

morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. The chairman and ranking member will be here on Monday to work through the remaining amendments. There are currently four amendments pending. Additional amendments will be offered on Monday.

Under the previous order, we will vote in relation to the Schumer HAZMAT truck amendment at 5:30 p.m. Any other votes ordered during Monday's session will be stacked to occur immediately after the vote in relation to the Schumer amendment. Therefore, Senators should expect more than one vote on Monday afternoon.

Again, I remind my colleagues that next week the Rosh Hashanah holiday begins Wednesday. It is imperative that we finish the bill prior to that time. Senators should expect busy days during next week with numerous roll-call votes.

Finally, I thank every one for their hard work this week. Earlier this week we were able to expedite and pass an emergency supplemental appropriations bill to help fund FEMA's efforts in Florida. Last night we passed S. 1368 relating to awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King. Chairman MCCAIN secured passage of H.R. 361, the Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act.

Yesterday the Senate passed S. Res. 421, which condemned the terrorist attack in Beslan, Russia, and sent condolences, on behalf of the leaders and the U.S. Senate, to the families of those victims.

Earlier this week we confirmed three additional district judges, and I hope we will continue that pattern of considering judicial nominations before we conclude our work this year.

Finally, on a personal note, our colleague, Senator SMITH of Oregon, who is occupying the chair now, was on the floor of the Senate last night to ensure that the Senate passed S. 2634, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, which the Democratic leader, our leadership, and both sides of the aisle joined together to unanimously support.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of Senator DASCHLE and Senator BYRD for up to 30 minutes.

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

The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, will the majority leader clarify something? It was my understanding that we were going to get an agreement that all amendments would have to be filed by 4 o'clock on Monday. I apologize; I came to the floor late and Senator

REID wasn't here and I just don't know. I have not had the opportunity to ask anybody about this. Would the Senator enlighten me as to the status of that?

Mr. FRIST. Yes. It is something we have been working on back and forth for the last 24 hours, and that is the intention. We will try to get that early on Monday; we still have that goal for amendments to be filed. That is the intention. Because of various schedules today and the managers leaving at certain times, we didn't have everybody here to agree upon that, but that is the intention. When we come in early Monday, hopefully we can get that consent. I think both sides of the aisle agree that is the objective.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the leader. And I, too, congratulate the Senator from Oregon for his leadership on an important piece of legislation. I hope we can get it to the President on time.

GUARD AND RESERVIST BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this year marks the 60th anniversary of the GI bill of rights.

That law, debated and passed in the same week Allied Forces invaded Europe, not only demonstrated America's enormous gratitude to the men and women who fought for its freedom, it creates the foundations of the extraordinary prosperity that followed the end of the war.

The bill encapsulated all that was best in America. Those who defended the American dream were offered a share of the American dream.

Harry Colmery, a Republican from Pennsylvania who served as the National Commander of the American Legion at the time, wrote that "it [was] the duty, the responsibility, and the desire of our grateful people to see to it that those who served actively in the armed services . . . not only should not be penalized as a result of their war service, but also that upon their return, they should be aided in reaching the position which they might normally have expected had the war not interrupted their careers."

Our military has changed a great deal in the past 60 years.

Increasingly, our national security is defended by members of our National Guard and Reserve forces—men and women who volunteer to put aside their jobs, and leave their families and communities any time our Nation is threatened.

Forty percent of the troops fighting in Iraq are members of the National Guard or Reserve. One-hundred-sixty have given their lives.

Just as Congress thanked the men who liberated Europe and Asia and preserved democracy 60 years ago, the time has now come for Congress to repay our debt to the reservists fighting the war on terror around the world and struggling to bring peace and security to the people of Iraq.

The time has come for America to show a commitment to them that

matches their dedication and service to us.

Many of the current benefits, policies, and support systems for reservists have been in place for decades and their value has eroded over time.

Moreover, the experience of reservists in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq has demonstrated serious gaps in the benefits we offer them.

Moreover, even as we place a heavier burden on reservists, commanders warn that lower recruitment numbers and higher rates of retirement pose a threat to the continued readiness of our Reserve forces.

We cannot afford to close our eyes and hope this problem solves itself.

We have only a handful of weeks before the 108th Congress adjourns.

National security should sit alone at the top of our agenda, and there are few things more important than ensuring our Reserve forces have the tools they need to achieve the missions we assign them.

Therefore, in the spirit of the GI bill, in gratitude for their valor and sacrifice, and in recognition of our growing reliance on a powerful and effective Reserve force, I am introducing the National Guard and Reserve bill of rights.

This bill codifies a set of rights the men and women serving in our National Guard and Reserve have earned with their service to our Nation.

First, every reservist has the right to straight answers about their deployments. In the last few years, the Department of Defense has often failed to communicate to citizen soldiers and their families when they can expect to be reunited.

South Dakota's 740th Transportation Company, for example, was first told in February 2004 that their work in Iraq was over and that they would be heading home.

In the final days before their departure, they received word that they would remain in Iraq until April, 1 year after they had first reached Iraq.

As this date approached, their deployment was extended for an additional 90 days. These soldiers ultimately returned home in July, nearly 18 months after their activation date.

This kind of situation undermines troop morale and places an unfair burden on their families, businesses, and communities that rely on Guard and Reserve troops. I believe we owe our soldiers honest answers.

My bill would require the Pentagon to treat Active Duty and Reserve forces equally. If active duty forces are deployed abroad for 1 year, reservists would also be activated for 1 year.

It would also require the Department of Defense to conduct a "lessons learned" review of Reserve forces' deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, so that the miscommunications and mistakes reservists have experienced recently will not be repeated in the future.

Second, every reservist has the right to the best equipment the Nation has