

"(A)(i) evaluate the performance of the programs of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, using the priorities, guidelines, and qualifications established by the Secretary under subsection (c), and determine which of the programs are the best managed and carry out the highest quality research, education, extension, and training activities; and

"(ii) rate the programs according to their relative performance (as determined under clause (i)) into no less than 5 categories, with each of the 2 best-performing categories containing no more than 25 percent of the programs;"

(2) REVIEW OF EVALUATION AND RATING PROCESS.—(A) After 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall contract with the National Academy of Sciences—

(i) to review the effectiveness of the evaluation and rating system under the amendment made by paragraph (1) in determining the relative performance of programs of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes;

(ii) to evaluate whether the sea grant programs have improved as a result of the evaluation process; and

(iii) to make appropriate recommendations to improve the overall effectiveness of the evaluation process.

(B) The National Academy of Sciences shall submit a report to the Congress on the findings and recommendations of the panel under subparagraph (A) by not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 204(d)(3)(B) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(3)(B)) is amended by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end of clause (ii) and by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) encourage and promote coordination and cooperation between the research, education, and outreach programs of the Administration and those of academic institutions; and"

##### SEC. 4. COST SHARE.

Section 205(a) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1124(a)) is amended by striking "section 204(d)(6)" and inserting "section 204(c)(4)(F)".

##### SEC. 5. FELLOWSHIPS.

(a) ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS.—Section 208(a) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "The Secretary shall strive to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to the program carried out under this subsection. Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress describing the efforts by the Secretary to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to the program