Whereas 25,000 firefighters and emergency response personnel from California, 41 other States, and other nations worked side-by-side to fight the wildfires;

Whereas the people of California and the United States, who have demonstrated the dedication of the firefighters throughout the ongoing fire suppression and subsequent repair and rebuilding efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the firefighters and emergency workers from California, 41 other States, and other nations for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting wildfires in California;

(2) supports the continued work of firefighters to protect National Forest System land, other public lands, and private property from further damage;

(3) praises the people of California for their great courage in the face of the fires; and

(4) extends heartfelt sympathy to the people who have lost loved ones, homes, and businesses in the wildfires.

SENATE NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 715, submitted earlier today.

Resolved, That Senate Resolution 715 extending the authority for the Senate National Security Working Group.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 715) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 715) honoring the firefighters and emergency workers who courageously fought fires in California in 2008.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 714) was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. Res. 714

Whereas, in 2008, there have been more than 10,000 wildfires in California started by natural causes and human activity;

Whereas more than 1,440,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California burned in 2008;

Whereas, in June 2008, fires started by lightning destroyed approximately 1,200,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California, making the June fires the largest single wildfire event in California’s recorded history;

Whereas 41 counties across California were impacted by wildfires in 2008;

Whereas more than 1,400 homes were destroyed by fires in California in 2008;

Whereas State and local firefighters have been called to duty for increasingly long fire seasons, working on the front lines of these fires for weeks;

Whereas firefighters have risked their lives and endured great hardship to protect lives, property, and the environment in California;

Whereas 72 firefighters were injured and 14 firefighters tragically lost their lives in California in 2008;
includes extensive transparency obligations with respect to national laws and regulations and commitments to transparency in dispute settlement. The Parties also recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.


APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106-398, and upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, reappoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Mr. Peter Videnieks of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2009 and expiring December 31, 2010.

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

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order from September 27 regarding tributes to retiring Senators be modified so that Senators be permitted to submit such tributes for inclusion in a Senate document until Friday, December 12, 2008.

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

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the coming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses or by order of the Senate.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008, THROUGH MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the following days and times for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted: Monday, November 24 at 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday, November 26 at 10 a.m.; Saturday, November 29 at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, December 2 at 10:30 a.m.; and Friday, December 5 at 11 a.m.; and that when the Senate recesses on Friday, it stand in recess until 3 p.m., Monday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Senate will observe a period of one minute in observance of the one-year anniversary of the Virginia Tech shooting. The time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to one hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, over the next few weeks, Senators will be continuing to negotiate a bill to provide assistance to the auto industry. If an agreement is reached—for the information of the Members—the Senate will turn to consideration of this when the Senate returns on December 8.

That is a message from the majority leader, Senator Reid.

RECESS UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2008, AT 9:30 A.M.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:03 p.m., recessed until Monday, November 24, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FOREIGN SERVICE

The following-named career member of the Foreign Service of the International Broadcasting Board, and Career Foreign Service Officer to the Senior Foreign Service to the classes indicated:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND CONSULAR OFFICER AND FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING BOARD, AND CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER TO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

DAVID J. STRAWMAN, OF ILLINOIS

IN THE ARMY

The following-named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 634:

To be major general

 Brig. Gen. James R. Rogers

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:


The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CAPTAIN JOHN H. KORN AND ENDING WITH CAPTAIN MICHAEL H. FARRIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2008.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

NATIONAL OCeanic AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JONATHAN W. CLANCY AND ENDING WITH RYAN A. WATTS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

NATIONAL OCeanic AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW R. COLEGROVE AND ENDING WITH FAITH C. O'PATRICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 1, 2008.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

Ricardo H. Hinojosa, of Texas, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a Term Expiring on May 16, 2014.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was confirmed:

Gene Allan Crile, of New York, a carrier member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of counselor, to be ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Libya.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

Douglas D. Randall, of Missouri, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring on May 16, 2014.

Ray M. Bowen, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring on May 16, 2014.

Francis J. Cordova, of Indiana, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring on May 16, 2014.

J. F. Peterson, of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring on May 16, 2014.

Barbara Ernst Prey, of New York, to be a Member of the National Science Board, National Science Foundation, for a term expiring on May 16, 2014.

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were confirmed:

Alfred S. Irving, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the Term of Fifteen Years.

Kathryn A. Oberly, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the Term of Fifteen Years.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Thursday, November 20, 2008:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following-named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 271:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Captain John H. Korn