

Whereas since its enactment, the GI Bill of Rights has provided education or training for approximately 7,800,000 men and women, including 2,200,000 in college, 3,400,000 in other schools, 1,400,000 in vocational education, and 690,000 in farm training and, in addition, 2,100,000 World War II veterans purchased homes through the GI Bill;

Whereas as a result of the benefits available to veterans through the initial GI Bill, the Nation gained over 800,000 professionals as the GI Bill transformed these veterans into 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, and 22,000 dentists;

Whereas President Truman established the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1945 to recognize notable service during war and in 1963, President Kennedy reinstated the medal to honor the achievement of civilians during peacetime;

Whereas pursuant to Executive Order No. 11085, the Medal of Freedom may be awarded to any person who has made an especially meritorious contribution to "(1) the security or national interest of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) other significant public or private endeavors"; and

Whereas Harry Colmery, noted for his service in the military, in the legal sector, and on behalf of the Nation's veterans, clearly meets the criteria established for the Presidential Medal of Freedom; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, Kansas.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution honoring the life of Harry W. Colmery of Topeka, KS, and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should award Mr. Colmery the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously.

As my colleagues know, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is this Nation's highest civilian honor. Thus, my colleagues may ask, "What in particular makes the life of Harry Colmery stand out?" I would answer that just two weekends ago, we in Washington saw the answer to this question when thousands of veterans gathered on the National Mall for the dedication of the World War II Memorial. These individuals and millions of their fellow soldiers benefited from the work of Harry Colmery, the author of the initial draft of the Servicemen's Readjustment act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill of Rights.

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 was aimed to aid military veterans as they transitioned back into civilian life following the conclusion of World War II by providing certain useful benefits. Among the historic benefits of this bill was a new educational benefit that would revolutionize America's higher education system. More than 2 million eligible men and women went to college using these educational benefits in the decade following World War II. The result was an American workforce enriched by 450,000 engineers, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 22,000 dentists, and another million college-educated men and women. An estimated 5 million additional men and women received other

schooling or job training under the provisions of the GI Bill.

The success of the GI Bill of Rights was unmistakable. A Veterans Administration study in 1965 showed that the increased earning power of GI Bill college graduates led to Federal income tax revenues rising by more than a billion dollars annually. In less than 20 years, the \$14 billion cost of the original program had been recovered. Americans like programs that work and, in the decades following World War II, Congress built on the success of the original GI Bill. The most recent Montgomery GI Bill, approved in 1985, was designed not only to help veterans make a transition into the workforce through additional education and training benefits, but also to help support the concept of an all-volunteer military. As my colleagues know, the promise of educational benefits has been one of the most successful tools given to our Nation's military recruiters.

Harry Colmery's dedicated service to the veterans of this Nation and the long reach of his work into the lives of millions of Americans certainly make him an individual worthy of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I call on my fellow Senators to support this resolution so that Harry Colmery, even posthumously, may receive the honor he is due.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 118—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT AN ARTISTIC TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE THE SPEECH GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AT THE BRANDENBURG GATE ON JUNE 12, 1987, SHOULD BE PLACED WITHIN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. ALLARD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 118

Whereas the people of the United States successfully defended freedom and democracy for over 40 years in a global Cold War against an aggressive Communist tyranny;

Whereas President Ronald Wilson Reagan's demonstration of unwavering personal conviction during this conflict served to inspire millions of people throughout the United States and around the world to seek democracy, freedom, and greater individual liberty; and

Whereas Ronald Wilson Reagan's determined stand against the Soviet empire during his eight years as President served as the catalyst for the end of that regime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that an artistic tribute to commemorate the speech given by President Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate on June 12, 1987, during which he uttered the immortal lines "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!", should be placed within the United States Capitol.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3448. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3200 submitted by Mr. INHOFE and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2400, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Services, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3448. Mr. LUGAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3200 submitted by Mr. INHOFE and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2400, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Services, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 1055. ASSISTANCE FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO ENGAGE IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, may transfer funds to the Secretary of State to provide assistance during fiscal year 2005 to military or security forces in a foreign country to enhance the capability of such country to participate in an international peacekeeping or peace enforcement operation.

(b) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided under subsection (a) may be used to provide equipment, supplies, training, or funding.

(c) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Assistance provided under subsection (a) may not exceed \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2005 from funds made available to the Department of Defense.

(d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY.—The authority to provide assistance under this section is in addition to any other authority to provide assistance to a foreign country or the military or security forces of such country.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday June 17th, at 2:30 p.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2513, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Authority for the planning, design, and

construction of the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Systems and for other purposes; S. 2511, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study of a Chimayo water supply system, to provide for the planning design, and construction of a water supply, reclamation, and filtration facility for Espanola, NM, and for other purposes; S. 2508, a bill to redesignate the Ridges Basin Reservoir, CO, as Lake Nighthorse; S. 2460, a bill to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes; and S. 1211, a bill to further the purposes of title XVI of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, the "Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act", by directing the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a demonstration program for water reclamation in the Tularosa Basin of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Nate Gentry at 202-224-2179 or Shane Perkins at 202-224-7555.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. on digital TV.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on Evaluating International Intellectual Property Piracy.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at 10 a.m. for a hearing titled "Going Nowhere: DOD Wastes Millions of Dollars on Unused Airline Tickets."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at 10 a.m. on "DHS Oversight: Terrorism and Other Topics" in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226. The Honorable Tom Ridge, Secretary of Department of Homeland Defense, will testify.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 9, 2004, at 10 a.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that John Kennedy of my staff be granted floor privileges.

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

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ELI BROAD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 38 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) providing for the appointment of Eli Broad as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 38

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, resulting from the death of Barber B. Conable, Jr., is filled by the appointment of Eli Broad of California. The appointment is for a term of 6 years, beginning upon the date of enactment of this joint resolution.

RESOLUTION OF CLAIMS RELATING TO CONFISCATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign

Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 341, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 341) to urge the resolution of claims related to the confiscation of certain property by the Government of Italy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the consideration of the resolution?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want the RECORD spread with my appreciation for the work done by the chairman, Senator LUGAR, and the ranking member, Senator BIDEN. This is an issue that goes back to the days when the Italian Government was confiscating property and not in any way compensating those whose property was taken. This is an effort to rectify that situation. I cannot adequately express my appreciation to the committee that worked so hard on this issue and to the leadership of that committee. This is very important.

This involves a prominent family from Nevada. They owned property in Italy. The Italian Government wrongfully confiscated the property decades ago, but to date, they have yet to provide compensation to the family.

Adequate compensation is required under treaties we have entered into with Italy. This resolution simply calls upon the Italian Government to make an effort to satisfy this claim and encourages our State Department to work with the Italian Government to see that the claim is resolved. It is noncontroversial and does not cost one penny.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 341) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 341

Whereas the Government of the Italian Republic confiscated the property of Mr. Pier Talenti, a citizen of the United States, and has failed to compensate Mr. Talenti for that property;

Whereas the Government of Italy has an obligation under the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation, signed at Rome February 2, 1948 (63 Stat. 2255) between the United States and the Italian Republic to provide compensation to Mr. Talenti for the confiscated property;