

proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2195.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2195) to provide for additional space and resources for national collections held by the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Larry Small, Secretary of the Smithsonian, has provided a letter to the majority and minority leaders that clarifies the intentions of the Smithsonian with regard to Section 5 of H.R. 2195.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter from Secretary Small concerning this clarification of how the Smithsonian will proceed with voluntary separation incentive payments be made part of the RECORD.

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

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
Washington, DC, July 31, 2003.

Hon. BILL FRIST,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER FRIST AND LEADER DASCHLE: In discussions to facilitate the Senate's consideration of H.R. 2195, the "Smithsonian Facilities Authorization Act," the Smithsonian Institution would like to clarify its intentions with regard to Section 5, providing authority for voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts. This letter gives a detailed explanation of how we will proceed with the buyout.

If this legislation is enacted, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution will have the authority to offer separation incentives to employees who voluntarily retire or resign. Incentives will be offered on the basis of organizational unit, occupational series or level, geographic location, specific window periods, skills, knowledge, other job related factors, or a combination of such factors. An incentive payment will be the lesser of the amount of severance pay the employee would be entitled to if the employee were entitled to a severance payment, or an amount determined by the Secretary not to exceed \$25,000. We will offer buyouts for no more than three years from the date of enactment of H.R. 2195.

Any employee is eligible for the buyout if he or she is serving under an appointment without time limitation and has been employed for at least three years continuously in the civil service at the Smithsonian. Employees not eligible for the buyout are reemployed annuitants, employees eligible for disability retirement, employees about to be separated for misconduct or unacceptable performance, employees who have previously received a voluntary separation incentive payment, employees who are on transfer from an agency of the Executive Branch, and employees who had received a recruitment or relocation bonus, a retention allowance, or a student loan repayment.

The Secretary will devise a plan outlining the intended use of voluntary separation incentive payments. The plan will include the specific positions and functions to be reallocated, a description of the categories of employees to be offered incentives, the time pe-

riod during which incentives may be paid, the number and amounts of the incentive payments, and a description of how the Smithsonian will operate after positions and functions are reallocated. The Secretary will consult with the Office of Management and Budget regarding the Institution's plan prior to implementation and will provide an organization chart for the Smithsonian Institution reflecting its operations after incentive payments have been completed.

In addition, buyouts will only be made in the case of an employee who voluntarily separates and will be paid in a lump sum after the employee's separation. Buyouts will not be the basis for payments or included in the computation on any other type of government benefit, will not be taken into account in determining the amount of severance pay, and will be taken from appropriations or funds available for the basic pay of the employee.

We will amend our administrative procedures and make clear the buyout offer that any employee who accepts the voluntary separation incentive payment and then accepts employment for compensation with the Federal Government within five years will be required to repay to the Smithsonian Institution, prior to the individual's first day of employment, the entire amount of the voluntary separation incentive payment. This repayment requirement may be waived in certain circumstances, as detailed in the Homeland Security Act (Public Law 107-296).

The purpose of the buyout is not to reduce employment at the Smithsonian but to reconfigure the workforce to meet current and future needs.

I hope this information is useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. The passage of the "Smithsonian Facilities Authorization Act" prior to the August recess is extremely important to the Institution.

All the best,

LAWRENCE M. SMALL,
Secretary.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements regarding this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 2195) was read the third time and passed.

GARNER E. SHRIVER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Government Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1761 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1761) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9350 East Corporate Hill Drive in Wichita, Kansas, as the "Garner E. Shriver Post Office Building".

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

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the mo-

tion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements regarding the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1761) was read the third time and passed.

NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 242, S. Res. 30, and Calendar No. 243, S. Res. 204, en bloc.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 30) expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning September 14, 2003, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week".

A resolution (S. Res. 204) designating the week of November 9 through November 15, 2003, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country.

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

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to en bloc, the preambles be agreed to en bloc; further, that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 30) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 30

Whereas there are 105 historically black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas historically black colleges and universities provide the quality education so essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas historically black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in American history;

Whereas historically black colleges and universities have allowed many underprivileged students to attain their full potential through higher education; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning September 14, 2003, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week".

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating the week beginning September 14, 2003, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week"; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically black colleges and universities in the United States.

The resolution (S. Res. 204) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 204

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by Americans;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in the Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations;

Whereas the system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the future leaders of the Nation understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

Whereas, on November 6, 2002, President George W. Bush issued a proclamation urging all Americans to observe November 10 through November 16, 2002, as National Veterans Awareness Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week of November 9 through November 15, 2003, as "National Veterans Awareness Week".

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating the week of November 9 through November 15, 2003, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the purpose of emphasizing educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States to observe National Veterans Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities.

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY
MONTH

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 25.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 25) recognizing and honoring America's Jewish community on the occasion of its 350th anniversary, supporting the designation of an "American Jewish History Month," and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment to the resolution be agreed to, the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 1539) was agreed to, as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That Congress—

(1) recognizes the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish community;

(2) supports the designation of an "American Jewish History Month"; and

(3) urges all Americans to share in this commemoration so as to have a greater appreciation of the role the American Jewish community has had in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Americans.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 25), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 25

Whereas in 1654, Jewish refugees from Brazil arrived on North American shores and formally established North America's first Jewish community in New Amsterdam, now New York City;

Whereas America welcomed Jews among the millions of immigrants that streamed through our Nation's history;

Whereas the waves of Jewish immigrants arriving in America helped shape our Nation;

Whereas the American Jewish community has been intimately involved in our Nation's civic, social, economic, and cultural life;

Whereas the American Jewish community has sought to actualize the broad principles of liberty and justice that are enshrined in the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the American Jewish community is an equal participant in the religious life of our Nation;

Whereas American Jews have fought valiantly for the United States in every one of our Nation's military struggles, from the American Revolution to Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas not less than 16 American Jews have received the Medal of Honor;

Whereas 2004 marks the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish community;

Whereas the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the American Jewish Historical Society, and the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives have formed "The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History" (referred to in this resolution as the "Commission") to mark this historic milestone;

Whereas the Commission will use the combined resources of its participants to promote the celebration of the Jewish experience in the United States throughout 2004; and

Whereas the Commission is designating September 2004 as "American Jewish History Month": Now, therefore, be it

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

【(1) recognizes—

【(A) the 350th anniversary of the American Jewish community; and

【(B) "The Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History" and its efforts to plan, coordinate, and execute commemorative events celebrating 350 years of American Jewish history;

【(2) supports the designation of an "American Jewish History Month"; and

【(3) urges all Americans to share in this commemoration so as to have a greater appreciation of the role the American Jewish community has had in helping to defend and further the liberties and freedom of all Americans.】

NATIONAL MISSING ADULT
AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 213, introduced earlier today by Senator LINCOLN.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 213) designating August 2003, as National Missing Adult Awareness Month.

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

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 213) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 213

Whereas our Nation must acknowledge that missing adults are a growing group of victims, who range in age from young adults to senior citizens and reach across all lifestyles;

Whereas every missing adult has the right to be searched for and to be remembered, regardless of the adult's age;

Whereas our world does not suddenly become a safe haven when an individual becomes an adult;

Whereas there are tens of thousands of endangered or involuntarily missing adults over the age of 17 in our Nation, and daily, more victims are reported missing;

Whereas the majority of missing adults are unrecognized and unrepresented;

Whereas our Nation must become aware that there are endangered and involuntarily missing adults, and each one of these individuals is worthy of recognition and deserving of a diligent search and thorough investigation;

Whereas every missing adult is someone's beloved grandparent, parent, child, sibling, or dearest friend;

Whereas families, law enforcement agencies, communities, and States should unite