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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the God of all comforts, the challenges continue, but You have promised us strength for each new day. So give us this day our daily intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual bread that we may honor You.

Empower our Senators today to become instruments of Your grace, continuing Your work on Earth to liberate the captives. May our lawmakers seize the opportunities You give them to protect and bless our world.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUYE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 23, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am in a moment going to note the absence of a quorum. There will be no speeches until the Republican leader and I have a chance to visit and determine what we are going to do this morning. We expect a vote fairly quickly. We will do the best we can. We are waiting for a message from the House.

At this time, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2608

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I apologize to all Members for not being able to get here more quickly, but we have done the best we can. I have been waiting to hear from the Speaker for the last half hour or so and he has not called.

I ask unanimous consent that at 11:20 this morning, not withstanding the message not having been received from the House with respect to H.R. 2608, the House message be considered to have been laid before the Senate; further, that I may move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2608 with an amendment, the text of which is the House amendment with a technical change; that there be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the majority leader be recognized to move to table the motion to concur with an amendment and the Senate proceed to a vote on the motion to table the motion to concur with an amendment, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask the time be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we can see there is not a stampede to talk, so I now ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the previous order, the motion to table be in order now.

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

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM EXTENSION AND REFORM ACT OF 2011

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the House message is considered laid before the Senate.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to concur, with an amendment. The amendment is at the desk.

(The text of the amendment (No. 655) is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House message with respect to H.R. 2608, with amendment No. 655.

Mr. REID. I move to table that and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 151 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Akaka	Harkin	Paul
Baucus	Inouye	Pryor
Begich	Johnson (SD)	Reed
Bennet	Johnson (WI)	Reid
Bingaman	Kerry	Risch
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kohl	Rubio
Brown (OH)	Landrieu	Sanders
Cantwell	Lautenberg	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lee	Stabenow
Casey	Levin	Tester
Conrad	Lieberman	Toomey
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
DeMint	McCaskill	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Webb
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Hagan	Nelson (FL)	

NAYS—36

Alexander	Grassley	McConnell
Ayotte	Hatch	Moran
Blunt	Heller	Murkowski
Boozman	Hoeven	Nelson (NE)
Brown (MA)	Hutchison	Portman
Burr	Inhofe	Roberts
Coats	Isakson	Sessions
Cochran	Johanns	Shelby
Collins	Kirk	Snowe
Cornyn	Kyl	Thune
Crapo	Lugar	Vitter
Graham	McCain	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Coburn	Enzi
Chambliss	Corker	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). The majority leader.

MOTION TO CONCUR, WITH AMENDMENT NO. 656

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2608, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2608, with an amendment numbered 656.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Reid motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2608, with amendment No. 656.

Harry Reid, Daniel K. Inouye, Tom Udall, Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Mary L. Landrieu, Patty Murray, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Maria Cantwell, Daniel K. Akaka, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Kay R. Hagan.

AMENDMENT NO. 657 TO AMENDMENT NO. 656

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 657 to amendment No. 656.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
Section ____
This Act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

MOTION TO REFER, WITH AMENDMENT NO. 658

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to refer the House message to the Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back forthwith, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to refer the House message on H.R. 2608 to the Senate Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back forthwith, with an amendment numbered 658.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
Section ____
This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 659

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to my instruction that is also at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 659 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''2 days''.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 660 TO AMENDMENT NO. 659

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment to my instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 660 to amendment No. 659.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''2 days'' and insert ''1 day''.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum requirement under rule XXII be waived with respect to the cloture motion I just filed.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur with an amendment occur at 5:30 p.m., Monday, September 26.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The minority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object and with the indulgence of my friend the majority leader, let me make some brief remarks about where we are.

For anyone who is confused about what is going on in Congress right now, let me make it easy. In order to keep the government running beyond next week, Congress needs to pass a short-term bill that funds government operations at a spending level to which both parties can agree. The good news is, we have already agreed on a spending level. That has already been done. Last night, the House of Representatives passed a bill that meets that figure we agreed on a couple of months ago.

Here is the holdup. Because of some of the horrible weather we have had over the past several weeks, we have all agreed to add emergency funds we

didn't originally plan in this bill, and Republicans have identified a couple of cuts to make sure we don't make the deficit any bigger than it is already, including an offset Leader PELOSI has used in the past. The rest is from a cut to a loan guarantee program that gave us the Solyndra scandal. I think we can all agree this program should be put on hold until we get more answers, but our friends on the other side don't like the idea. They would rather just add these funds to the deficit. Why? Because, they say, that is the way we have always done things around here. Well, I think there is a lesson we can draw from the debates we have been having here over the last 6 months; that is, the American people won't accept that excuse any longer. The whole ''that is the way we have always done it'' argument is the reason we have a $14 trillion debt right now.

If we pass this bill, FEMA will have the funds they need—have the funds they need—to respond to these emergencies. That is not the issue. What is at issue is whether we are going to add to the debt.

We have a path forward to get disaster funding done right here, today. There is absolutely no reason, in my judgment, to delay funding for disasters until Monday, as my friend the majority leader is now asking us to do. I don't think we ought to delay at all. We just received the amendment a few minutes ago, but we are aware of what it does, and I think it is important for us to try to resolve this issue sooner rather than later.

Let's just walk through the next few days. If we don't have this vote until Monday, that leaves 24 hours or so before the Jewish holidays begin and then several days before the end of the fiscal year. It strikes me that we would be better off going ahead and having this vote now and entering into the discussions that will probably now be delayed until sometime Monday night to see how we can resolve this impasse between the House and Senate.

We would be happy to have the cloture vote on the proposal of my friend the majority leader right now rather than Monday night so we can get a clear sense of where we stand. It is my view that we ought to have the vote today rather than wait until Monday and basically squander the next few days toward getting an agreement we know we have to reach. Therefore, Mr. President—and I thank my friend the majority leader for letting me explain my position—I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. First of all, my friend, I am sure, understands that this great piece of legislation that was sent to us by the House received 36 votes over here. It was tabled on a bipartisan basis.

The matter that is now before the Senate is really a nice piece of legislation. It funds the government until November 18. That is what the House wanted. There also is money in this bill to take care of FEMA. And even though we passed a bill here with bipartisan support that had $6.9 billion, which we believed was an appropriate figure, in an effort to compromise on this CR, we have the number the House thinks is a better number. That is what is before us.

So, Mr. President, my suggestion to my friend—and he is my friend—is that the two Democratic leaders, REID and PELOSI, and the two Republican leaders, MCCONNELL and BOEHNER, should just cool off a little bit and then work through this. There is a compromise here, and the compromise is now before the Senate. Everyone, once in a while, needs a little cooling-off period.

The government is not shutting down. I spoke to Mr. Fugate myself, and FEMA is not out of money. We will come here Monday, and more reasonable heads will prevail. I hope over the weekend the four leaders can lead their troops in the right direction.

So I again ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur with an amendment occur at 5:30 p.m., Monday, September 26.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object, obviously, here in the Senate we would have a 60-vote threshold, and that is what we will have Monday afternoon. I see no reason why we shouldn't advance that to now so it can be clear whether this measure would pass the Senate. I am pretty confident it will not, and I don't see any purpose to be served by delaying the outcome of that, making the outcome clear on Monday when we could have a clear outcome today; therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, we have a piece of legislation at the desk that takes care of all the issues. It takes care of funding the government after October 1, and it also takes care of FEMA for the foreseeable future. It is a nice piece of legislation.

It is not our number; it is the House number.

I ask unanimous consent that the Reid motion to concur to the House amendment to the Senate amendment H.R. 2608 with amendment No. 656 be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to this bill be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read. In fact, what we are asking here is the CR, with the FEMA language, be passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we will have that vote on Monday. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I renew my request. I would tell everyone—as my friend said, we will have the vote on Monday. We will keep the vote open, and if people are pressed on planes, I will work with the Republican leader and make sure that everyone is protected as much as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the renewed request for Monday?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, last night the House of Representatives approved a continuing resolution which includes critical funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. It has been reported that my friends on the other side of the aisle are committed to defeating this measure because the FEMA spending has been offset by a $1.5 billion reduction in the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program.

I would like to remind my colleagues that in 2009, before the change of leadership in the House, that body sent over a bill, H.R. 3435, to ''Make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Program''—otherwise known as ''Cash-for-Clunkers.'' That bill provided an additional $2 billion, on top of an already appropriated $1 billion, for a program that did nothing to boost long-term car sales in this country.

And how was the second appropriation to ''Cash-for-Clunkers'' paid for? You guessed it, unused funds from a Department of Energy loan guarantee program. The former leadership in the House transferred money from the Department of Energy Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program that was funded by the stimulus bill.

If ''Cash-for-Clunkers'' was important enough to transfer money from a loan guarantee program that was not being utilized, why not the disaster relief we are seeking to fund now? I would like to hear from my friends on the other side of the aisle as to what made ''Cash-for-Clunkers'' so critical to our Nation's health that we could pay for it with money from a loan guarantee program but are unable to do the same with FEMA?

And what is it about the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program that the majority prioritizes over FEMA's disaster relief efforts?

According to the Government Accountability Office, the Department of Energy has not obtained technical expertise to monitor the loan program, developed sufficient performance measures to ensure the loan guarantee program achieves its intended goals, and ''could not provide Congress with information on whether the program was achieving its goals and warranted continued support.''

There is absolutely no excuse for not passing the continuing resolution approved by the House last night.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I know my colleagues here want to join in on the debate that just transpired, but I wanted to take a minute to talk about Senate bill 1542, which passed last night. I know, just as people are frustrated here with everything that is going on, I think it is important to stop for a second, when something does pass and it is good policy, that we talk about it, and that is the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act.

Congress took a pretty big step last night by improving the lives of children by the passage of this legislation. It is about keeping families together. It is about rewarding government efficiency and driving down costs, and it is about giving flexibility to invest in programs that are proven to work for kids and families.

This bill is about America's children. It is about making sure that America's foster care program works for children so they can keep their families together. Too often, our Federal policies have punished States which have innovative programs, giving States money based on how many kids were still in foster care instead of rewarding success and innovation that helped transition children out of the foster care system and back with their families.

Let me tell you what has happened in Washington State. We have been implementing innovative programs to improve foster care for many years now. When Washington State noticed a disproportionate number of Native-American children being placed in foster care, our advocates took action and implemented the Washington Indian Child Welfare Act in developing strategies for strengthening tribal relationships and promoting the best interests of Native-American children.

When Washington State noticed in general how long children were staying in foster care, advocates took action, this time implementing policies to help reduce the length of stay for children in out-of-home care. As a result, the median length of stay for children in out-of-home care declined almost 100 days between 2009 and 2011. In addition, Washington State reduced its foster care caseloads by 13.8 percent during a similar time period.

Unfortunately, instead of being rewarded for these actions, we were penalized, and that is what this legislation has helped to correct. In fact, we lost $2.7 million during that time period. So this legislation, instead of punishing Washington State for keeping kids out of foster care, helps us ensure the kind of innovation that will help us to make sure the best programs are implemented. This allows Washington to increase its capacity to keep doing the things that keep children who have been in the foster care system from being in the foster care system the entirety of their childhood. This instead drives them, hopefully, successfully back with their families.

Our State can invest in evidence-based programs that have proven to work, and just as this legislation will help us to do, it will make sure that children don't bounce from foster home to foster home on a continuing basis. We will help to keep kids out of the care system and, when possible, place them back safely with families.

Washington State Representative Ruth Kagi, who has been a tireless advocate for this system, said it best:

> Title IV-E waivers can help the State move from purchasing specific services to purchasing specific outcomes.

I thank Chairman BAUCUS and Ranking Member HATCH for their timely and innovative work on this legislation. I wish my colleagues could have been at the hearing that was held earlier this year when Senator BAUCUS asked young adults, who had been part of the foster system for their entire lives, how to change the system.

I thank the chairman for taking into consideration the specific improvements and innovations that Washington State has advocated. And I thank my colleague, Representative JIM MCDERMOTT, and the Washington State legislators who worked on this, including Partners for Our Children, the Children's Home Society of Washington, and the various social workers and advocates who, in our State, continue to try to innovate when it comes to foster care in America.

This legislation is a major step forward to promote innovation on a Federal basis and to help keep families together. In doing so, we will have the benefit of also driving more efficiency and driving down the cost. But, more importantly, we are going to be working to strengthen America's children and families by trying effectively to keep them together.

I thank the President, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

AMERICAN JOBS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to speak for a few moments about what has been happening all week here in the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

First of all, this year we have seen a terrible string of natural disasters that have shut down businesses and left families homeless across America. As chair of the Agriculture Committee, I am certainly very concerned about the flooding along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and the record droughts that have devastated the livelihoods of men and women who grow our food across America.

In response to that, the Senate, on a strong bipartisan basis, responded to provide the funding for FEMA to help with communities across America, 48 States, to be able to respond and be able to do what we always do as Americans—to be able to step forward and work together and meet these kinds of natural disasters and the help that is needed.

We sent that to the House. The House decided, on the other hand, that they not only would lower the funding amount, even though we know that means multiple times now having to keep churning to work something out, but they have cut the amount. Then they added to it an effort to cut in half a public-private sector effort that is creating jobs.

I know people in Michigan and people across the country would be scratching their heads, saying, Wait a minute. Did I hear this right? We are stepping forward to help families who had their house wiped out or their business wiped out or their farm wiped out or some other horrendous challenge because of natural disasters. In order to help them, the House Republicans are saying we have to cut jobs. That makes absolutely no sense.

I would say that while Michigan was very fortunate that we were not one of the 48 States that has lost, because of weather disasters, homes or businesses or jobs or families, we have had a different kind of disaster that has been going on. It is an economic disaster, it is a jobs disaster.

I find it appalling that, on the one hand, we see strong support on the other side of the aisle to rebuild homes and businesses and roads and schools in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are not saying there, well, gosh, we need to take away an effort to fund jobs or education here at home to be able to fund what we are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan. But when it comes to helping people in America, somehow we can't work together and get that done without having to pit one State which has a jobs crisis against another State which has a flood or a hurricane or a drought. I don't find that to be very American.

I think it is time to stop playing politics. When hundreds of thousands of families and businesses have been devastated by unprecedented strings of floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters, we ought to be stepping up, doing what we did in the Senate and passing a bipartisan bill to help those families, those businesses, those farms, without playing

politics and trying to hurt other States that have been hit by other kinds of economic disasters.

We have 14 million people out of work in this country, and that doesn't count people working part time two jobs, three jobs, or trying to piece it all together in some way. We know it is much higher than that when you count those individuals and families. For each and every one of them, their job search is an emergency. It is an emergency every time they think about how to put food on the table for their family. It is an emergency every month when they have to scrape together the money they need for rent or to pay the mortgage. It is an emergency every time these men and women are filling out applications, every day going to job fairs, going on the Internet, trying to fill out forms, getting in lines, to find the best way to be able to get back to work. It is an emergency.

So, to me, it is outrageous that the House of Representatives—the Republicans in the House—has included a job-killing offset to what is an important disaster assistance bill, to pull the rug out from businesses across the country and put up to 50,000 American jobs at risk.

Let me tell you about what this particular program is. I am proud to have championed this and initiated it in the Energy bill back in 2007, a bipartisan bill signed by President Bush. It was slow to get going initially to get the funding. I am proud that President Obama embraced it and moved forward to be able to put in place an alternative vehicle manufacturing loan program to help retool plants in America so we wouldn't be losing the production of new, small plug-in electric vehicles and other new technology vehicles to other countries. It is a loan program to retool plants in America, and it is working.

In Michigan, these retooling loans made it possible for Ford Motor Company to save 1,900 jobs at their Michigan assembly plant in Wayne, MI, so they could build the all-new Ford Focus electric and the battery-electric Focus in America. In the process of that, between the retooling loans and our partnership with industry to invest in advanced battery technology, we are now bringing jobs back from Mexico.

How many times have I heard colleagues on the floor talking about how we want to make sure we are exporting products, not jobs, and that we want to bring jobs back? What the House Republicans have done is to cut in half an initiative with the private sector that is actually bringing jobs back from other countries. So far, 41,000 jobs have been saved or created through this effort around the country. Obviously, I care deeply about Michigan and have fought for this, but we are talking about Indiana, Illinois; we are talking about Florida and Louisiana and California, and all across our country where we are seeing communities have the opportunity to retool plants that would be idle, empty, an eyesore, and be able to bring those back with new technologies that are going to get us off of foreign oil and are creating jobs—41,000 jobs so far.

The real insult to me, as I look at what is happening to people in my State and across the country, is that they are poised to be giving out up to 11 additional loans to partner with business in the next couple of months that will create somewhere between 40,000 and 50,000 new jobs, saving or creating new jobs in the next few weeks. And right when this is about to happen, the House Republicans are saying: Oh, no, in order to help the folks in Joplin, MO, who are wiped out as a community, we want to make sure we are not creating jobs in Michigan; that we are not creating jobs in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Florida, Louisiana, California, Minnesota, wherever it is; that somehow we have to pit Americans against each other. That is not the America I know and love.

In Michigan we don't have a weather emergency. But we stand with every single State on this floor, every single Member who has had one. We stand as Americans together to support people across this country. But we say, Stop, when that means that somehow an effort to make things in America, manufacturing, the backbone of our economy, is somehow attacked one more time and partnerships taken away in order to make that happen.

It makes absolutely no sense. That is what this debate is about. I wish to share some comments because we received a lot of support. I wish to share a couple comments, if I might, on the floor.

The National Association of Manufacturers has sent a letter opposing the defunding of this particular partnership and they say: ''Defunding the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program will hurt manufacturers and their employees.''

Everybody is spending a whole lot of time talking about jobs around here. Unbelievably, we are talking about defunding this program in the middle of talking about jobs, how we need to create jobs, how we need to support employers, and how we can compete internationally with countries such as China that say: Come on over. We will build the plant for you. Forget a loan you are going to pay back with interest; we will just build it for you. Come on over, and, by the way, we will steal your patents and manipulate our currency and make sure you get the toughest deal possible to compete with us. But that is what they do.

So we put together something to say we are going to partner with the private sector to be able to keep the jobs in America and it is actually working. Jobs are coming back. We are rebuilding communities. We are rebuilding plants. We are helping to get off foreign oil because we are focused on new electric vehicles and an advanced battery technology industry where, because of our efforts, from producing 2 percent of the world's batteries, we are on our way to producing 40 percent, having the capacity to manufacture and create 40 percent of the world's batteries within the next 3 years. Why? Because we have been working together in partnerships with industry, which is what our industry is competing against around the world.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said: ''The ATVM loan program . . . promotes manufacturing in the U.S. and is an important component of America's energy security.''

We all want to get off foreign oil. We do not want to be buying oil from folks we do not like and they don't like us and we can't trust them. We have an opportunity, through the efforts we are focused on around alternative vehicles and battery initiatives, to get off foreign oil.

This makes absolutely no sense to me. We have multiple other letters—the Alliance for Automobile Manufacturers, the Blue/Green Alliance—we have others who have come back and shared that as well.

We are at a moment when we know we need to pass a continuing resolution on the regular budget. We have a new process for a supercommittee to look at how we take on and tackle the issues around our national debt and economic growth. During the process that set that up, there was an agreement on the budget numbers. We have the ability to pass that now. We have passed a bill to help our citizens across the country who have had weather disasters, natural disasters. We came together in the Senate to do that. The House has that.

There is one thing standing in the way: whether at this time we are going to say to people in Michigan and in other States where the economic disaster has been overwhelming that we are going to pit their need for jobs against somebody else's need to have their home or their street or their school rebuilt.

That is not who we are in America. I do not believe Americans support that strategy. I think it is outrageous that there is a proposal that passed. I thank my House Democratic colleagues and my House colleagues in Michigan and the Democratic leadership in the House for waging a fierce battle to protect those jobs.

This is about making products in America. It is about rejuvenating an advanced manufacturing sector that is critical. We are not going to have a middle class if we do not make products in America. We are not going to have a middle class. This particular partnership, which is nothing more than a loan, repaid with interest, but it is support for our communities to rebuild—rebuild not in Afghanistan, not in Iraq but in America; rebuild communities and create jobs. It is working. It is beginning to bring jobs back. It is outrageous that they have decided to take half the funding for this partnership away.

I wish to support our effort to send over the continuing resolution on the budget we need. I thank my caucus and our leadership for standing firm and standing up for American jobs. That is what we care about. That is what we have been fighting for. Along the way, we are going to make sure we are doing everything we can to help citizens who have been so devastated by the natural disasters across the country.

I suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor and will spend the next 15 minutes or so, maybe even longer, to support the arguments made just recently, and I might say eloquently and passionately, by the Senator from Michigan, who was one of the key architects of this very successful job creation program that the Republican House leadership is trying to kill. That is, in large measure, what this debate this weekend and through next week is about. That is why almost unanimously Democrats in the Senate are supporting our Democratic caucus in the House as we try to bring this debate forward so the American people can understand at this time and hopefully give their voice of support for what we are trying to do—keep government operating and keep jobs being created in this country.

It is a struggle. We know we are not creating as many as we would like. But one of the programs that is creating thousands of jobs and has broad support in America—and I am going to read the groups supporting it in just a minute. For some reason, the Republican leader in the House, ERIC CANTOR, decided last week—even as the winds were affecting his district and Hurricane Irene was challenging the east coast, a portion of the country he represents—he decided we needed to find an offset so we could send money to his district and to other districts across the country and picked this program.

They couldn't have picked a worse one because this program is actually working. It has already demonstrated it has revitalized communities.

In addition, it is a program that created jobs, so several dozen Republican House Members have sent private letters to the Secretary of Energy asking for the money to go back to their districts, but publicly they want to gut the program. Democrats have decided to bring this to the attention of the American public. I have those letters, and I am going to submit them for the RECORD.

How is it that dozens of Republican leaders wrote private letters—which are a public record—but they do not issue them to the press. They sent them to the Secretary. Anyone can get copies of them. I did this morning and I have them. They are private letters to the Secretary, asking for this program to loan money to a public-private partnership to create jobs in their district. Then they go home and they talk about their efforts to create jobs and they come back to Washington and try to gut the program under the guise that they need the money to help disaster victims. That is what this debate is about. That is why the Democrats are not—at least at this point, and I hope over the weekend and through next week—going to give in to that nonsense and hypocrisy.

I hope the President and the White House will fight hard, along with the Democrats. I hope some of the Republicans who have signed these letters will think twice when this vote comes up again. I hope the press is reading these letters and asking these Republicans, whose signatures are on these letters, one question: How is it possible that they sent a letter to the Secretary asking for a loan to support job creation in their district and then, at the same time, stand on the Senate floor and vote to gut the same program and then go back home and claim they are helping to create jobs in America?

I am going to start with the first letter, which is the most interesting to me. It is from Dr. DARRELL ISSA. He is a Member of Congress. He actually chairs an oversight committee. I think his district is in California. He is a Republican from California. He is a very powerful Member of the House. I am going to read his whole letter.

I write to express my support for Aptera Motors' application for a loan under the Department of Energy's 136 Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program. Otherwise known as the ATVMIP.

The program he voted last night to eliminate. The same one.

Funding will allow Aptera to establish U.S. manufacturing facilities for the commercial production of its plug-in and hybrid electric cars. Aptera Motors plans to purchase and equip manufacturing facilities to begin commercial-scale production of its energy electric vehicles. Awarding this opportunity to Aptera Motors will greatly assist a leading developer of electric vehicles in my district.

Electric vehicle initiatives, like Aptera's, will aid U.S. long-term energy goals by shifting away from fossil fuels and using viable renewable energy sources like plug-in electric energy. Additionally, Aptera's vehicles will reduce dependence on foreign oil and enhance energy security. Aptera's project will also promote domestic job creation through California as well as in other States.

Unlike many other electric vehicles, Aptera's energy efficient electric vehicles have a range of over 100 miles per charge and the possibility to become one of the most energy efficient vehicles in the world. A loan to Aptera will help accelerate the move from gasoline-powered vehicles to cleaner electric vehicles.

I urge you to give Aptera's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program funding application full consideration.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me—

or amazingly—

my press assistant.

Normally, when I write these letters, I say if I can be of further assistance, please contact me and my energy assistant. The energy leg person usually handles this. But in this case he said we should call his press secretary. I guess the press secretary could go back to his district and claim he is doing a great job creating programs in California.

Maybe the press actually writes that DARRYL ISSA, Republican leader, is promoting manufacturing in California. This is what he says in his district, and this is the letter he sends to the Secretary. However, when he was on the floor of the House last night, he voted to gut this program. That is what this debate is about. I am looking forward to having it.

The next letter I am going to read—and I am going to do this all week, so I hope the press gets ready to ask these Republican leaders how they could possibly have the gall to hold press opportunities in their districts promising people they are helping them create jobs and then come back to Washington and cut the rug out from underneath their feet with the bogus excuse that they have to come up with $1 billion, when the real need is only $175 million. I checked with Craig Fugate, a very good friend of mine. I am the chair of his committee. I talk to him all the time. When the real need for FEMA in 2011 is $175 million, but under the guise of having to provide $1 billion, they want to gut this program that is creating jobs, and they themselves have asked for these loans to be made in their district.

This is the next letter signed by several Members, and I am going to submit their names for the RECORD. There are several Republicans. I am sorry, but from this letter I am not able to determine which ones are Republicans and which ones are Democrats.

I ask unanimous consent that theses letters be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1)

Ms. LANDRIEU. Thank you. This is to Secretary Chu.

The State of California has traditionally assumed a leading role in fighting global warming and working to eliminate our dependence on foreign sources of oil. We want to commend you for also taking effective steps towards achieving these goals. As part of this effort, the Department of Energy's Electric Drive and Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative is currently reviewing submissions for the construction of new lithium ion battery facilities in the United States. This initiative is a huge step forward in our efforts to improve our environment, eliminate our dependence on foreign sources of oil, and create a modern green-collar workforce here in the United States.

Quallion, an innovative American company located in California, can be a valuable partner in your efforts because it is ready today to directly support President Obama's

goal to have one million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015. Quallion is a world leader in the development of customized lithium ion batteries for medical, military, aerospace and vehicle applications. If Quallion is successful in its bid for grants through the Department of Energy's Electric Drive and Vehicle Battery Component Manufacturing Initiative, it is set to immediately execute the construction of state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities to produce—

Et cetera, et cetera, et cetera.

Quallion projects that with this grant funding the proposed facility could be fully operational by 2011, and could produce more that 20,000 lithium ion batteries each year.

This is the killer.

In addition, Quallion projects this funding will create more than 2,300 new and long-term jobs nationwide.

This is the program that Representative CANTOR decided to use as an offset so he could fool the American people into believing we need to find an offset to offset $1 billion of expenses, when we only have $175 million in expenses.

So they write the letters privately to the Secretary asking for funding to go with their districts to create jobs and then they come to Washington and they gut the program for no reason.

This is another letter, and it is a little close to home. This is a letter I wrote. I was joined by my colleague Senator VITTER, Republican from Louisiana, and my Republican counterpart RODNEY ALEXANDER, who represents the district in my State. We sent this letter on December 21.

We are writing to reiterate our strong support for Next Autoworks Company's loan application under the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Program and inquire about the status of the application.

Next Autoworks resubmitted a revised application in May 2010 that was almost immediately declared substantially complete and expeditiously reviewed for technical and financial merit. We appreciate the Department's work to move the application through several critical stage-gates over the past several months.

Next Autoworks has the ability to transform communities in Louisiana by bringing critical economic growth in jobs to our state and region. As you know, the company plans to re-equip a former Guide Corp Plant in Monroe, LA, that was shuttered in 2006 and establish a production facility that would bring approximately 1,400 direct jobs and an additional 1,800 indirect jobs to Northeast Louisiana. In addition, the project will create thousands of jobs at supply facilities across the U.S. The State of Louisiana and local communities have already demonstrated their commitment by offering this company $82 million in grants, $128 million in employee training services, and an estimated $33.8 million in tax abatements to support the project.

This is how strongly our Republican Governor and Republican legislature in Louisiana feel about this project, that we have put up State and local money to see if we could attract this loan from the Federal Government to get this going.

It is signed by my colleague Senator VITTER and signed by my friend and colleague Representative ALEXANDER, who represents this district. This is one of our No. 1 economic development projects in the State of Louisiana, and what did the Representative do last night? He voted to gut the program.

I have dozens of other letters, but I am going to pause because I think I have made my point. I am going to read every one of these letters that I have between now and when this debate ends. I just pray the press will do their job and ask the Members who voted and sent these letters why did they send a letter to the Secretary asking for the program and then turn around and gut the program when they came to Washington.

I would like to ask for 5 minutes more.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. The other point is this: This is not just an issue for one State or two States. That is why Democrats believe strongly about this because this is about the whole country. The President has declared disasters this year in 48 of the 50 States. Maybe if we just had had disasters in one or two places and they were not that terrible, we would figure out some way. The problem is we have disasters in all States, and I am going to show what these pictures portray because they are heartwrenching.

This is New Jersey. This is someone's household belongings. This is a home that is completely uninhabitable. I am not sure how high the water is, but this is what a home looks like after a flood. I can visualize what it looked like after Katrina and smell, even more than the vision.

This is what New Jersey looked like a couple weeks ago. This water has gone down, but this is Bound Brook, NJ. We do not know much about this town. We hear about Trenton. We hear about New York. I have never been to Bound Brook, NJ, but I am sure it is a lovely place and it needs our help.

So what does Representative CANTOR do? He comes to Washington, he looks at places such as this, and he decides out of the blue sky that he is now going to assert his power by demanding an offset for disaster funding when it is not necessary. The offset is way more than what is required. Again, it is an offset that is creating jobs in America.

I wish to say something else about the danger of requiring offsets and respond directly to what minority leader MITCH MCCONNELL said earlier today. I think he said something akin to the reason we want to require offsets is because we have to stop doing things the same way around here, and just because we have never required them in the past, that is no reason to not require them now. I understand that. I am kind of a person who likes to do things differently. I like to change things.

I wish to remind the leader that not one Republican, to my mind, either in the Senate or the House, ever asked for 5 minutes to debate $1 to offset war or rebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan. I wish to put up this chart.

This is from 2001, so this is a chart that shows—let's say the last year. I think it is important for the public to understand not just today but 10 years.

If we were to chart, which we have done here, a lot of this supplemental spending, emergency spending and disaster spending—these are not for just natural disasters, these are for emergencies. For example, when we went to war in Iraq, it was an emergency. When we went to war in Afghanistan, it was an emergency. When we had the avian flu, that was an emergency, not a disaster. So this is disasters and emergencies.

Let's take this red bar here. It says Iraq and Afghanistan, $79 billion. Do my colleagues see this zero here? That is zero offset. So $79 billion and no offset. This one is war money.

This is tsunami money that we actually sent to—remember we had the tsunami in Indonesia, and we sent some money over there. Did ERIC CANTOR come to the floor and say we need to offset the money? No. So we sent that money, and less than 2 percent of it was offset.

Here is Iraq and Afghanistan, and none of it was offset—$87.6 billion.

So I think disaster victims in his own district and around the country are saying: So why are we now in this debate trying to find an offset we really don't need for a program that really works? That is a good question. If we want to find an offset, we should find another program. The only offset required is $175 million, but that makes too much sense.

So I want the Republican leadership to know they are risking a very important debate. I don't believe we should even talk about shutting the government down. People are tired of that. We just went through a challenge to the whole economy with the debt ceiling limit. Enough is enough. Democrats should not, in my view, cave on this point. We should fight and get them to compromise which is reasonable.

In addition to these arguments, I will put up a chart that is hard to look at, but I think for the gulf coast Republicans and Republican Senators, it is a very important chart.

One of the dangers of requiring an offset is, No. 1, like right now, it is virtually impossible to get 535 Members to all agree on an offset. So what happens is, if we demand to have one, we keep the victims waiting while we debate. It also doesn't help to choose an offset that is very popular on one side. There might be a program that we could over the next couple of months decide is unnecessary, but we can't do that within a few days of the disaster. It takes time. They should know that.

Let me explain what this is for the gulf coast Senators. I had this done after Katrina just to show the vulnerability of the gulf coast. All of these red lines that look like spaghetti and then these bigger lines—the blue and the yellow and the orange—these are all

hurricanes that have actually hit the United States between 1851 and 2008. It is a very frightening chart.

One of the reasons I think Senator RUBIO from Florida is voting with us is because he has seen a picture of this chart. That is how many hurricanes have hit Florida since 1851. He is most certainly aware from his State that if he takes the position that we have to require an offset to fund disasters, his job as a Senator will be very, very difficult, even more challenging than it is today, because the next time a hurricane hits Florida, he is going to have to go sit down with the budget folks and find out—before he can offer his people the $2,000 in emergency aid, the $30,000 that helps them, the loans through the Small Business Committee, the loans to get their businesses back—he is going to have to come up here and negotiate to find an offset.

Last night, I watched the debate on the House side. I thought our Democratic colleagues did a beautiful job, and I wish to thank them for the beautiful way they spoke. I didn't see one Republican come to the floor. They had just one of their leaders talking last night when the vote happened. Maybe they are a little embarrassed, and they should be because I am going to read the letters they sent.

Also, the gulf coast Republicans I think really have to think about this because these storms, as we can see—my State and the people I represent are in Hurricane Alley. This is Hurricane Rita, the blue, which is one of the most devastating storms. That is why it is a thicker line. Hurricane Gustav is the orange, Hurricane Ike is the dark pink, and Hurricane Katrina is the yellow. All of these storms hit us and wrecked the gulf coast.

Let me say what happened after that. Haley Barbour, the Governor of Mississippi, who is still the Governor of Mississippi, came up here when George Bush was the President and got $4.6 billion without one penny of offset, and he got that within 60 days of the storm. I am going to repeat that. Governor Haley Barbour, who is still the Governor of Mississippi, came to Washington, met with the President, and left with $4.6 billion to rebuild Mississippi. The Congress gave Louisiana $5.4 billion, for which I was very grateful. However, we had 70 percent of the damage but only got 55 percent of the money, so we were shortchanged. I had to work for years. I finally got that squared away.

But this is why gulf coast Republicans and Republican Senators from the gulf coast should think not twice but three times before they vote to require an offset.

I am just saying I am not going to forget this vote, because I chair this committee, and if my colleagues vote to require an offset and another storm hits their State, then the responsibility is on their shoulders to tell their people: I am sorry, I can't help you until I go to Washington and find an offset.

Maybe it will get so ridiculous—and I am going to call this the Cantor doctrine—maybe it will get so ridiculous that ERIC CANTOR will tell all the people in America—there was a cartoon in the newspapers about this. I am having it blown up because it is really sad, but it is actually funny. There is a woman sitting on top of her roof because her house is completely flooded. She has a phone, and she calls FEMA and FEMA says: We can't rescue you right now. We are looking for an offset.

So maybe the new Cantor Republican model of ''pick yourself up by your bootstraps and swim away on your own'' will actually really be put into practice because I think that is what they want because before that woman can be rescued, before the debris can be removed, that woman is going to have to sit down at the table with her husband and kids in a broken-down house or trailer and suggest some offsets to send to their Congressman before we can send them help. That is not right. That is what this debate is about.

Now, do we eventually have to pay for these disasters? Absolutely.

The Wall Street Journal editorialized against me the other day, so let me answer them. They said: There goes Senator LANDRIEU; she doesn't think she has to pay for anything. That is not true. I believe right now we are paying for the war in Iraq, and it is very tough to pay for that. We are finding a way in the supercommittee. But we didn't have to find an offset before we could let our troops march in. We didn't have them standing on the border, saying: Stand right here. Hold your fire. ERIC CANTOR is working on an offset for you. We sent the troops in, we let the bombers go, and we will figure out how to pay for it later.

So I am telling the Republicans in the House that they better think very carefully about this vote. Senator REID has sent a very good compromise. He said: We will give up our number, we will take your number on FEMA, but we are not going to take this offset.

Now, I still think and I want to say for the record, as the chairman of this committee, that 3.65 is not going to be enough to get us through all of next year, but it will get us through the next couple of weeks and months—not months, maybe weeks. The government won't shut down, and FEMA will have money to operate, as the leader said. It is not ideal. It is not what is in our bill, which is the best, which is a $6.5 billion level, which is funding not just FEMA, but it will fund the Corps of Engineers, community development, agriculture. What the House is doing only funds FEMA. It doesn't give any money to the poor. It doesn't give any money to community development. It doesn't give any money to the farmers. So if you are sitting out there looking at your farm with your crops ruined, please don't think the House of Representatives is doing one thing to help you because they are not.

So I have given any number of reasons why this is an important debate to have. There is no guarantee Democrats will win, but every now and then it is a good thing to stand up for principle, and I believe this is a principle worth standing up for and worth fighting for.

I hope the press does their job over the next several days and asks these Republicans: How in the world can you send a private letter asking for funding and then come back to Washington and gut the same program? And if the press does their job and if the people in our country will ask those same questions, maybe a few of these Republican leaders will compromise the way they should. Either give up the offset or come up with a different one. Come up with another one that is much less harmful.

Let me end with this. We have three letters that I will submit for the RECORD. If people can't take my word for any of this, they can listen to the chamber of commerce. What did the chamber of commerce say? I will submit their letter. This is the wrong thing to do, the chamber says. Don't eliminate this program. It is creating jobs in America. So the Republicans, I know, don't really like to listen to what I say a lot, but they should listen to the chamber of commerce.

The National Manufacturing Association—a very conservative group—sent the Republicans a letter saying: Bad deal. Don't do it. They did it anyway.

I just got a letter from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. All of the mayors in the country, Republicans and Democrats, sent a letter to the House saying: Don't do this. And they did it anyway.

So the only people more powerful and the only group more powerful than the chamber, than NAM, than the mayors, are the people themselves. So I hope this weekend the people will say to their representatives: Don't cut out a program that is creating jobs. Don't require disaster victims to have an offset. Let's keep the government operating, and let's find a way to pay for this over time together and get this deficit under control.

I am willing to do that. As the chair of this committee, I promise them we can do better budgeting in the future. Nobody did it really great in the past. I am willing to do that. I am willing to work with them in any way. But let's not go down this dangerous and inappropriate road.

EXHIBIT 1

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 14, 2009.

Hon. STEVEN CHU,
Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I write to express my support of Aptera Motors' application for a loan under the Department of Energy's 136 Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program (ATVMIP). Funding will allow Aptera to establish U.S. manufacturing facilities for the commercial production of its plug-in and hybrid electric cars. Aptera Motors plans to purchase and

equip manufacturing facilities to begin commercial-scale production of its energy efficient electric vehicles. Awarding this opportunity to Aptera Motors will greatly assist a leading developer of electric vehicles in my district.

Electric vehicle initiatives like Aptera's will aid U.S. long-term energy goals by shifting away from fossil fuels and using viable renewable energy sources like plug-in electric energy. Additionally, Aptera's vehicles will reduce dependence on foreign oil and enhance energy security. Aptera's project will also promote domestic job creation throughout California as well as in other states.

Unlike many other electric vehicles, Aptera's energy efficient vehicles have a range of over 100 miles per charge and the possibility to become one of the most energy efficient vehicles in the world. A loan to Aptera will help accelerate the move from gasoline-powered vehicles to cleaner electric vehicles.

I urge you to give Aptera Motors' Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program funding application full consideration. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Press Assistant, Justin LoFranco at (202) 225–3906.

Respectfully,

DARRELL ISSA,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

Re Quallion application for Department of Energy's Electric Drive and Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative grant.

Secretary STEVEN CHU,
U.S. Department of Energy, Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CHU: The State of California has traditionally assumed a leading role in fighting global warming and working to eliminate our dependence on foreign sources of oil. We want to commend you for also taking effective steps towards achieving these goals. As part of this effort, the Department of Energy's Electric Drive and Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative is currently reviewing submissions for the construction of new lithium ion battery facilities in the United States. The Initiative is a huge step forward in our efforts to improve our environment, eliminate our dependence on foreign sources of oil and create a modern ''green collar'' workforce here in the United States.

Quallion, an innovative American company located in California, can be a valuable partner in your efforts because it is ready today to directly support President Obama's goal to have one million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015. Quallion is a world leader in the development of customized lithium ion batteries for medical, military, aerospace and vehicle applications. If Quallion is successful in its bid for grants through the Department of Energy's Electric Drive and Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative, it is set to immediately execute the construction of a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility to produce advanced lithium ion cells, modules and battery technology in volumes that will meet America's current and future military and commercial needs. Quallion projects that with this grant funding the proposed facility could be fully operational by 2012, and could produce more than 20,000 lithium ion batteries each year.

In addition, Quallion projects that this funding will create more than 2,300 new and long-term jobs nationwide. It will also signal America's seriousness to the world that we are ready to compete in the manufacturing of green technologies, in this case the lithium ion battery manufacturing space.

The lithium ion batteries manufactured in Quallion's new facility will have the potential to deliver real and immediate environmental solutions, while also creating new jobs at a time when Americans need them the most. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that truck idling results in the emission of 11 million tons of CO_2 and the consumption of 960 million gallons of diesel fuel annually. Quallion's new facility will produce zero emission advanced lithium ion batteries designed to replace engine idling as a power source for stationary trucks. Quallion will deliver an immediate clean energy solution that enables the 1 million heavy trucks on our roads to comply with the growing number of anti-idling laws across the U.S., eliminate unnecessary pollution, and significantly reduce America's consumption of fossil fuels.

We believe that the Department of Energy's Electric Drive and Vehicle Battery and Component Manufacturing Initiative can and will play a large role in helping us achieve our goals. We are also confident that Quallion is a perfect partner in our objectives and will advance projects that are vital to our energy policy and national security.

Thank you for the leadership you have provided the Department and our country as we embark on an exciting era in our nation's stewardship of the environment and as we move towards our shared goal of energy independence.

Sincerely,

Brad Sherman, Dana Rohrabacher, Lynn C. Woolsey, Howard L. Berman, Lois Capps, Brian P. Bilbray, Diane E. Watson, Gary G. Miller, Jim Costa, Kevin McCarthy, Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon, Ken Calvert, Duncan Hunter, Darrell E. Issa, David Dreier, Jerry McNerney, Adam B. Schiff.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, December 21, 2010.

Hon. STEVEN CHU,
U.S. Department of Energy,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CHU: We are writing to reiterate our strong support for Next Autoworks Company's loan application under the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing (ATVM) program and inquire about the status of the application.

Next Autoworks resubmitted a revised ATVM application in May 2010 that was almost immediately declared substantially complete and expeditiously reviewed for technical and financial merit. We appreciate the Department's work to move the application through several critical stage-gates over the past several months.

Next Autoworks has the ability to transform communities in Louisiana by bringing critical economic growth and jobs to our state and region. As you know, the company plans to re-equip a former Guide Corp plant in Monroe, LA that was shuttered in 2006 and establish a production facility that would bring approximately 1,400 direct jobs and an additional 1,800 indirect jobs to Northeast Louisiana. In addition, the project will create thousands of jobs at supplier facilities across the U.S. The State of Louisiana and local communities have already demonstrated their commitment to the project by offering the company $82 million in grants, $12.8 in employee training services, and an estimated $33.8 million in tax abatements to support the project.

Every day that Next Autoworks' application is delayed is another day that workers cannot be hired to begin work at the Monroe site and help mitigate our state's continued high unemployment rate. Moreover, continued delay in the financing for the project will also negatively impact the vehicle's launch timing and this Administration's goals for fuel economy. DOE's own environmental assessment of this project, issued in October 2010, states that Next Autoworks' vehicle will have a significant positive impact on fleet fuel economy and the environment by providing a high quality, affordable ''green'' car to the American market.

We strongly urge you to continue to expedite Next Autoworks' application. We would request an update on the status of the application and expected timeframe for moving forward before the end of the year.

Sincerely,

MARY LANDRIEU,
U.S. Senator.
DAVID VITTER,
U.S. Senator.
RODNEY ALEXANDER,
Member of Congress.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I yield the floor.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, first of all, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for no more than 5 minutes and that the Senator from West Virginia follow my presentation.

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

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, first of all, I want to thank the Senator from Louisiana. I also want to point out, look at all those red lines. Those are the paths of hurricanes. Where do you think most of them were going between 1851 and 2008? And why are folks like us on the gulf coast and the Atlantic coast so sensitive about disaster money? It is because we have been hit over and over.

Our lands we call paradise. But they happen to be, as the Senator from Louisiana said, in the middle of ''hurricane highway.'' It is a part of our lifestyle. When I was a kid, it was an excuse to get out of school. When I was a bachelor, it was an excuse to have a party. But now that I have the privilege of representing one of those very large gulf coast States and Atlantic coast States, it is absolute, utter destruction.

When Hurricane Andrew hit Miami, had it turned one degree to the north, and instead drawn a bead on the Dade-Broward line in north Miami, it would have been a $50 billion insurance loss storm in 1992 dollars. That would have been upward of $80 billion today. It would have taken down every insurance company that was doing business in the path of that storm. This is the destructive power. Do our people need help? Of course they need help.

BOB LEVINSON

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I came to speak on a different subject. A retired FBI agent named Bob Levinson, over 4 years ago, disappeared when he checked out of his hotel in the Iranian tourist attraction of Kish Island in the Persian Gulf. He disappeared. It is only recently that his family—and he leaves behind a family

of a wife and seven children—only recently have they had the belief that he is alive.

We have brought this to all levels of our government. This Senator, who represents the State Christine Levinson lives in, went to the Iranian Ambassador at the United Nations years ago trying to intervene. Our Secretary of State has, in fact, pushed this very hard.

Why am I saying all this? Because on the occasion of the release of the hikers by the Iranian Government, for whatever compassion they have shown—the government bringing together disparate parties that had their own little power centers in Iran—whatever success they had in bringing that together and releasing those hikers back to their loved ones, we pray that same decisionmaking apparatus in Tehran would now activate the process to bring Bob Levinson home to his wife and seven children.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, first of all, I say to my good friend from Florida, I thank him so much for the compassion he has. I appreciate very much him bringing this issue to our light and to the attention of all of us, and maybe we can help. I thank the Senator.

To my good friend, the Senator from Louisiana, I think what she speaks about is us identifying who we are as Americans and the way we have taken care of each other. I do not know of any State that has not had to depend on FEMA for help—and not just the States she showed where ''hurricane alley'' is and where the tornadoes and hurricanes have hit, but basically all of us have had to depend on FEMA for assistance. So I think what she brings to light is the fairness we identify with as Americans and to do what we have always done: to take care of each other. I, for one, have said we need to rebuild America; we need to take care of Americans first.

FISCAL CHOICES

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the difficult fiscal choices we, as Members of Congress, must soon make and the deficit-cutting proposals that President Obama has recently made.

As we discuss these fiscal choices, and as we face our exploding debts and deficits, it is clear our Nation is truly at a crossroads. A nation that was built on the strength of our people's optimism must struggle to overcome a loss of confidence—a loss of confidence that comes from an economy that has struggled for far too long, a loss of confidence that comes from watching debt and deficits explode, a loss of confidence that comes from watching Republicans and Democrats engage in a fruitless partisan fight.

The American people worry about how to get their families out of debt and their financial house in order. They worry about finding or keeping a job. They worry about how they are going to pay the rent, how they are going to take care of their children, how they are going to keep clothes on their backs, and how, maybe, they can buy them a Christmas present.

Once again, instead of all of us coming together to do what is right for the Nation and lighten their worries, congressional Republicans and Democrats alike, and the President, are again gearing up for a fight about politics, even as our Nation's fiscal and economic picture gets worse every minute.

Today, we yet again find ourselves on the brink, and I cannot begin to explain why to the American people. This summer, they watched us go through this exercise—the Senate, the House, and the President—and then we agreed on spending cuts to keep the government working. Where I come from—the same as the Presiding Officer from the great State of Minnesota—your word is your bond, and an agreement is an agreement, and it is one that should be kept. It is one we negotiated. It should not be changed in midstream. I am committed to passing a clean CR to keep our government working until the supercommittee we all are supporting comes up with the recommendations to reduce the deficit.

In the midst of yet another disagreement over whether to keep the government running, the people of West Virginia and the American people are demanding we put our partisan differences aside and work together in the best interests of this country. They are pleading for us to quit fighting and worrying about the next election and start worrying about the next generation.

With our Nation facing a death spiral of debt, now is the time that each of us should be zeroing in on credible, commonsense solutions that have truly bipartisan support.

After carefully reviewing the President's recommendations to the so-called supercommittee, I believe they fall short of what this country needs to put our fiscal house in order. President Obama's deficit recommendations not only fall short of his stated $4.4 trillion goal, but could, according to an analysis done by the Center for Responsible Federal Budget, have the perverse effect of adding as much as $1.9 trillion to our Nation's debt.

I am also greatly concerned about rehashing unproductive recommendations such as raising tax rates on small businesses in a recession and budget gimmicks such as the notion that taxpayers will somehow ''save'' $1.1 trillion from not fighting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq—and I believe we should not be there anyway.

I have said this: On my best day, I cannot sell that to the people of West Virginia, nor should we try to sell it to the American people.

That is not to say that the President's proposal is all bad. There is some good stuff in there. I have long said our tax system needs to be more fair and balanced and that billionaires such as Mr. Buffett should pay their fair share. I appreciate the concept of the Buffett rule and look forward to seeing more details. And I agree that one of the best investments we all could make is in the infrastructure of this great country.

But as they stand right now, President Obama's proposals are too skewed to appeal to both sides of the aisle. So we see what we see happening again. If we are being serious about addressing our debt and deficits, neither Republicans nor Democrats can propose partisan proposals and then pretend they are credible. We cannot do that any longer. The American people deserve better, and I also know we can do a lot better.

In my short time in Congress, I have seen only one plan that has earned support from Members of both parties. In fact, the President's own bipartisan deficit commission—the Bowles-Simpson group—is the best example of what can be accomplished if we put politics aside and do what is right for our Nation. While no one, including me, will agree with everything in the Bowles-Simpson approach, it at least offered a commonsense, bipartisan template that would cut spending, restore tax fairness, and would help restore fiscal sanity to our Nation.

To date, it is the only plan that has offered a framework that has had bipartisan support from the beginning, and still has it now. But instead of this approach, there are many people on both sides of the aisle who have chosen a path that all but guarantees that Republicans and Democrats will continue to fight over how to solve our fiscal problems, instead of seeking common ground and commonsense solutions. For the sake of our Nation, for our families, we cannot let this happen. We must act, and we must act together.

Looking ahead to the vigorous debates of the fall, my hope is the deficit supercommittee will seize the moment and seek common ground to develop a plan that puts our Nation on the right path to fiscal accountability. Common sense, to me, is that you would start with a plan that already has bipartisan support because it will take both sides of the aisle to fix this problem.

I urge them and the President to look beyond partisan politics and do what is right for this country. I continue to urge the committee to look past their legal mandate of $1.5 trillion in savings and revenue and, instead, look for reforms that will create much broader fairness in our system that will lead to deficit reductions of at least $4 trillion.

I, for one, will work with the Senate Democrats and Republicans who are committed to develop a commonsense debt fix that responsibly reduces spending; makes our tax system more fair, cuts waste, fraud, and abuse, and

makes sure we protect critical programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, this week President Obama stood beside Israel and the cause of peace when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly. I rise today to also stand beside our ally and friend, Israel, and the goal of its two-state solution. I firmly believe that only a two-state solution can lead to a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people.

Unfortunately, we are heading down a path that will not lead to a lasting peace. Involvement by the U.N. General Assembly will not lead to a solution but will act as a disruptive force. I urge the parties to use the time in New York to begin a constructive dialog toward agreement on final status issues. If peace is to be achievable, then we must break through the cycle of failure that has too often plagued negotiations. U.N. action will not resolve the issues acting as a roadblock to peace.

It is important also to note, as the President stated, that peace will not come until each side ''learns to stand in each other's shoes.'' Each party must realize the other's aspirations, because their futures are intricately intertwined. No action at the United Nations can remove or change what is an essential fact. For Israel, the two-state solution will enable its people to enjoy a secure and peaceful future. For the Palestinians, the goal of nationhood can only occur through negotiations with Israel.

I believe the President is making a good-faith attempt to realize and understand the aspirations of each party, while standing firm with our friends. The central reality is this: We will only recognize a Palestinian state as part of an agreement that leads to a lasting peace. This is in the best interests of Israel, the Palestinian people, the United States, and the international community.

There is no time like the present to restart the hard work needed to achieve a lasting peace. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert recently pressed on the urgent need to return to negotiations in an op-ed in the New York Times. I ask unanimous consent that this op-ed be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. While I don't agree with everything the Prime Minister wrote, I do believe he was especially correct about one point:

> I truly believe that a two-state solution is the only way to ensure a more stable Middle East and to grant Israel the security and well-being it desires. As tensions grow, I cannot but feel that we in the region are on the verge of missing an opportunity—one that we cannot afford to miss.

He concludes in his piece:

> Now is the time. There will be no better one. I hope that Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Abbas will meet the challenge.

I also hope that today both parties sit down in New York and avoid the disruption that will be caused by a vote in the United Nations.

EXHIBIT 1

PEACE NOW, OR NEVER

(By Ehud Olmert)

JERUSALEM.—As the United Nations General Assembly opens this year, I feel uneasy. An unnecessary diplomatic clash between Israel and the Palestinians is taking shape in New York, and it will be harmful to Israel and to the future of the Middle East.

I know that things could and should have been different.

I truly believe that a two-state solution is the only way to ensure a more stable Middle Est and to grant Israel the security and well-being it desires. As tensions grow, I cannot but feel that we in the region are on the verge of missing an opportunity—one that we cannot afford to miss.

The Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, plans to make a unilateral bid for recognition of a Palestinian state at the United Nations on Friday. He has the right to do so, and the vast majority of countries in the General Assembly support his move. But this is not the wisest step Mr. Abbas can take.

The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has declared publicly that he believes in the two-state solution, but he is expending all of his political effort to block Mr. Abbas's bid for statehood by rallying domestic support and appealing to other countries. This is not the wisest step Mr. Netanyahu can take.

In the worst-case scenario, chaos and violence could erupt, making the possibility of an agreement even more distant, if not impossible. If that happens, peace will definitely not be the outcome.

The parameters of a peace deal are well known and they have already been put on the table. I put them there in September 2008 when I presented a far-reaching offer to Mr. Abbas.

According to my offer, the territorial dispute would be solved by establishing a Palestinian state on territory equivalent in size to the pre-1967 West Bank and Gaza Strip with mutually agreed-upon land swaps that take into account the new realities on the ground.

The city of Jerusalem would be shared. Its Jewish areas would be the capital of Israel and its Arab neighborhoods would become the Palestinian capital. Neither side would declare sovereignty over the city's holy places; they wouldn't be administered jointly with the United States.

The Palestinian refugee problem would be addressed within the frame-work of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative. The new Palestinian state would become the home of all the Palestinian refugees just as the state of Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people. Israel would, however, be prepared to absorb a small number of refugees on humanitarian grounds.

Because ensuring Israel's security is vital to the implementation of any agreement, the Palestinian state would be de-militarized and it would not form military alliances with other nations. Both states would cooperate to fight terrorism and violence.

These parameters were never formally rejected by Mr. Abbas, and they should be put on the table again today. Both Mr. Abbas and Mr. Netanyahu must then make brave and difficult decisions.

We Israelis simply do not have the luxury of spending more time postponing a solution. A further delay will only help extremists on both sides who seek to sabotage any prospect of a peaceful, negotiated two-state solution.

Moreover, the Arab Spring has changed the Middle East, and unpredictable developments in the region, such as the recent attack on Israel's embassy in Cairo, could easily explode into wide-spread chaos. It is therefore in Israel's strategic interest to cement existing peace agreements with its neighbors, Egypt and Jordan.

In addition, Israel must make every effort to defuse tensions with Turkey as soon as possible. Turkey is not an enemy of Israel. I have worked closely with the Turkish prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan. In spite of his recent statements and actions, I believe that he understands the importance of relations with Israel. Mr. Erdogan and Mr. Netanyahu must work to end this crisis immediately for the benefit of both countries and the stability of the region.

In Israel, we are sorry for the loss of life of Turkish citizens in May 2010, when Israel confronted a provocative flotilla of ships bound for Gaza. I am sure that the proper way to express these sentiments to the Turkish government and the Turkish people can be found.

The time for true leadership has come. Leadership is tested not by one's capacity to survive politically but by the ability to make tough decisions in trying times.

When I addressed international forums as prime minister, the Israeli people expected me to present bold political initiatives that would bring peace—not arguments outlining why achieving peace now is not possible. Today, such an initiative is more necessary than ever to prove to the world that Israel is a peace-seeking country.

The window of opportunity is limited. Israel will not always find itself sitting across the table from Palestinian leaders like Mr. Abbas and the prime minister, Salam Fayyad, who object to terrorism and want peace. Indeed, future Palestinian leaders might abandon the idea of two states and seek a one-state solution, making reconciliation impossible.

Now is the time. There will be no better one. I hope that Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Abbas will meet the challenge.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

VETERANS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of H.R. 2646, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2646) to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 2646) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SHORT-TERM TANF EXTENSION ACT

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2943, which was received from the House.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2943) to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through December 31, 2011.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title for the third time.

The bill (H.R. 2943) was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2943) was passed.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LEROY ARTHUR PETRY

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 27 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 27) honoring the service of Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry, a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and the second living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 27) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of the United States Army, a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama on July 12, 2011;

Whereas the Medal of Honor is the highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces for valor in combat;

Whereas the official citation awarding the Medal of Honor to Sergeant First Class Petry states that then-Staff Sergeant Petry ''distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008'';

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry joins an elite group of Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry has continued a long tradition of military service to the United States by New Mexicans, dating back to the defense of the Western United States during the Civil War, and followed by participation in every major war fought by the United States;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry is the second living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry fought with bravery and, despite wounds to both of his legs, had the courage and quick thinking needed to save the lives of his fellow soldiers by throwing back an enemy grenade and losing his right hand when the grenade detonated shortly after he released it;

Whereas the actions of Sergeant First Class Petry represent the highest values of the Army, the Rangers, and the United States;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry has consistently demonstrated humility and dedication to his fellow soldiers;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry, who overcame a troubled youth and found the strength to turn his life around and dedicate himself to serving the United States, is an example to all people who are struggling in the United States; and

Whereas the brave actions of Sergeant First Class Petry, as well as his modesty and selfless service, stand as the embodiment of the best attributes of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) honors the service and sacrifice of Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of the United States Army and his family; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to recognize the valor, heroism, and dedication to the United States exhibited by Sergeant First Class Petry.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to S. Con. Res. 29, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 29) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the matter be placed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 29) was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 29

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used for an event on November 16, 2011 for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

NATIONAL BRAIN ANEURYSM AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 248 and the Senate proceed to its 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. 248) supporting the goals and ideals of National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the matter be placed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 248) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 248

Whereas a brain aneurysm is an abnormal saccular or fusiform bulging of an artery in the brain;

Whereas an estimated 1 out of every 50 people in the United States will develop a brain aneurysm;

Whereas brain aneurysms are most likely to occur in people between the ages of 35 and 60;

Whereas brain aneurysms are more likely to occur in women than in men by a 3-to-2 ratio;

Whereas brain aneurysms are more likely to occur in African-Americans than in Whites by a 2-to-1 ratio;

Whereas various risk factors can contribute to the formation of a brain aneurysm, including infection, tumors, traumatic head injury, drug use, smoking, hypertension, and a family history of brain aneurysms;

Whereas approximately 6,000,000 people in the United States will develop a brain aneurysm that will not rupture;

Whereas an unruptured brain aneurysm can lead to fatigue, short-term memory problems, speech problems, loss of balance and coordination, and changes in behavior;

Whereas a brain aneurysm is often discovered when it ruptures and causes a subarachnoid hemorrhage;

Whereas a subarachnoid hemorrhage can lead to brain damage, hydrocephalus, stroke, and death;

Whereas annually more than 30,000 people in the United States suffer from ruptured brain aneurysms;

Whereas annually between 3,000 and 4,500 people in the United States with ruptured brain aneurysms die before reaching the hospital;

Whereas a number of advancements have been made in recent years regarding the detection of aneurysms, including the computerized tomography scan, the magnetic resonance imaging test, and the cerebral arteriogram;

Whereas September is an appropriate month to designate as ''National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month''; and

Whereas various research studies are currently being conducted in the United States in order to better understand, prevent, and treat brain aneurysms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month; and

(2) continues to support research to prevent and treat brain aneurysms.

CONGRATULATING NUNAKA VALLEY LITTLE LEAGUE

NATIONAL MEDICINE ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from the following resolutions en bloc, and the Senate proceed to their consideration en bloc: S. Res. 273 and S. Res. 261.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 273) congratulating the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team on their performance in the Junior League Softball World Series.

A resolution (S. Res. 261) designating the month of October 2011 as ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month.''

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate, and any related statements be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 273

Whereas the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team is comprised of young women from Anchorage, Alaska, who play softball;

Whereas the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team compiled an impressive record in the 2011 regular season, outscoring opponents 428 to 83;

Whereas the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team was undefeated in the district and State tournaments on the way to winning the Alaska State Championship;

Whereas the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team was undefeated in 4 games and won the West Regional Tournament held in Marana, Arizona;

Whereas in August, 2011, the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team represented the West Region at the Junior League Softball World Series in Kirkland, Washington;

Whereas in 2011, Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team manager Richard Knowles led the team to the Junior League Softball World Series for the second time in 3 years;

Whereas in 2011, the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team won 4 games and lost just 2 games en route to a third place finish in the Junior League Softball World Series;

Whereas more than 2,000 teams and 30,000 players compete in Junior League Girls Softball each year;

Whereas the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team finished the 2011 season ranked third in the world;

Whereas the hard work and dedication of the entire Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team and the support of their families led the team to success in 2011;

Whereas Little League softball and baseball has provided a positive athletic experience and fostered teamwork and sportsmanship to millions of children in the United States and around the world; and

Whereas Alaskans everywhere are proud of the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls athletes, Jacynne Augufa, Leilani Blair, Heather Breslin, Metanoya Fiame, Morgan Hill, Julia Merritt, Gabrielle Meyerson, Taria Page, Hannah Peterson, Sydney Smith, Lauren Syrup, and Nanea Tali, on the 2011 softball season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the athletes, parents, and coaching staff of the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team on an impressive 2011 season; and

(2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the Nunaka Valley Little League President, Greg Davis; and

(B) the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team manager, Richard Knowles, and coaches Rick Peterson and Richard Hill.

S. RES. 261

Whereas over-the-counter and prescription medicines approved by the Food and Drug Administration have been determined to be safe and effective when used properly;

Whereas the abuse of such medicines can be extremely dangerous and produce serious side effects;

Whereas according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, the nonmedical use of prescription drugs has risen, with 2.5 percent of the population engaging in nonmedical use of prescription drugs in 2008 and 2.8 percent of the population engaging in such use in 2009;

Whereas the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health illustrates that the abuse of prescription medications such as pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives is second only to marijuana, the most commonly abused illegal drug in the United States;

Whereas the 2010 Monitoring the Future survey, funded by the National Institutes of Health, indicates that approximately 5 percent of teenagers in the United States report having abused an over-the-counter cough medicine to get high, and prescription and over-the-counter drugs account for 8 of the 14 most frequently abused drugs by students in grade 12;

Whereas the 2010 Monitoring the Future survey also indicates that the intentional abuse of cough medicine among students in grades 8, 10, and 12 is at 3.2 percent, 5.1 percent, and 6.6 percent, respectively;

Whereas according to research from The Partnership at DrugFree.org, more than one-third of teenagers mistakenly believe that taking prescription drugs, even if not prescribed by a doctor, is much safer than using street drugs;

Whereas the lack of understanding by teenagers and parents of the potential harm of

such powerful medicines makes it more critical than ever to raise public awareness about the dangers of the abuse of such drugs;

Whereas when prescription drugs are abused, such drugs are most often obtained through friends and relatives;

Whereas parents should be aware that the Internet gives teenagers access to websites that promote the abuse of medicines;

Whereas the designation of ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month'' promotes the message that over-the-counter and prescription medicines should be taken only as labeled or prescribed, and such medicines can have serious or life-threatening consequences when used to get high or in large doses;

Whereas the designation of ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month'' will encourage parents to educate themselves about the problem of abuse of over-the-counter and prescription medicines, and talk to their teens about all types of substance abuse;

Whereas observance of ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month'' should be encouraged at the national, State, and local levels to increase awareness of the abuse of medicines;

Whereas educational tools, training programs, and strategies have been developed by the national organization that represents 5,000 anti-drug coalitions nationwide and the association representing makers of over-the-counter medicines, in order to help local coalitions demonstrate the best ways to engage and educate parents and grandparents, teachers, law enforcement officials, doctors, other healthcare professionals, and retailers about the potential harms of cough medicine abuse;

Whereas a partnership of nonprofit associations specializing in raising media awareness about substance abuse and organizations that represent the leading makers of over-the-counter drugs have developed a nationwide prevention campaign that utilizes research-based educational advertisements, public relations and news media, and the Internet to inform parents about the negative teen behavior of intentional abuse of medicines, in order to empower parents to effectively communicate with their children about this dangerous trend and to take necessary steps to safeguard prescription and over-the-counter medicines in their homes; and

Whereas educating the public on the dangers of medicine abuse and promoting prevention of medicine abuse are critical components of what must be a multi-pronged effort to curb prescription and over-the-counter medicine abuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of October 2011 as ''National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month''; and

(2) urges communities to carry out appropriate programs and activities to educate parents and youth about the potential dangers associated with medicine abuse.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration en bloc of the following resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 276, S. Res. 277, S. Res. 278, S. Res. 279, S. Res. 280, and S. Res. 281, which were submitted earlier today.

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 276

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2011

Whereas ''infant mortality'' refers to the death of a baby before his or her first birthday;

Whereas the United States ranks 41st among industrialized countries in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas high rates of infant mortality are especially prevalent in communities with large minority populations, high rates of unemployment and poverty, and limited access to safe housing and medical providers;

Whereas premature birth is a leading cause of infant mortality;

Whereas according to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, premature birth costs the United States more than $26,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas infant mortality can be substantially reduced through community-based services such as outreach, home visitation, case management, health education, and interconceptional care;

Whereas support for community-based programs to reduce infant mortality can result in lower future spending on medical interventions, special education, and other social services that may be needed for infants and children who are born with a low birth weight;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of Minority Health, has implemented the ''A Healthy Baby Begins With You'' campaign;

Whereas the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration has provided national leadership on the issue of infant mortality;

Whereas public awareness and education campaigns on infant mortality are held during the month of September each year; and

Whereas September 2011 has been designated as ''National Infant Mortality Awareness Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2011;

(2) supports efforts to educate people in the United States about infant mortality and the factors that contribute to infant mortality;

(3) supports efforts to reduce infant deaths, low birth weight, pre-term births, and disparities in perinatal outcomes;

(4) recognizes the critical importance of including efforts to reduce infant mortality and the factors that contribute to infant mortality as part of prevention and wellness strategies; and

(5) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Infant Mortality Awareness Month with appropriate programs and activities.

S. RES. 277

Recognizing the month of October 2011 as ''National Principals Month''

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2011 as ''National Principals Month'';

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of ''National Principals Month'' would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2011 as ''National Principals Month''; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of our Nation by supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Principals Month''.

S. RES. 278

Designating September 2011 as ''National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month''

Whereas countless families in the United States live with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 6 males in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths among males in the United States;

Whereas in 2011, the American Cancer Society estimates that 240,890 males in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and 33,720 males will die from the disease;

Whereas 30 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in males under the age of 65;

Whereas approximately every 14 seconds, a male in the United States turns 50 years old and increases his odds of developing cancer, including prostate cancer;

Whereas African-American males suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is up to 65 percent higher than White males and have double the prostate cancer mortality rate of White males;

Whereas obesity is a significant predictor of the severity of prostate cancer;

Whereas the probability that obesity will lead to death and high cholesterol levels is strongly associated with advanced prostate cancer;

Whereas males in the United States with 1 family member diagnosed with prostate cancer have a 1 in 3 chance of being diagnosed with the disease, males with 2 family members diagnosed have an 83 percent chance, and males with 3 family members diagnosed have a 97 percent chance;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test can detect the disease at the early stages, increasing the chances of survival for more than 5 years to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas only 33 percent of males survive more than 5 years if diagnosed during the late stages of the disease;

Whereas there are no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer while it is still in the early stages, making screening critical;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating people in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving the lives of males and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2011 as ''National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month'';

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to increase research funding that is commensurate with the burden of prostate cancer so that—

(i) screening and treatment for prostate cancer may be improved;

(ii) the causes of prostate cancer may be discovered; and

(iii) a cure for prostate cancer may be developed; and

(C) to continue to consider ways for improving access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interested groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

S. RES. 279

Expressing support for the designation of September 24, 2011, as ''Worldwide Day of Play''

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, since 1980, obesity prevalence among children has almost tripled and approximately 12,500,000, or 17 percent, of children and adolescents in the United States are obese;

Whereas according to the American Academy of Pediatrics study entitled ''The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds''—

(1) play is essential to development because play contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth;

(2) play offers an ideal opportunity for parents to engage fully with children; and

(3) despite the benefits derived from play for both children and parents, time for free play has been significantly reduced for some children and youth in the United States;

Whereas Worldwide Day of Play is the centerpiece of The Big Help, the long-term commitment of Nickelodeon to empower children and families by providing the tools and information children and families need to take action on the issues children and families care about;

Whereas in each of the 50 States and in 13 countries, including at United States military bases around the globe, children and families celebrate Worldwide Day of Play;

Whereas on September 24, 2011, Nickelodeon will host the 8th annual Worldwide Day of Play;

Whereas in 2011, in collaboration with the Let's Move! campaign started by First Lady Michelle Obama and the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, the Nickelodeon Worldwide Day of Play will be held on the Ellipse in Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas September 24, 2011, would be an appropriate date to designate as Worldwide Day of Play: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of September 24, 2011, as ''Worldwide Day of Play''.

S. RES. 280

Designating the week beginning September 19, 2011, as ''National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week'' and recognizing the achievements of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas in 2010, there were 307 Hispanic-serving institutions in the United States, enrolling 1,348,436 Hispanic students in nonprofit postsecondary schools;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the Hispanic-serving institutions are located;

Whereas 54 percent of Hispanic students in the United States attend nonprofit, postsecondary Hispanic-serving institutions;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-serving institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States;

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions are deserving of national recognition;

Whereas 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, an organization that works to improve the capacity of Hispanic-serving institutions in helping students across the United States succeed;

Whereas the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities fulfills its mission by promoting the development of member colleges and universities, improving access to, and the quality of, postsecondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students, and meeting the needs of business, industry, and government through the development and sharing of resources, information, and expertise; and

Whereas the week beginning September 19, 2011, would be an appropriate week for national recognition of Hispanic-serving institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions across the United States;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities throughout the 25 years since the establishment of the organization;

(3) designates the week beginning September 19, 2011, as ''National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week''; and

(4) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-serving institutions.

S. RES. 281

Designating September 24, 2011, as ''National Estuaries Day''

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States comprise a significant share of the national economy, with 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of the employment, and 49 percent of the economic output of the United States located in the estuary regions of the United States;

Whereas coasts and estuaries contribute more than $800,000,000,000 annually in trade and commerce to the United States economy;

Whereas more than 43 percent of all adults in the United States visit a sea coast or estuary at least once a year to participate in some form of recreation, generating $8,000,000,000 to $12,000,000,000 in revenue annually;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 jobs in the United States are supported by commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other coastal industries that rely on healthy estuaries;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitat for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during extreme weather events;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres, or 50 percent, of the wetland of the United States since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas bays once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can impact estuarine water quality and estuarine habitat;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) declares that it is the national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and if possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lake States and territories of the United States contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve System;

Whereas scientific study leads to better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas September 24, 2011, has been designated as ''National Estuaries Day'' to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal, State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 24, 2011, as ''National Estuaries Day'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1619

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1619 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1619) to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the measure will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, the United States is considering H.R. 2608, a continuing resolution to ensure our vital Federal programs can continue in operation while the Congress completes action on our appropriations bills for this fiscal year.

As all of my colleagues are aware, I do not welcome the reality that we once again need to approve of stopgap measures as we prepare to begin the next fiscal year, but, unfortunately, that is the position we are in now. The acrimonious and time-wasting debate on raising the debt ceiling has led us to this place. Put simply, we have no choice but to pass this short-term measure.

I wish to point out, however, that unlike last year, we see this as a short-term need, not a long-term remedy, because even though there was neither an agreement on spending levels nor an allocation to the Appropriations Committee for discretionary spending until the August recess commenced, I am happy to inform my colleagues that the Senate Appropriations Committee has completed its work on 11 of the 12 bills required to fund our Federal agencies. In the past 3 weeks, the Appropriations Committee has met to review and favorably approve 10 bills for fiscal year 2012. Eight of those bills were reported out of committee in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, and by that I mean something like 29 to 1. The Senate has received five of these bills from the House. The Appropriations Committee is ready to take up any of these bills on the floor when time allows.

In the interim, enacting a continuing resolution is essential before the Congress goes on recess. The bill passed by the House provides the bare-bones minimum required to ensure that government functions will be continued without interruption. It also includes a few critical legislative provisions to sustain vital programs which otherwise would be terminated. There were many more items which the administration and Members of this body would have wished to include, but the House did not agree to include them. The House CR also provides a limited amount of disaster funding, which has been addressed by others.

I want to state for the record that I am particularly disturbed at the position of the House that fiscal year 2011 emergency disaster assistance would be offset by canceling the advanced technology vehicle program. It has long been a tradition of the Congress to approve disaster assistance without need for offset. Others will likely come to the Senate floor to challenge that remark. They will point out that in many, if not most, emergency supplementals the Congress has recommended using rescissions to offset the cost of the bill. They are correct, but as usual the details tell the true story.

The Appropriations Committee annually reviews unobligated balances that remain in programs and those that are unnecessary are recommended for rescission or reapplication to other programs. However, in the case of disaster assistance, I challenge my colleagues to review all appropriations bills for the past decade and find a single instance where the committee paid for disasters by rescinding funds from other programs. No one would find an example because, quite simply, there are not any. Equally important, as noted above, year after year the Congress rescinds unobligated funds, but only when they are no longer needed. In the case of the remaining balances for the advanced technology vehicle programs, these funds are needed. Hardly a day goes by that someone does not come to the floor and note the need for job creation. Here is a program that is creating good jobs with a future. Investing in new technologies to make our Nation more competitive in the international marketplace is exactly the type of program where Federal Government intervention makes sense. The notion that our Republican colleagues in the House would propose rescinding $1.5 billion in funding from this program in the current economic climate borders on the nonsensical.

Finally, I would note that today's balances in the disaster relief fund are now at $175 million. Our people are in need of assistance now. The Congress cannot wait any longer to address this need. All of my colleagues should come together in a bipartisan agreement to strip out the ATV offset, approve meaningful disaster assistance today, and return this bill to the House for reconsideration. I hope we have the good sense to resolve this matter.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 18th annual National Public Lands Day, which will be celebrated on Saturday, September 24. I am pleased to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers across our Nation who will come together to improve and restore one of America's most valuable treasures, our public lands.

National Public Lands Day started in 1994 with 700 volunteers working in just a few locations. This year over 180,000 volunteers will come together to work at more than 2,000 locations across all 50 States. These people come from all walks of life, holding a shared interest in protecting our public lands for the enjoyment of future generations. National Public Lands Day provides an annual opportunity for the American public to devote a day to conservation and to give back to the public lands that give so much to us.

Our Nation has a proud tradition of conservation. When Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, it was the world's first national park. The idea of a national park was an American invention of historic proportions that led the way for global conservation efforts. President Teddy Roosevelt, one of our earliest and most energetic conservationists, dedicated 194 million acres of national parks and national preserves over the course of his Presidency. As we look ahead to enhance our Nation's conservation agenda, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has enlisted Congress to identify the ''crown jewels'' of public lands that will be part of our legacy for future generations.

Public lands make up more than one-third of our country, and are places of continuous discovery, where we go to find ourselves, to uncover our history,

and to explore for resources that help improve our quality of life. Our public lands provide wide open spaces, deep forests, dramatic vistas, and opportunities for solitude that not only fulfill us individually, but form a fundamental part of the American character. Our public lands are part of who we are and the diversity of their uses, like the diversity of their landscapes, reflects our identity. In many areas, they provide timber, ore, and forage that are the economic bedrock of rural America. In other areas, Congress has designated them as wilderness, places ''untrammeled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain.''

Nevada boasts some of the most rugged and diverse landscapes in the United States. From the vast Black Rock Desert of northwestern Nevada, to the alpine peaks of Mount Rose overlooking the shores of Lake Tahoe, to the imposing buttes and sagebrush plains of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, and the Mojave Desert floor covered in Joshua trees and yucca plants. Over the past quarter century, home grown conservation advocates have worked to protect and preserve 68 wilderness areas consisting of 3.4 million acres, an area approximately the size of Connecticut. These advocates continue to work towards protection of the most special places in the Silver State. Currently, there are strong grassroots efforts underway to protect the high alpine lakes and thick aspen groves of the Pine Forest Range in Humboldt County as well as the rich archeological resources and spectacular red rock formations in the Gold Butte area just a short drive from Las Vegas.

Our public lands also provide a consistently reliable source of natural resources that fuel our national economy. In northern Nevada, mining is a way of life. Although Nevada was well known for silver during the 19th century, miners working in the Silver State now produce almost 80 percent of the gold in the United States, much of which comes from public lands. Nevada also has a rich history of ranching for both sheep and cattle and grazing on federal lands helps feed this family tradition. Throughout the state the burgeoning renewable energy industry on public lands has provided a variety of new job-creating economic opportunities. Harnessing the solar, wind, and geothermal resources in Nevada and throughout the country will bolster our country's economic and energy security for decades and centuries to come.

I recognize and thank the thousands of Federal employees who manage these lands year-round. The Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and other federal land management agencies ensure that public lands in Nevada and across the Nation meet the changing needs of our communities. They provide a vital, though rarely reported, service to our Nation.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the many Nevadans that will spend September 24 improving our public lands undertaking 19 projects across the State from the Big Rocks Wilderness Area in Caliente to Daggett Summit Trail in Stateline. In northern Nevada, volunteers will be working to improve our public lands at the Mill Creek Campground. These people will spend their day installing new fire rings, barbeques and lantern hooks as well as cleaning the debris from the stream and placing rocks in parking and camping areas.

The focus of National Public Lands Day this year is highlighting the opportunities public lands offer young people through the Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative, launched by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This initiative will engage youth from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with and preserving America's natural and cultural heritage. National Public Lands Day is also relaying the health benefits of outdoor recreation by encouraging families to develop more active lifestyles on our public lands.

The preservation of our public lands is a priority for me. Our public lands are part of what makes the United States a great Nation. I voice my gratitude to all who will participate in National Public Lands Day this year.

REMEMBERING CORPORAL LORENZA GAYLES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to honor a brave member of the U.S. Marine Corps and a fellow Kentuckian who was lost to his family and friends 45 years ago when he was killed in action in Vietnam. A very moving article in tribute to this man, CPL Lorenza Gayles, appeared in the Middlesboro Daily News recently, and I wanted to give this article and this fine young man's story the attention it deserves.

Born in Lynch, KY, on December 28, 1946, as the fourth child of David and Virginia Gayles, Lorenza moved with his family to Middlesboro as a baby and grew up with many friends. He was a good student, was popular with his schoolmates, and known for his sense of humor. His sister Lelia remembers young Lorenza was ''just a charming little boy.''

Lorenza, called ''Rennie'' by his friends, attended the Lincoln School, the only school in Middlesboro for African-American children in those days of segregation. He was a talented athlete who played football, baseball, and had an exceptional gift for basketball. Bill Smith, a longtime friend of the Gayles family, remembers Rennie as ''a solid guy with a good head on his shoulders.'' When segregation in the area ended, Lorenza went to Middlesboro High School, where he graduated in 1964.

Knoxville College offered Rennie a scholarship to play basketball after high school, but Rennie turned them down and chose to enlist with the Marine Corps instead. His older brother David was serving in the U.S. Air Force, and his brother Bobby was already in Vietnam with the Army. Within 2 years Rennie had risen to the rank of corporal and took his duties as a marine very seriously.

Alvin Simpson, a fellow Marine recruit who went through basic training with Rennie and later wrote a memoir about his experiences, said this: ''There was no question who could outfight whom; I knew, he knew, and the entire platoon knew Lorenza was the real deal.''

Corporal Lorenza Gayles was deployed to Vietnam on June 21, 1966. On September 3 of that year, while on reconnaissance patrol, he was on point with his squad when they walked into an ambush. Corporal Gayles was killed instantly. He was 19 years old.

Several weeks later his parents were presented with Corporal Gayles's posthumously awarded Purple Heart Medal. Corporal Gayles is buried in the Lynch Cemetery in Middlesboro.

''When Rennie was killed in action in Vietnam,'' the author of this article writes, Mr. President, ''I remember my mother saying, 'that poor little Gayles boy.' This is something that I have carried with me my entire life.''

That is the author of this article speaking. Forty-five years later, this author's memories still affect him, and I think anyone who reads this piece will be affected too. CPL Lorenza Gayles's life may not have been long, but he made an indelible mark on the people who love and remember him.

I ask unanimous consent that the entire article remembering CPL Lorenza Gayles, a proud marine and a brave Kentucky hero who deserves all of our respect, be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Middlesboro Daily News, Sept. 2, 2011]

FORGOTTEN MARINE

(Editor's Note: This article was written by a Daily News reader who wishes to honor the memory of one of Middlesboro's finest—Lorenza Gayles—yet remain anonymous.)

''Once upon a time in America, when I was colored, two adventurous, young boys, both black, but from very different backgrounds; one boy was from Ky., the other boy hailed from Northern Ohio. The kid from Ky. was killed September 3, 1966, in South Vietnam. His name was Lorenza Gayles, he was twenty years old when he was killed, he was my friend. I loved him then—and I love him more today.''

—From ''Together We Served'' By Alvin L. Simpson.

To most, Rennie Gayles is a public housing development in Middlesboro. To others, he was a son, a brother and a friend; but most importantly to me, he was Corporal Lorenza Gayles, United States Marine. Though I didn't know him, and was only five years old at the time of his death, his life and death have always held a special meaning to me.

Born in Lynch, Ky., on December 28, 1946, he was the fourth child of David and Virginia Gayles. Soon after his birth, the Gayles family moved to Middlesboro where he and his

older brothers and sister were raised in a loving home by parents that worked very hard to provide for their children. Rennie, as he was affectionately known, grew up like most of us. He had many friends, loved playing basketball, just a normal childhood growing up. He is described by his sister Lelia as ''just a charming little boy.''

Rennie attended school at the Lincoln School in Middlesboro, long since gone. In the days of segregation, it was the only school in Middlesboro for black children. He was a good student, very popular among his classmates and known for his sense of humor. Bill Smith, a longtime friend of the Gayles family, described Rennie as ''a solid guy with a good head on his shoulders.''

Rennie was also a very talented athlete who played football, baseball, and was an especially gifted basketball player. With the end of segregation, he then attended Middlesboro High School, where he graduated in 1964.

Offered a scholarship by Knoxville College to play basketball, he declined. Instead, young Gayles enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. With his older brother David serving in the U.S. Air Force, and Bobby serving in Vietnam in the U.S. Army, I suppose he felt he was obligated to enlist. He received his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and upon completion was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He later transferred to a Marine base in California. He quickly rose through the ranks and became a corporal in just two years. He was an attentive soldier and took his obligation to the Corps very seriously. He was a ''textbook'' Marine. Tough, no-nonsense and cared deeply about those he served with.

''Everybody in our platoon knew the outstanding recruit was a black kid from Middlesboro, Ky., Lorenza Gayles,'' writes Alvin Simpson, author of ''Distant Shore: A Memoir,'' and fellow Marine recruit in basic training with Rennie.

''There was no question who could outfight whom; I knew, he knew, and the entire platoon knew Lorenza was the real deal.''

With the war in Vietnam escalating, Rennie was deployed on June 21, 1966. Just over two months after arriving in Vietnam, while on a reconnaissance patrol, Rennie was on point (front man in the squad) when he and the other members of his squad walked into an ambush. He was killed instantly.

THE WAR

With the war in Vietnam so many years behind us, many have tried to put it out of their minds. But for those who served and the family members who lost loved ones there, it haunts them every day. Deemed an unpopular war, many returning Vietnam veterans were scorned, cursed, called ''baby killers,'' and spat upon. The truth is, no war is popular. War is, sometimes, just a necessary evil. This great nation has long carried the obligation to protect and defend those who cannot defend themselves against oppressions that exist in this world. And to the over 58,000 soldiers that died and 1,300 still listed as missing in action, we owe our eternal gratitude.

As a child growing up in the 1960s and early 1970s, the war in Vietnam to me was sitting beside my father watching the nightly news with Walter Cronkite. With the end of each broadcast came the body count, the dead, the wounded and the missing in action. Today, newscasts are filled with coverage of brave men and women memorialized who have given their lives, and those troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan as they are met at airports across the country by cheering crowds and hailed as heroes and glorified as they should be. They have dedicated their lives to protect and serve this nation as soldiers, and are prepared to give their lives for it.

We owe the same gratitude to those who served in Vietnam. We all know someone who served there and the memories of these heroes are fleeting. These men and women served with the same courage and dedication as do the brave soldiers of today. We see them every day. Take just a moment to thank them for their service and their sacrifice; just a pat on the back and a thank you would mean so much. Most of all, take a moment to remember, honor and mourn those who gave their lives for this great nation. Our community lost too many fine young men in Vietnam and it's up to us to pass on their heritage so that they are not forever lost to posterity. Remember that many of these men and women sacrificed their ambitions so that we wouldn't have to. They died for the very freedoms we enjoy every day.

When Rennie was killed in action in Vietnam I remember my mother saying ''that poor little Gayles boy.'' This is something that I have carried with me my entire life. And with the passing of time and generations we owe it to them to carry on their memories. This tall, handsome, young Marine with his broad beaming smile, with his whole life ahead of him, he was one of those men.

Rennie Gayles is not just a housing project; United States Marine Corporal Lorenza Gayles was a guardian of freedom.

REMEMBRANCE

Forty-five years ago, on September 3, 1966, just before your twentieth birthday, in a country, half a world away from home, in the Quang Nam Province of South Vietnam defending your nation with a profound sense of duty and exemplary conduct becoming a United States Marine, you made the ultimate sacrifice. Every day of my life I will thank God for you, I will honor you, and I will remember you . . . Semper Fi

On October 26, 1966, Corporal Lorenza Gayles was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. It was presented to his parents by Major F.C. Fisher, U.S.M.C. Corporal Gayles is buried in the Lynch Cemetery in Middlesboro.

Sincerest appreciation to those who contributed to this article: Rennie's brother, Bobby Gayles of Middlesboro; Bill Smith, U.S. Army (Ret.), of Middlesboro; sister Lelia Gayles-Cammon, Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Alvin L. Simpson of Columbus, Ohio, for your friendship, encouragement, service to our nation and loving tribute to your friend; and a special thanks to Sgt. Timothy Moos and the United States Marine Corps.

DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 10 years ago, I introduced the DREAM Act, legislation that would allow a select group of immigrant students with great potential to contribute more fully to America.

The DREAM Act would give these students a chance to earn legal status if they came to the U.S. as children, are long-term U.S. residents, have good moral character, graduate from high school, and complete 2 years of college or military service in good standing.

The DREAM Act would make America a stronger country by giving these talented immigrants the chance serve in our military and contribute to our economy.

Tens of thousands of highly-qualified, well-educated young people would enlist in the Armed Forces if the DREAM Act becomes law.

And studies have found that DREAM Act participants would contribute literally trillions of dollars to the U.S. economy during their working lives.

These young people have overcome great obstacles to succeed. They are valedictorians, star athletes, honor-roll students, and ROTC leaders. Now they want to give back to their country. The DREAM Act would give them that chance.

For the last 10 years I have been working on the DREAM Act, there has been one constant: strong support from the faith community. The DREAM Act is supported by almost every religious group you can imagine: Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Evangelical Christians; Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jews; and Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs.

The faith community supports the DREAM Act because it is based on a fundamental moral principle that is shared by every religious tradition—it is wrong to punish children for the actions of their parents.

These students were brought to this country as children. They grew up here pledging allegiance to the American flag and singing the only national anthem they've ever known. They are American in their hearts and they should not be punished for their parents' decision to bring them here.

For the next several weeks, people of faith all across this country will show their support for the DREAM Act by celebrating the first-ever ''DREAM Sabbath.''

On the DREAM Sabbath, at churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples around the country, Americans of many religious backgrounds will offer prayers for the immigrant students who would be eligible for the DREAM Act. At many of these events, these DREAM Act students will tell their stories.

The DREAM Sabbath will take place over several weekends in September and October, and so far, there are more than 320 DREAM Sabbath events planned, in 44 States.

In June, when I announced the DREAM Sabbath, I was joined by religious leaders from a great variety of faith traditions, including: Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, a good friend who has been a leader in the fight for immigration reform for many years; Bishop Minerva Carcaño, the first Hispanic woman to be elected bishop in the Methodist Church; Reverend Samuel Rodriguez, the president of the Nation's largest Hispanic Christian organization, with more than 30,000 member churches; Reverend Derrick Harkins, the pastor of one of the most prominent African-American churches in our Nation's Capitol, who was representing the National Association of Evangelicals; Bishop Richard Graham of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Bishop David Jones of the Episcopal Church; Rabbi Lisa

Grushcow of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society; and Imam Mohamed Magid, the head of the Nation's largest Muslim organization.

The DREAM Sabbath events reflect this great religious diversity. Let me give you just a few examples of the congregations who are observing the DREAM Sabbath: the First Presbyterian Church of Cheyenne, WY; the Central United Methodist Church in Fairmont, WV; the Unitarian Church of Lincoln, NE; Galloway Memorial Episcopal Church in Elkin, NC; Grace United Methodist Church in Missoula, MT; Trinity Episcopal Church in Winner, SD; the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; the Florida Catholic Conference of Bishops; and the following Catholic dioceses, just to name a few: Cincinnati, OH; Cleveland, OH; Davenport, IA; Evansville, IN; and Salt Lake City, UT. Just last night, in Tucson AZ, the DREAM Sabbath was recognized at the National Hispanic Evangelical Immigration Summit, a gathering of 1,200 Evangelical ministers. This summit was convened by Reverend Sam Rodriguez and the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference and I want to thank them for their leadership.

In my home State of Illinois, I plan to observe the DREAM Sabbath at a number of places, including: Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation, a Modern Orthodox temple, where, by the way, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is a congregant; Old St. Pats Church, my home parish in Chicago; and the Church of the Holy Spirit in Schaumberg.

I would like to invite all of my colleagues and everyone listening today to participate in the DREAM Sabbath. If you are interested in becoming part of this important national movement, you can visit www.dreamsabbath.org for more information or call my office at 202–224–2152.

The DREAM Sabbath will put a human face on the plight of undocumented students who grew up in this country and help build support for passage of the DREAM Act.

DREAM Act students need our prayers, but they need more than that—they need our help to pass the DREAM Act.

These young people are American in their hearts. They are willing to serve our country, if we would only give them a chance. Passing the DREAM Act is the right thing to do and it will make America stronger.

HUNGER AWARENESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the over 50 million people, including over 17 million children in the United States, who face the day not knowing if they will have enough to eat.

Millions of families live each day not knowing if and how they will put food on the table.

Rather than thinking about what the next meal will be, these parents worry if there will be a next meal.

Rather than concentrate on homework, these children are trying not to think about their hunger pangs.

According to the USDA in 2010, 14.5 percent of households—or 1 in 6 Americans—experienced hunger. This is the highest level of hunger in our Nation since the government began tracking food insecurity in 1995.

No State or county is immune to the reality of hunger. In Illinois' three wealthiest congressional districts an average of 13.2 percent of people—or nearly 281,000 people—experienced hunger in 2009.

Hunger is a reality in all of our communities. We see it in the long lines at our food pantries. We have heard from seniors forced to choose between groceries and medication. And children are in our schools who have not had a decent meal since the previous day's school lunch.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported this month that more than 1.82 million people lived in poverty in Illinois last year. That's up from 1.69 million in 2009—making 2010 the third straight year the poverty rate in Illinois has risen.

According to Feeding America in Illinois, nearly 1.9 million people—including over 740,000 children—are food insecure and often rely on safety net programs for their next meal.

Hunger is a symptom of poverty, and where this is poverty we see greater demand for emergency food programs and support. Federal food assistance programs have responded to the growing need by helping low and middle-class families, children, and seniors maintain a healthy diet.

Throughout the country, food banks and pantries that rely on Federal assistance are the front line of the fight against hunger—providing emergency food assistance to hungry families.

Unfortunately, business at food banks has never been better. Over the past 2 years, Illinois food banks have seen a 50 percent increase in requests for food assistance. In 2009, Illinois food banks provided food to 1 in 10 residents.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, is one of the Nation's most important antihunger programs. SNAP has provided over 46 million Americans with essential food assistance.

In Illinois, 1.8 million people—that is 1 in 7 residents—rely on SNAP benefits to buy the food they need.

The benefits of SNAP reach far beyond helping households maintain a healthy diet. SNAP is a powerful tool in fighting poverty, and has lifted nearly 2.5 million children out of poverty, more than any other government program.

According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, $5 of SNAP benefits can generate $9 in economic activity through retail demand, farm production, and jobs.

At a time when families are having trouble making ends meet, food stamps meet a basic human need.

The people using food banks or food stamps to get by are people you know—your neighbor and coworker.

I recently heard from a single mother of a 4-year old daughter who receives emergency food assistance from the Eastern Illinois Food Bank.

This young mother is also a full-time college student, who plans to use her education to provide a better life for her family.

Without the extra support from food stamps, this woman says she would have to drop out of college and work at a minimum wage job just to make ends meet.

She credits food stamps for not only providing food assistance, but for allowing her to get an education so she can move her family out of poverty.

As Congress works to rein in our Nation's debt, we will hear from all sides. The millions of Americans who rely on safety net antihunger programs like SNAP will not have the loudest voice in the debate or big PR firms, but we can't forget them.

We must protect Federal food assistance programs. These programs are not a giveaway or a handout. They are strengthening our economy and improving the lives of vulnerable families, children, and seniors at their time of need.

MORETOWN POST OFFICE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of the Senate a notable development in the community of Moretown, VT. Moretown is located near the confluence of the Mad River and the Winooski River, just down the road from my home in Middlesex, and the community was hit particularly hard by the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Irene. Homes were flooded, the town offices were inundated, and the Moretown School was damaged. Bridges were washed away, cutting the town off from central Vermont's highway system, and leaving some residents stranded. But through this disaster, the town pulled together, in yet another of the many stories that can be told of the great resilience shown by Vermonters in the storm's terrible aftermath.

As flood waters rose, the postmaster in charge of the Moretown Post Office, Naomi Tilton, and the two carriers who work in the Moretown Post Office managed to save every piece of mail from the rising flood waters. Every single piece of mail in their charge. Water eventually filled the entire post office lobby, and as water damage left by the flooding in Moretown demonstrated, as much as 8 feet of water filled the first floors of structures surrounding the post office.

When my staff visited the Moretown Post Office a week later, workers had already begun renovating the building.

They had shoveled out the mud and muck deposited by the river, and they had torn out the mold-prone sheetrock. Yet even in disrepair, the post office was not in disarray or disorder: The Moretown Post Office continued to operate. A sign made out of a plain sheet of white paper directed customers to the side of the erstwhile post office, up a set of crooked stairs and into an office on the second floor. In that makeshift temporary post office, customers could still buy stamps, pick up their mail, and share their stories of survival and community togetherness.

The postal employees of Moretown did all this on their own time, outside of normal business hours, and on their own initiative. I understand that Ms. Tilton's manager was stranded dozens of miles to the south in Rochester, VT, a town similarly cut off from the outside world. Professionalism and dedication to the community motivated the employees of the Moretown Post Office to keep the area's postal system working. Their efforts offered a glimmer of hope to their neighbors as the community realized the extent of the devastation caused by the flood and the tremendous effort it would take to rebuild Moretown. And what a powerful testament to the currency in modern times of the proud tradition of this Nation's venerable postal system and its dedicated public servants.

The Moretown Post Office is just one story of the hundreds of stories I would like to tell to remind everyone how determined we are to recover from Tropical Storm Irene. The determination of our Moretown postal workers reminds us all of what it means to be a Vermonter and an American.

REMEMBERING SUVASH DARNAL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have spoken over the years about the political transformation that has been taking place in Nepal since 2005, from a corrupt, autocratic monarchy to an emerging democracy.

That process has moved forward by fits and starts, plagued by political infighting and the seeming inability of political and ethnic factions to unite for the good of the people. We are struggling with partisanship and divisiveness in this country, so I understand the problem, but Nepal is at a historic crossroads and cannot afford for this process to fail.

Key issues that were at the heart of the internal armed conflict, such as impunity for crimes against civilians by both sides, have not been addressed. Shielding perpetrators of gross violations of human rights from punishment is incompatible with a democratic society based on the rule of law.

There are many other challenges, like reform of the army, demobilization of former Maoist combatants, improving literacy, building effective, transparent government institutions, and reducing poverty. The United States is helping, but Nepal's competing political leaders must point the way forward by making the necessary compromises.

Today I want to speak briefly about caste discrimination, which is at the core of Nepal's feudalistic history. I do so by paying tribute to an extraordinary leader of Nepal's Dalit community, Suvash Darnal, who was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident in Virginia on August 15, 2011.

Mr. Darnal was only 31 years old when he died, but he had already achieved far more than most people, even people with every advantage, do in a much longer life.

Mr. Darnal was of humble beginnings, with nothing but hardship and unfairness to look forward to. Yet he managed to overcome daunting obstacles to become a respected leader with boundless energy, a quenchless thirst for knowledge, extraordinary vision, and a tireless determination to help improve the lives of his people.

As I have said before in this Chamber, Nepal's democracy cannot succeed without the inclusion of minority castes, including Dalits, in political and economic decisionmaking. Mr. Darnal devoted himself passionately to that cause through journalism, research, and advocacy.

He was an inspiring example of why caste discrimination has no place in the 21st century, and his death is a tragic loss not only for Dalits but for all of Nepal. He had the humility, integrity, intellect, and dedication to his people that Nepal needs in its leaders, and I hope others of his generation are inspired by his life and work to continue his legacy.

Mr. President I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an August 16 article in the Kathmandu Post about Mr. Darnal.

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

[From the Kathmandu Post, Aug. 16, 2011]

BIDUSHI DHUNGEL, ''PALPALI FLAME''

The tragic death of 31-year-old Dalit activist and media entrepreneur Suvash Darnal is a huge setback to Nepal's Dalit movement. Well known for being the founder of Nepal's first ever Dalit-focused media organisation, Jagaran Media, co-founder of the Collective Campaign for Peace and most recently, the Dalit-focused think tank, Samata Foundation, Darnal made undeniable contributions to a burgeoning rights-sensitive society.

Born in Mujhung in Palpa, and one of four siblings, Suvash was schooled ''by accident,'' at a local school that just happened to be in close proximity to his home. He was never told to go to school, nor did he initially see it as necessary, ''it just kind of happened,'' he would say. Darnal's perseverance meant that he became the first Dalit to pass the SLC from his village. That achievement, and the positive reaction it garnered from the upper echelons of society that once treated him as untouchable, gave him the motivation to work harder.

But behind every success story, there is a long, hard struggle. Looking at Suvash in his last years, one could never guess that he'd come to Kathmandu with nothing except the fire of convictions. He spent months selling watches immersed in a bucket of water on the Ratna Park roadside. And having made a few contacts here and there, Darnal ventured into writing for small media houses. The ideas for the foundations of the Jagaran Media Centre came in these days. It was to be the largest Dalit-led media outlet in South Asia. Even now, Jagaran media has a radio station that produces a radio magazine that is broadcast throughout India and Nepal.

These were turbulent times. By the time the media centre was established and running smoothly, King Gyanendra took over and attempted to reverse the course of history. Public outrage was growing and so was the demand for the return of democracy. At this crucial juncture, Darnal and his close friend founded the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP). ''I wanted to play my part in what I knew would be a momentous time in Nepal's history,'' said Darnal. He often recalled those days saying that at the heart of the uprising, it became an unofficial ''secretariat'' for the civil democratic movement in Nepal.

It was after this that Darnal set off to undertake the most mammoth of his life's work. He realised that democracy would be of little use to Dalit society unless there was a way to bridge the gap between politics and caste. This was where Darnal's deep frustrations with society resided. The idea that discourse at the policy level was necessary gave way to the Samata Foundation. Initially called the Nepal Center for Dalit Studies, late in 2009, the name was changed and became an officially registered organisation.

The Samata Foundation is now the hub of Dalit research. Last year, under Darnal's direction, Samata held Nepal's first ever International Dalit conference. An avid reader and fan of B.R. Ambedkar, Darnal had set out to establish caste-based policies in the country. His book, A Land of Our Own: Conversations with Dalit Members of the Constituent Assembly, came out in 2009. Although enthused by the 2008 elections that ushered in some 40 Dalit Constituent Assembly (CA) members, it didn't take long for Darnal to realise it wasn't going to be enough. He often said that it was only natural that the Dalit CA members wouldn't be educated, but that it was then his task to give them the information and competence to stand out and be clear about their demands. In this endeavour, he decided to publish a Nepali translation of Ambedkar's book. The translation was done by Dalit leader and CA member Aahuti, and was published earlier this year. Darnal held a special prominence in his head and heart for the personality and works of Ambedkar and the translation of the book and its subsequent publishing was a source of joy to him.

The Dalit movement has a long history in this country, but with Suvash Darnal it rose to new heights. From raising national awareness to travelling abroad for guest lectures, Darnal had the conviction to make Nepali society aware, not only of the harsh realities of caste, but of the repercussions of its perception in politics and society. Suvash's Samata Foundation was in the process of achieving precisely this. The organisation is now without its founder, and the Dalit movement without a capable leader. The work he undertook was as much professional to him as it was personal, and that's what allowed for his success. Suvash Darnal's close friends refer to him as very much of a family man. And with only a few close friends, he maintained very close ties with his family. He is survived by his wife and two year old daughter.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H.R. 2646, as amended, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011. I urge our colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, which would allow for new construction projects in five States and Puerto Rico and would extend several VA programs, including vital homeless programs.

Last year, Congress passed, and the President signed into law, Public Law 112–10, Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, and provided an advanced appropriation of fiscal year 2012 funding for veterans' health care. Enacting H.R. 2646, as amended, would avoid interruptions in VA programs and would allow VA to use the full amount of funding provided through Public Law 112–10.

VA has worked tirelessly to get veterans off the streets and into housing. Their efforts are commendable, but there is still work to be done. H.R. 2646, as amended, contains critical extensions to many of VA's programs to end homelessness among veterans. This bill would allow VA to continue to operate the drop-in resource centers that help connect homeless veterans to services; provide grants to transitional housing programs for the most vulnerable homeless veterans, such as the frail elderly, terminally ill, women with children, and seriously mentally ill; and continue its street outreach and emergency care services for homeless veterans. These programs are on the front line of VA's services for homeless veterans.

One of the best ways to end veteran homelessness is to prevent it from happening. This bill would support VA's homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing programs by extending the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program, a critical resource for stopping homelessness before it begins. H.R. 2646, as amended, also extends the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program, which helps homeless veterans find and maintain employment. Extending these programs will decrease the number of veterans who may become homeless in these tough economic times.

VA has a long list of construction projects that have yet to be funded. H.R. 2646, as amended, would allow VA to make critical upgrades to its facilities and infrastructure to ensure that we can provide care to veterans in a safe environment. For instance, this bill would allow VA to begin a $51 million project to seismically strengthen the nursing tower and community living center at the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System in Seattle, WA. Built in 1985, this building does not meet the current seismic code for Washington State. Located in an area of high seismic activity, it is vital that this building be upgraded so that the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System can continue to deliver world-class healthcare to veterans in a safe environment.

We must allow VA to continue work on projects such as seismic corrections in San Juan, PR; construction of new Polytrauma and Blind Rehabilitation Centers in Palo Alto, CA; medical center improvements and cemetery expansion in St. Louis, MO; and additional parking facilities and nurse education opportunities to ongoing projects in Fayetteville, AR and Orlando, FL, respectively. Additionally, it would authorize VA to lease space for outpatient clinics in Columbus, GA; Fort Wayne, IN; Mobile, AL; Salem, OR; San Jose, CA; South Bend, IN; and Springfield, MO.

This bill helps us honor the legacy of heroic veterans by dedicating VA medical facilities in their names. With the endorsement of every member of the Texas congressional delegation, the West Texas VA Health Center in Big Spring, TX, would be renamed in honor of George H. O'Brien, a hometown hero. With similar support from the Colorado Congressional delegation, the Telehealth Clinic in Craig, CO, would be renamed in honor of MAJ William Edward Adams.

Our Nation's veterans have sacrificed much in their service to this country, we must make sure they receive the care and benefits they earned.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE DAVIDSON

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise to commend and thank Mike Davidson for his decades of extraordinarily dedicated and consequential service to our Nation, most recently as the general counsel for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence over the past 8 years.

Many others have praised the wise, discerning, and sound counsel that has characterized every step of Mike's distinguished career, from his time in the Peace Corps in Kenya in the mid-1960s throughout his decades of service since then: as a litigator for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, as a professor of clinical law at the State University of New York at Buffalo, as chief staff counsel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, as the first legal counsel of the Senate, and, following his first retirement from the Senate in 1995, as counsel for several important public initiatives—including, most prominently, serving as general counsel for the Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001.

This exceptionally distinguished record speaks for itself, and in 2003 it led me to recruit Mike back to full-time service in the Senate. As the Intelligence Committee's vice chairman at the time, I asked Mike to serve as the committee's minority counsel, a position he held from 2003 through 2006. When I became the committee's chairman in 2007, I asked Mike to undertake the duties of general counsel. He agreed to take on this role, and he continued to serve me and the committee well throughout the 2 years that I was chairman. After I passed on the gavel to Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN in 2009, Mike stayed on for nearly 3 more years, until his quiet retirement earlier this month.

Throughout this time on the committee, Mike's calm and unflappable presence; his evenhanded, understated, and fair approach to even the most contentious issues; his painstaking attention to detail and unfailing memory; and, above all, his dedication to the law and to the security interests of the United States, have served this committee and our Nation well. Day in and day out, we knew we could rely on Mike's counsel. Whether it was a situation involving routine oversight or a matter of great sensitivity and historical importance—of which there were many during those years, including our investigations into the intelligence regarding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, our efforts to end the CIA's coercive interrogations, our drafting and passing the landmark Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Amendments Act of 2008, among others—Mike Davidson's legal acumen and advice were invariably excellent, and also indispensable to the work of the committee.

My colleagues and I trusted Mike's judgment implicitly. His example of dedicated public service and his exceptional day-to-day performance on the job earned our respect and admiration, and it inspired a generation of staff who had the privilege to work alongside him.

We will miss Mike dearly, but his legacy will remain a part of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for years to come. We wish him well in his second retirement, even as we leave the light on for him just in case he decides to serve again.

NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize September as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Prostate cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in men. Approximately one in six men will be diagnosed with this disease during their lifetime and it is estimated that over 240,000 men will be diagnosed with and over 33,000 men will die from the disease this year. While no cure has been found, early detection presents our best chance at saving lives. Public awareness of prostate cancer is improving but statistics demonstrate that more can be done to make awareness and early detection of this disease a national priority.

The odds of successfully treating this disease improve with early detection, and health experts recommend that men begin receiving yearly screenings at age 50 or sooner for those men at

high risk for the disease. In fact, studies have found that approximately 98 percent of men diagnosed with early stage prostate cancer are still living 10 years later, while only 18 percent of those diagnosed at advanced stages of the disease survive the first decade. More than 2 million men in the United States who have been diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their lives are still alive today. National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is a reminder that early detection is vital in successfully treating this disease and, through screening, we truly can save lives.

I am proud to add my voice to those who are working to fight prostate cancer, and I take this opportunity to recognize the families, professionals and advocates who work day after day to be a powerful voice for prostate cancer patients. I commend them on their tireless efforts to raise awareness of the risks, to promote early detection and treatment, and to further our efforts to understand and eliminate this disease. I urge all citizens to promote the use of early detection screening tests and to help advance the search for a cure of prostate cancer while supporting those individuals and families who face this devastating disease.

I appreciate this opportunity to increase awareness about the importance of early detection in our efforts to defeat prostate cancer and express my support for those Americans fighting the battle against this disease.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, which this Chamber adopted late last night by unanimous consent. The bill demonstrates that improving the lives of vulnerable children remains a national priority. In the midst of deficit panels and continuing resolutions and fear of government shutdown, Congress came together to pass this bipartisan, bicameral legislation and that is illustrative of our concern for the needs of children.

This legislation also reinforces our recognition of the need for flexibility and accountability. We must enable public agencies to be responsible stewards of public funds, manage performance, innovate and enhance their ability to achieve positive outcomes. The underlying law we reauthorized could not be more aptly named: Promoting Safe and Stable Families. I am particularly pleased that this bill continues to stress the importance of kinship care. This is something I know a little bit about. In the 1996 welfare reform bill, I successfully fought for the inclusion of an amendment with, Senator COATS, to ensure that relatives be given preference over stranger caregivers when the state determined where to place a child who had been removed from the home. Having worked with senior citizens and with the Gray Panthers before I came to Congress, I often heard the frustration of grandparents whose grandchildren—as far as they knew—disappeared into the state child protection system and literally vanished from their families' lives. I realized the immense potential in making it easier for grandparents and other family members to care for children and introduced legislation to recognize that. We ought to have policies that make it easier, instead of more difficult, for families to come together to raise their children. And as we continue to rethink our child welfare system, we need to rededicate ourselves to looking to families, including extended families, for solutions. When children are separated from their parents, it is usually a painful and traumatic experience. Reading over the RECORD from that fight in 1996 reminded me just how far we have come since then to recognize that fact.

The following year, in 1997, other provisions of my kinship bill were included in the Adoptions and Safe Families Act. And subsequent bills passed by this Chamber, including the 2008 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, furthered our progress promoting kinship care by allowing relative caregivers to receive foster care payments just as a stranger would. We know that sometimes, all the goodness in a grandparent's heart can't buy their grandchild basketball shoes or school books. And I am grateful to Senators BAUCUS and HATCH for continuing to draw attention to the value of kinship care. The bill we passed last night again moves the ball forward by rewarding States for operating kinship guardianship programs as well as kinship navigator programs that help brothers and sisters stay connected should they enter the child welfare system.

Slowly but surely, we are learning what works—and we are learning it from States. Through innovative approaches like kinship care, we have dramatically reduced the number of children in foster care. In roughly a decade, the number of children in foster care has declined about 20 percent, and that's something to be proud of. But we must continue our goal of safely reducing the number of youth in care, while constantly asking ourselves, ''what comes next?''

Earlier this year I introduced the Promoting Accountability and Excellence in Child Welfare Act, legislation that took a number of ideas from the States and from the advocates and from experts in Oregon and around the country for ways to improve the well-being of all vulnerable children and their families, just like we did last night. And one thing we can all agree on is that our Federal spending must drive positive outcomes. It is time we develop some consensus as to what those outcomes are, though. When we talk about child welfare, we typically measure success in terms of reducing the number of days a child spends in foster care. But what about those children who never enter foster care but still are involved in the juvenile justice system? Or aren't attending class regularly? Or don't have access to health care? And what about the child that, for one unfortunate reason or another, spends the majority of her childhood in foster care and ages out of that system at age 18? How do we gauge whether we have lived up to our responsibility, as a society, of preparing that child for adulthood?

My bill gets at these very issues. It seeks to improve the well-being of all at risk children and their families by tracking outcomes on the individual level. Importantly, it asks States to be the pioneers by telling us what will work, and then proving it. If we don't check up on vulnerable kids until they are in foster care, or worse—until they are in the emergency room or in prison—we are missing opportunities not only to save the government money, but missing opportunities to save lives and preserve families. My bill also asks for a report to Congress on recommendations on how to update Federal foster care financing so that eligibility is no longer tied to the obsolete AFDC program.

When the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act passed out of the Finance Committee earlier this month, I withdrew two amendments to ensure its passage move quickly. And I was pleased to have the assurances of Chairman BAUCUS that we could work together to further explore this idea of child well-being through a roundtable in the Finance Committee as well as take the lead on a request to the GAO asking for policy options to modernize Federal child welfare financing. I commend the chairman and ranking member as well as congressional leadership for their hard work to ensure passage of this bipartisan bill and I look forward to continuing to work together to improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the job market these days is tough. I have heard from countless Rhode Islanders who have worked all their life, but who have lost their jobs and are now struggling to make ends meet. Sadly, many of these jobs have been lost because big companies are taking advantage of cheaper labor overseas.

We should take action to stop this pattern, and I have introduced legislation to end tax giveaways to companies that ship jobs overseas that I hope we will pass. In the meantime, we need to do everything we can to help those displaced workers get back on their feet.

Therefore, I am pleased that the Senate has acted to extend the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program for American workers who have lost their

jobs due to the effects of international trade. TAA benefits are designed to help displaced workers transition back into the job market, and that is precisely what we need during this prolonged period of high unemployment. In my State of Rhode Island, the unemployment rate has been over 10 percent for 30 straight months and currently stands at 10.6 percent.

TAA benefits will help advance our economic recovery and get Americans back to work. In the past 2 years, over 1,400 Rhode Islanders have been helped by the job training services provided through, and the readjustment allowances have offered those workers a modest bridge until they can get back on their feet.

I have said throughout the economic downturn that we need to stand up for people who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, and this is especially true for trade-displaced workers. President Kennedy made this point when he signed TAA into law in 1962. He said then, regarding the effects of U.S. trade policy on our workers, that ''those injured . . . should not be required to bear the full brunt of the impact. Rather, the burden of economic adjustment should be borne in part by the federal government.''

I know that American workers can compete and succeed in the global markets when given a level playing field. But for too long, our policy has been to encourage cheaper imports from countries with lax environmental standards and few protections for their workers.

TAA benefits help workers in the manufacturing and service sectors to adjust to a rapidly changing global economy. This legislation will ensure that this help remains available, especially with so many people still out of work in Rhode Island and throughout the country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BECHTEL BWX TECHNOLOGIES IDAHO LLC

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I recognize Bechtel BWX Technologies Idaho LLC's, BBWI, legacy at the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project, AMWTP.

Under the leadership of Jeff Mousseau, appointed manager of the project in November 2007, and with the commitment and dedication of the skilled workforce, the AMWTP has flourished. Jeff Mousseau led the Bechtel team efficiently and safely to exceed benchmarks. AMWTP went from being 3 years behind to more than 3 years ahead of scheduled requirements to move waste out of Idaho. No other site in the U.S. Department of Energy, DOE, Complex has enabled the permanent disposal of as much radioactive waste at the DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant more safely and compliantly than AMWTP.

The company's dedicated employees have achieved a record of removing the waste safely. BBWI employees have worked more than 12.4 million hours and 2,839 days without a lost-time injury. In 2010 and 2008, the company earned national safety awards that included an Occupational Excellence Award, Perfect Record Award, Safety Leadership Award and Million Hours Worked Award. In 2007, the company earned the first-ever Integrated Safety Management Systems verification following assumption of the AMWTP contract. The company's safety achievements have also been recognized through the 2005 DOE Electrical Safety Challenge; 2008 Bechtel Safety Achievement Award in recognition of achieving more than five million job hours without a lost-time injury; 2008 Secretary of Energy's Appreciation Award for Electrical Safety; and 2009 Voluntary Protection Program verification.

BBWI has also been an active and involved corporate partner to Idaho. Through its community contributions, the company has supported civic, arts, cultural and education organizations and initiatives that have strengthened the fabric of many communities and improved the quality of life for many Idahoans. BBWI has been supportive of Idaho small businesses; more than 80 percent of its contracts for materials and services are awarded to small businesses. In 2009, DOE recognized BBWI with its Small Business Achievement Award and, in 2006, with DOE's Mentor Protégé award for the company's relationship with North Wind.

It is a privilege to acknowledge a job well done. The significant achievements of BBWI's workforce and Jeff Mousseau's leadership have resulted in the project being ahead of schedule and under budget with a recognized safety record. Thank you for your remarkable service.•

REMEMBERING J. ROBB BRADY

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of a distinguished Idahoan, J. Robb Brady. I join his family and friends in mourning his passing and paying tribute to his legacy.

Robb Brady is well known for his work as a journalist and publisher of the Idaho Falls Post Register, my hometown newspaper. Starting at the Post Register in 1941, he advanced in his field and served as publisher for more than 10 years. Throughout his career, he was a respected and knowledgeable voice. He earned a reputation as being a professional and principled journalist who was devoted to his wife of 69 years, Rose, his family, work and community. His talent and dedication have been noted by many who worked with him. He was also known for being humble, committed and compassionate.

In addition to his exemplary hard work, Robb Brady demonstrated a commitment to the community and maintaining Idaho's natural resources. He supported local charitable efforts, including his purchase and donation of the Idaho Fall's Haven shelter. As an outdoorsman, who backpacked and camped with his family, Robb Brady had an appreciation for our natural resources, and he worked to conserve them.

With Robb Brady's passing, we have lost a kind and valued member of our community, but his example will not be forgotten. He has left an indelible mark in the lives of the many people who knew him, worked with him and learned from him. I extend my condolences and prayers to his family, friends and loved ones. Robb Brady's legacy will endure as a significant contribution to Idaho's strength and history.•

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE GREENE

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to note a special occasion next week, the unveiling of a portrait at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to honor a dedicated public servant and a keen legal mind, Judge William P. Greene, Jr.

Judge Greene is a prime example of an American who has dedicated himself to the well being of our country and its veterans. He was born in Bluefield, WV, a small coal town in the Appalachian mountains. His grandfather worked on the rail cars transporting coal, but also was a school teacher and instilled in his family the value of education and hard work. Judge Greene's father continued that example, working on the railroads while pursuing a degree from Bluefield State College—an institution originally founded to train African-American teachers who would then instruct in the segregated schools. Judge Greene's parents both graduated from that institution and went on to teach in their community. His father was then drafted after the attack on Pearl Harbor and went on to become a commissioned officer and serve with the famed ''Buffalo Soldiers''—the only African American infantry unit to see combat in Europe during World War II. Judge Greene's affinity and pride for the Buffalo Soldiers became a life-long passion, as demonstrated by his involvement in the construction and dedication of the Buffalo Soldier Monument in Fort Leavenworth, KS. In the portrait being unveiled, one of Judge Greene's many Buffalo Soldier paintings can be seen in the background.

As a result of his father's military career, Judge Greene moved a number of times during his formative years, and learned from an early age to get along with a wide variety of people under varying circumstances. He subsequently put those skills and abilities to good use as a citizen, a servicemember, and a leader in the legal field.

Before joining the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Judge Greene graduated with a bachelor of arts in political science from West Virginia State College, where he participated in Army ROTC and accepted an

Army Commission. He was designated to serve with the Armor Branch, but while awaiting orders to jump school, Judge Greene was offered acceptance to the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps on the condition that he take the LSAT and be admitted to a law school which was scheduled to start in just a few weeks. Three years later he received his law degree from Howard University School of Law, passed the West Virginia Bar, and became an officer in the Army JAG Corps. He married his West Virginia childhood sweetheart and spent the next 25 years serving his country and gaining lifelong respect for the men and women in uniform. He received countless awards and honors for his service and expertise in both the law and the military, and he repeatedly demonstrated his great ability to bridge racial tensions and brings more African Americans into the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

As he is known to say when speaking publically, one of Judge Greene's life mottos is: ''When opportunity knocks, you can't say 'wait, let me pack my bags.' '' So when in 1993 another opportunity presented itself, Greene took it, and left the Army to serve as an immigration judge for the U.S. He worked tirelessly in that position, handling thousands of immigration matters in the 3 years he served in that capacity.

Then, opportunity knocked again. It was a proud day in 1997, when President Clinton appointed Judge Greene to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Until 1988, the Veterans Administration, now the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, was the only Federal agency that was not subject to judicial review. In a long overdue decision, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs created the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims with my full support. Veterans deserved judicial oversight and the creation of the court was a major accomplishment during his first term in the Senate. As a skilled attorney and a veteran, Judge Greene brought a keen understanding of veterans' issues to the bench. He served as the court's chief judge from 2005 to 2010, and was known for his character and leadership during a time of tremendous growth and change at the court.

Although he officially retired last year, his commitment to hard work continues and Judge Greene currently serves as a senior judge on the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Judge William P. Greene, Jr., is a soldier, a jurist, and an American to be respected, and I am proud to recognize and honor his service today.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 81. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2608.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1619. A bill to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3378. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy), Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Taiwan's Air Defense Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3379. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Ethiopia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3380. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XA659) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3381. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Trip Limit Decrease for the Common Pool Fishery'' (RIN0648–XA652) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3382. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XA673) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3383. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XA685) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3384. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Other Rockfish, Other Flatfish, Sharks, and Skates in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XA672) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3385. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Octopus in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands'' (RIN0648–XA683) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3386. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XA680) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3387. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XA684) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3388. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish, Pacific Ocean Perch, and Pelagic Shelf Rockfish for Vessels Participating in the Rockfish Entry Level Fishery'' (RIN0648–XA678) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3389. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Shark Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3390. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Regulatory Amendment'' (RIN0648–BA79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3391. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; 2011 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Specifications; Correction'' (RIN0648–XY82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3392. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendment of Class E Airspace; Clemson, SC'' ((RIN2120–AA66)(Docket No. FAA–2011–0394)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3393. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France (ECF) Model EC120B Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (Docket No. FAA–2011–0859)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3394. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 1, 73 and 76 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Practice and Procedure: Broadcast Applications and Proceedings; Radio Broadcast Services: Fairness Doctrine and Digital Broadcast Television Redistribution Control; Multichannel Video and Cable Television Service: Fairness Doctrine, Personal Attacks, Political Editorials and Complaints Regarding Cable Programming Service Rates'' (DA 11–1432) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. KYL):

S. 1622. A bill to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to relocate to Jerusalem the United States Embassy in Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1623. A bill to provide a processing extension for emergency mortgage relief payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1624. A bill to provide for the economical production of various United States coins; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1625. A bill to restore the financial solvency of the United States Postal Service and to ensure the efficient and affordable nationwide delivery of mail; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 1626. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reform agricultural programs by establishing the aggregate risk and revenue management program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. REID):

S. 1627. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1628. A bill to provide for improvements in the Federal hiring process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1629. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1630. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow for a more effective recovery from disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1631. A bill to authorize the establishment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of a center for technical assistance for non-Department health care providers who furnish care to veterans in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1632. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a look back rule in the case of federally declared disasters for determining earned income for purposes of the child tax credit and the earned income credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 276. A resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month of 2011; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 277. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2011 as ''National Principals Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JOHANNS, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 278. A resolution designating September 2011 as ''National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. Res. 279. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 24, 2011, as ''Worldwide Day of Play''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. REED, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. Res. 280. A resolution designating the week beginning September 19, 2011, as ''National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week'' and recognizing the achievements of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 281. A resolution designating September 24, 2011, as ''National Estuaries Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 282. A resolution to authorize testimony in Kanelos v. County of Mohave, et al. and Zanna, et al. v. Mohave County, et al; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. VITTER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Con. Res. 29. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the United States Capitol for an event to present the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 170

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to provide for the affordable refinancing of mortgages held by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

S. 431

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

S. 968

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to prevent online threats to economic creativity and theft of intellectual property, and for other purposes.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1094, a bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–416).

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to prevent the evasion of antidumping and countervailing duty orders, and for other purposes.

S. 1203

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1203, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 1211

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1211, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

S. 1280

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1280, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to require sexual assault risk-reduction and response training, and the development of sexual assault protocol and guidelines, the establishment of victims advocates, the establishment of a Sexual Assault Advisory Council, and for other purposes.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1392, a bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

S. 1421

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1421, a bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 1551

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1551, a bill to establish a smart card pilot program under the Medicare program.

S. 1584

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1584, a bill to provide for additional quality control of drugs.

S. 1585

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1585, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 1588

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1588, a bill to protect the right of individuals to bear arms at water resources development projects administered by the Secretary of the Army, and for other purposes.

S. 1595

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1595, a bill to prohibit funding for the United Nations in the event the United Nations grants Palestine a change in status from a permanent observer entity before a comprehensive peace agreement has been reached with Israel.

S. 1597

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1597, a bill to provide assistance for the modernization, renovation, and repair of elementary school and secondary school buildings in public school districts and community colleges across the United States in order to support the achievement of improved educational outcomes in those schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1606, a bill to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 232

At the request of Mr. JOHANNS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 232, a resolution recognizing the continued persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China on the 12th anniversary of the campaign by the Chinese Communist Party to suppress the Falun Gong movement, recognizing the Tuidang movement whereby Chinese citizens renounce their ties to the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliates, and calling for an immediate end to the campaign to persecute Falun Gong practitioners.

S. RES. 241

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 241, a resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2011, as National Information and Referral Services Day.

S. RES. 251

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 251, a resolution expressing support for improvement in the collection, processing, and consumption of recyclable materials throughout the United States.

S. RES. 253

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 253, a resolution designating

October 26, 2011, as ''Day of the Deployed''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 1625. A bill to restore the financial solvency of the United States Postal Service and to ensure the efficient and affordable nationwide delivery of mail; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Postal Reform Act of 2011, which will restore the financial health and long-term viability of the United States Postal Service, USPS. This bill is the companion to the bill Representative ISSA introduced in the House of Representatives in June of this year. I would like to thank him for his leadership on this important issue.

According to the USPS, by 2020, they are expecting to face up to a $238 billion shortfall. Even with dramatic cost savings of $12 billion and workforce reduction of 110,000 postal employees in the past four years, the Postal Service is expected to end this fiscal year with a $10 billion loss.

First-Class mail, which makes up more than half of the Postal Service revenues, continues to fall at alarming rates and shows no signs of ever recovering. This combined with 80 percent labor costs and labor contracts that contain ''no-layoff' clauses points to the fact that the Postal Service is broken.

Congress can no longer enact temporary fixes that avert financial crisis for only a brief period. Congress, the Postal Service, labor unions, and the mailing community must be willing to lay everything on the table and make hard choices now to save the Postal Service for the future. I believe the Postal Reform Act of 2011 will do just that.

Two key provisions in this bill alone would save the Postal Service billions of dollars annually. First, the bill would create a Postal Service Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, which is modeled after the District of Columbia control board Congress created to address the fiscal crises the city was facing in the mid 1990s. This authority, triggered by a USPS default on its Federal obligations, would replace the Postal Board of Governors with mandates to cut costs, and put the USPS back on the path to financial solvency.

The second key provision would create a Commission on Postal Reorganization that would use a BRAC like process to consolidate and close post offices and mail processing facilities. According to the Postal Service the ''current mail processing network has a capacity of over 250 billion pieces of mail per year when mail volume is now 160 billion pieces of mail. Right-sizing the network is vital to the future of the Postal Service and its customers.'' Congress, however, continues to put up political road blocks that prevent these closings and consolidations. This proposal will take the politics out of the process and allow the USPS to right-size its operations.

Other provisions in the bill would require arbitrators to take into account the financial health of the Postal Service if labor contracts move to arbitration. It would also exempt USPS from the Davis-Bacon Act, the Service Contract Act, and other wage rules that increase USPS contracting costs.

The bill would require certain types of mail that Postal Service loses money on to cover their cost. In Fiscal year 2010, USPS lost nearly $1.7 billion on these type of ''underwater'' postal products that failed to cover their costs. For example, the Periodicals class of mail, which includes newspapers and magazines, has not covered its costs for 14 consecutive years, generating total losses of $4.3 billion over that period.

The bill also contains common sense language that would mandate that USPS employees pay the same health and life insurance premium percentage as other Federal workers. This is estimated to save the Postal Service $700 million annually.

Finally, this bill will allow the Postal Service to move to 5–day delivery, at a savings of anywhere from $1.7 to $3.1 billion annually.

We can no longer choose to support temporary fixes to the Postal Service. If we continue to act in this irresponsible way, the American taxpayer will be the one that ultimately suffers in the form of higher postage prices and taxpayer bailouts. We must make hard choices now so future generations of Americans will have a viable Postal Service.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1628. A bill to provide for improvements in the Federal hiring process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today, along with Senators CARPER, CARDIN, and COONS, I am introducing the Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act of 2011. This bill will help agencies fix the broken recruitment and hiring process in the Federal Government. I am pleased that Representative SARBANES is also introducing a companion bill in the House today and I thank him for his work and his commitment to the Federal workforce.

Every day, talented people interested in working for their government are turned away from Federal service because of the frustrating and antiquated hiring process. Too many Federal agencies have built barriers for new workers, done too little to recruit the right candidates, and invented an evaluation process that discourages qualified candidates.

In the past, many agencies have tried to find exceptions to the competitive hiring process, rather than making sure the competitive process works. The competitive hiring process should be our most effective tool to ensure that the Federal workforce is composed of the most qualified and able individuals, who are appointed through a fair and open process that is free from political interference. As agencies face budget reductions and restricted hiring, it is critical that they are able to attract top-notch candidates who are up to the challenge of meeting agency missions with limited resources. We must strengthen the competitive hiring process so that agencies do not look for ways to avoid it.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, I have held multiple hearings on the hiring process and worked closely with the administration on its reform efforts. While the administration has been making some good progress, we still hear stories of talented individuals who seek employment with the Federal Government, only to grow frustrated with the archaic hiring process and find work elsewhere.

Applying for a job in the Federal Government should be accessible and straightforward. Agencies still require too much information upfront from candidates instead of an approach that requires more information as the employee moves through the process. The Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act will require agencies to streamline their hiring practices. Agencies will be required to stop using the dreaded ''knowledge, skills, and ability'' essays and accept resumes and cover letters, as is standard in the private sector. Additionally, the bill requires job postings to be written in plain writing, so that candidates can readily understand what the job is and how to apply, and candidates would be notified of their status at key points in the process. Agencies will have to speed their hiring processes to average no more than 80 days.

Agencies need to continuously reassess their needs and strategies in order to maximize their recruitment and hiring efforts. This bill requires agencies to develop strategic workforce plans that include hiring projections and identify critical skills gaps. It also requires agencies to measure the effectiveness of hiring efforts and reforms.

The Federal Government is the largest employer in the United States, and Federal service is a noble profession. Within the next 5 years, the Federal Government is expected to face one of the largest retirement waves in the Nation's history, making the development of a new generation of workers even more vital. Agency leadership must make reforming the recruitment and hiring process a top priority. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1628

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term ''agency''—

(1) means an Executive agency as defined under section 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) shall not include the Government Accountability Office.

SEC. 3. STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and in every subsequent year, the head of each agency, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget, shall develop a strategic workforce plan as part of the agency performance plan required under section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to include—

(A) hiring projections, including occupation and grade level;

(B) long-term and short-term strategic human capital planning to address critical skills deficiencies;

(C) recruitment strategies to attract highly qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds;

(D) streamlining the hiring process to conform with the provisions in this Act; and

(E) a specific analysis of the contractor workforce, whether the balance between work being performed by the Federal workforce and the contractor workforce should be adjusted, and the capacity of the agency to manage employees who are not Federal employees and are doing the work of the Government.

(2) INCLUSION IN PERFORMANCE PLAN.—Section 1115(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(7) include the strategic workforce plan developed under section 3 of the Federal Hiring Process Improvement Act of 2011.''.

(b) HIRING PROJECTIONS.—Agencies shall make hiring projections made under strategic workforce plans available to the public, including on agency websites.

(c) SUBMISSION TO THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—Each agency strategic workforce plan shall be submitted to the Office of Personnel Management.

(d) GOVERNMENTWIDE STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLAN.—Based on the agency plans submitted under subsection (a), the Office of Personnel Management shall—

(1) develop a governmentwide strategic workforce plan updated at least annually to include the contents described under subsection (a)(1) on a governmentwide basis; and

(2) make such plan available to the President, Congress, and the public.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VACANT POSITIONS.

(a) TARGETED ANNOUNCEMENTS.—In consultation with the Chief Human Capital Officers Council, the head of each agency shall—

(1) take steps necessary to identify highly qualified applicant pools with diverse backgrounds before posting announcements of vacant positions;

(2) seek to develop relationships with targeted and diverse applicant pools to encourage applications for high-quality applicants; and

(3) post announcements of vacant positions for a reasonable period of time.

(b) PUBLIC NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of subsection (a) shall not supersede public notice requirements.

(c) PLAIN WRITING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''plain writing'' has the meaning given under section 3 of the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—All Federal announcements of vacant positions for competitive positions shall be written in plain writing in accordance with the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(d) CONTACT INFORMATION.—Announcements of vacant positions shall include contact information for applicants to seek further information.

SEC. 5. APPLICATION PROCESS AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget, the head of each agency shall ensure that processes are implemented to—

(1) ensure that positions that are on the announcements of vacant positions are open for a reasonable period of time as determined by the head of the agency to allow applicants from diverse backgrounds time to submit an application;

(2) allow applicants to submit a cover letter, resume, and answers to brief questions, such as questions relating to United States citizenship and veterans status, to complete an initial application;

(3) not require lengthy writing requirements such as knowledge, skills, and ability essays as part of an initial application;

(4) allow applicants to submit application materials in a variety of formats, including word processing documents and portable document format;

(5) not require any applicant to provide a social security number or any other personal identifying information unnecessary for the initial review of an applicant for a position;

(6) not require the submission of additional material in support of an application, such as educational transcript, proof of veterans status, and professional certifications, unless necessary to complete the hiring process;

(7) provide for a valid, position-related assessment process to help identify the best candidates for the position to be filled and which does not place an unreasonable burden upon applicants;

(8) ensure that applicants are given a reasonable amount of time after the closing date of the announcement of a vacant position to provide additional necessary information; and

(9) include the hiring manager in all parts of the hiring process, including—

(A) targeted recruitment;

(B) drafting the announcement of the vacant position;

(C) review of the initial applications;

(D) interviewing the applicants; and

(E) the final decisionmaking process.

(b) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In consultation with the Chief Human Capital Officers Council, the head of each agency shall ensure there are mechanisms under which each applicant for a vacant position shall receive timely notification of the status of each application or provide the applicant the ability to check on the status of each application.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—A timely notification to an applicant under this subsection shall be made upon—

(A) receipt of an application by the employing agency;

(B) determination of the qualification of the applicant for the position;

(C) referral to the selecting official, or when a decision is made not to refer the applicant; and

(D) selection of an applicant.

(3) APPLICANTS NOT SELECTED.—The agency shall notify any applicant who is not offered employment that the applicable position is not open, not later than 10 business days after the date on which—

(A) the selected candidate has accepted an offer of employment; or

(B) the announcement of the vacant position has been cancelled.

SEC. 6. AGENCY HIRING PROCEDURES.

(a) ELIMINATION OF THE RULE OF THREE; MULTIPLE SELECTIONS FROM ONE CERTIFICATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking section 3317 and inserting the following:

''§ 3317. Competitive service; certification and selection using numerical ratings

''(a) CERTIFICATIONS.—The Office of Personnel Management, or an agency to which the Office has delegated examining authority under section 1104(a)(2), shall certify a sufficient number of names from the top of the appropriate register or list of eligibles for an appointing authority who has requested a certificate of eligibles to consider when filling a position in the competitive service.

''(b) SELECTIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An appointing authority shall select for appointment from the eligibles available for appointment on the certificate provided under subsection (a), unless objection to 1 or more of the individuals certified is made to, and sustained by, the Office of Personnel Management or the relevant agency for proper and adequate reason.

''(2) OTHER APPOINTING AUTHORITIES.—Not later than 240 days after the date of issuance of a certificate under subsection (a), other appointing authorities may select from that certificate for similar positions in the same occupational series and at the same grade level without any additional posting under section 3327.

''(c) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLES.—

''(1) PASS OVERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an appointing authority proposes to pass over a preference eligible on a certificate in order to select an individual who is not a preference eligible, that appointing authority shall submit a statement of reasons to the Office of Personnel Management for passing over the preference eligible.

''(B) REASONS FOR PASS OVERS.—

''(i) RECORD.—The Office shall make the reasons submitted by the appointing authority part of the record of the preference eligible and may require the submission of more detailed information from the appointing authority in support of the passing over of the preference eligible.

''(ii) REVIEW.—The Office shall—

''(I) review the reasons submitted by the appointing authority; and

''(II) determine the sufficiency or insufficiency of the reasons, taking into account any response received by the Office from the preference eligible based on the reasons made available under or paragraph (3).

''(C) FINDINGS.—After the Office has completed the review under subparagraph (B) of the proposed passover, the Office shall send its findings to the appointing authority and to the preference eligible. The appointing authority shall comply with the findings of the Office.

''(2) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLES.—In the case of a preference eligible not described under paragraph (3)(A), upon the request of that preference eligible (or the representative of that preference eligible) the Office of Personnel Management shall provide a copy of—

''(A) the reasons for the proposed pass over submitted by the appointing authority under paragraph (1)(A); and

''(B) the findings of the Office under paragraph (1)(C).

''(3) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLES WITH CERTAIN DISABILITIES.—

''(A) NOTIFICATIONS.—In the case of a preference eligible described under section 2108(3)(C) who has a compensable service-connected disability of 30 percent or more, the appointing authority shall provide notification to the preference eligible of—

''(i) the proposed pass over;

''(ii) the reasons for the proposed pass over; and

''(iii) the right of the preference eligible to respond to those reasons to the Office of Personnel Management or the relevant agency not later than 15 days after the date of the receipt of the notification.

''(B) TIMING OF NOTIFICATIONS.—The appointing authority shall provide notification to the preference eligible under subparagraph (A) at the same time the appointing authority provides notification to the Office of Personnel Management under paragraph (1).

''(C) DEMONSTRATION OF NOTIFICATIONS.—Before completing the review under paragraph (1) with respect to a preference eligible described under section 2108(3)(C) who has a compensable service-connected disability of 30 percent or more, the Office shall require a demonstration by the appointing authority that a timely notification under subparagraph (A) was sent to the last known address of the preference eligible.

''(4) NONDELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS.—In the case of a preference eligible described under paragraph (3), the functions of the Office of Personnel Management under this subsection may not be delegated.

''(d) REEMPLOYMENT.—If the names of preference eligibles are on a reemployment list appropriate for the position to be filled, a nominating or appointing authority may appoint from a register of eligibles established after examination only an individual who qualifies as a preference eligible under section 2108(3)(C) through (G).

''(e) REGULATIONS.—The Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section, including regulations for the establishment of mechanisms, such as advanced determination of score, for identifying the eligibles who will be considered for appointment.''.

(2) COMPETITIVE SERVICE; SELECTION FROM CERTIFICATES.—

(A) REPEAL.—Section 3318 of title 5, United States Code, is repealed.

(B) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3304(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''3318'' and inserting ''3317''.

(3) COMPETITIVE SERVICE; SELECTION USING CATEGORY RATING.—Section 3319 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

''§ 3319. Competitive service; selection using category rating'';

(B) in subsection (c)(2) by striking ''section 3317(b) or 3318(b)'' and inserting ''section 3317(c)'';

(C) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(D) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) Not later than 240 days after the date a certificate under this section is issued, other appointing authorities may select from that certificate for similar positions in the same occupational series and at the same grade level in accordance with subsection (c) without any additional posting under section 3327.''.

(4) EXCEPTED SERVICE; GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA; SELECTION.—Section 3320 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''sections 3308-3318'' and inserting ''sections 3308 through 3319''.

(b) REPORTING AND POSTING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.—

(1) GOVERNMENTWIDE LIST OF VACANT POSITIONS.—Section 3330 of title 5, United States Code, is repealed.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS LIST.—Chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking section 3327 and inserting the following:

''§ 3327. Civil service positions list

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'agency'—

''(A) means an Executive agency as defined under section 105; and

''(B) includes the Government Printing Office; and

''(2) the term 'covered position' means a position—

''(A) in the competitive service (other than a position established for a period not exceeding 18 months); or

''(B) a position in the Senior Executive Service.

''(b) VACANT COVERED POSITIONS.—Subject to regulations prescribed under subsection (e), each agency shall promptly provide notification to the Office of Personnel Management of vacant covered positions in the agency for which the agency seeks applications from individuals who are not employees of that agency.

''(c) LIST.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE.—The Office of Personnel Management shall establish and maintain a comprehensive list of vacant positions within each agency for which applications are currently being accepted or will soon be accepted.

''(2) CONTENTS AND AVAILABILITY.—The list established and maintained under this subsection shall—

''(A) include—

''(i) a brief description of each position, including the title, expected duration, location, and rate of pay of the position;

''(ii) the period during which applications will be accepted;

''(iii) application procedures, including who may apply, and procedures for obtaining additional information;

''(iv) the conditions under which applicants may be considered; and

''(v) any other information the Office considers appropriate; and

''(B) be made available to the public, in such form as the Office requires in regulations prescribed under subsection (e).

''(d) FEES.—

''(1) CHARGING.—The Office of Personnel Management may charge fees to agencies for services provided under this section and for related Federal employment information.

''(2) RETAINING AND USE.—The Office shall retain fees collected under this subsection to pay the costs of providing the services and information.

''(e) REGULATIONS.—The Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 3317 through 3330 and inserting the following:

''3317. Competitive service; certification and selection using numerical ratings.

''[3318. Repealed.]

''3319. Competitive service; selection using category rating.

''3320. Excepted service; government of the District of Columbia; selection.

''3321. Competitive service; probationary period.

''[3322. Repealed.]

''3323. Automatic separations; reappointment; reemployment of annuitants.

''3324. Appointments to positions classified above GS–15.

''3325. Appointments to scientific and professional positions.

''3326. Appointments of retired members of the armed forces to positions in the Department of Defense.

''3327. Civil service positions list.

''3328. Selective Service registration.

''3329. Appointments of military reserve technicians to positions in the competitive service.

''[3330. Repealed.]''.

SEC. 7. TRAINING.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) in consultation with the Chief Human Capital Officers Council, the Office of Personnel Management shall develop and notify agencies of a training program for human resources professionals to implement the requirements of this Act; and

(2) each agency shall develop and submit to the Office of Personnel Management a plan to implement the training program.

SEC. 8. REDUCTION IN THE LENGTH OF THE HIRING PROCESS.

(a) AGENCY PLANS.—Unless the Office of Personnel Management certifies an agency already has a plan in effect, the head of each agency shall develop a plan to reduce the length of the hiring process, which shall include an analysis of the current hiring process performed in accordance with standards established by the Office of Personnel Management.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent practical, each agency shall fill identified vacancies not later than an average of 80 calendar days after the date of identification of the vacancy.

(c) REPORTS.—Each agency shall submit an annual report to Congress on the average period of time required to fill each position, and whether such positions are cancelled or reopened.

SEC. 9. MEASURES OF FEDERAL HIRING EFFECTIVENESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall measure and collect information on indicators of hiring effectiveness relating to—

(1) recruiting and hiring, including the—

(A) ability to reach and recruit highly qualified talent from diverse talent pools;

(B) use and impact of each hiring authority and flexibility to recruit most qualified applicants, including the use of student internships and scholarship programs as a talent pool for permanent hires;

(C) use and impact of special hiring authorities and flexibilities to recruit diverse candidates, including veteran, minority, and disabled candidates;

(D) age, educational level, and source of applicants;

(E) length of time between the time a position is advertised and the time a first offer of employment is made;

(F) length of time between the time a first offer of employment for a position is made and the time a new hire starts in that position;

(G) number of internal and external applicants for Federal positions;

(H) number of positions filled compared to the specific number in the annual workforce

plan of the agency, with specific reference to mission-critical occupations or areas of critical shortage deficiencies; and

(I) number of offers accepted compared to the number of offers made for permanent positions;

(2) hiring manager assessment, including—

(A) manager satisfaction with the quality of the applicants interviewed and new hires;

(B) manager satisfaction with the match between the skills of newly hired individuals and the needs of the agency;

(C) manager satisfaction with the hiring process and hiring outcomes;

(D) any mission-critical deficiency closed by new hires and the connection between mission-critical deficiencies and annual agency performance; and

(E) manager satisfaction with the length of time to fill a position;

(3) applicant satisfaction with the hiring process, including—

(A) the clarity of the announcement of the vacant position;

(B) the reasons for withdrawal of any application;

(C) the user-friendliness of the application process;

(D) communication regarding status of application; and

(E) the timeliness of hiring decision; and

(4) new hire assessment, including—

(A) new hire satisfaction with the hiring process, including—

(i) the clarity of the announcement of the vacant position;

(ii) the user-friendliness of the application process;

(iii) communication regarding status of application; and

(iv) the timeliness of hiring decision;

(B) satisfaction with the onboarding experience, including—

(i) the timeliness of onboarding after the hiring decision;

(ii) the welcoming and orientation processes; and

(iii) being provided with timely and useful new employee information and assistance;

(C) new hire attrition;

(D) investment in training and development for employees during their first year of employment; and

(E) other indicators and measures as required by the Office of Personnel Management.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall submit on an annual basis and in accordance with regulations prescribed under subsection (c) the information collected under subsection (a) to the Office of Personnel Management.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF RECRUITING AND HIRING INFORMATION.—Each year the Office of Personnel Management shall provide the information submitted under paragraph (1) in a consistent format to allow for a comparison of hiring effectiveness and experience across demographic groups and agencies to—

(A) Congress before that information is made publicly available; and

(B) the public on the website of the Office not later than 90 days after the submission of the information under paragraph (1).

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations directing the methodology, timing, and reporting of the data described in subsection (a).

SEC. 10. REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under section 9(c), not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations as necessary to carry out this Act.

(b) CONSULTATION.—The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall consult the Chief Human Capital Officers Council in the development of regulations under this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 276—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL INFANT MORTALITY AWARENESS MONTH OF 2011

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 276

Whereas ''infant mortality'' refers to the death of a baby before his or her first birthday;

Whereas the United States ranks 41st among industrialized countries in the rate of infant mortality;

Whereas high rates of infant mortality are especially prevalent in communities with large minority populations, high rates of unemployment and poverty, and limited access to safe housing and medical providers;

Whereas premature birth is a leading cause of infant mortality;

Whereas according to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, premature birth costs the United States more than $26,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas infant mortality can be substantially reduced through community-based services such as outreach, home visitation, case management, health education, and interconceptional care;

Whereas support for community-based programs to reduce infant mortality can result in lower future spending on medical interventions, special education, and other social services that may be needed for infants and children who are born with a low birth weight;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services, through the Office of Minority Health, has implemented the ''A Healthy Baby Begins With You'' campaign;

Whereas the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration has provided national leadership on the issue of infant mortality;

Whereas public awareness and education campaigns on infant mortality are held during the month of September each year; and

Whereas September 2011 has been designated as ''National Infant Mortality Awareness Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Infant Mortality Awareness Month 2011;

(2) supports efforts to educate people in the United States about infant mortality and the factors that contribute to infant mortality;

(3) supports efforts to reduce infant deaths, low birth weight, pre-term births, and disparities in perinatal outcomes;

(4) recognizes the critical importance of including efforts to reduce infant mortality and the factors that contribute to infant mortality as part of prevention and wellness strategies; and

(5) calls upon the people of the United States to observe National Infant Mortality Awareness Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 277—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2011 AS ''NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH''

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 277

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2011 as ''National Principals Month'';

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of ''National Principals Month'' would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2011 as ''National Principals Month''; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of our Nation by supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Principals Month''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 278—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2011 AS ''NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LEE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JOHANNS, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 278

Whereas countless families in the United States live with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 6 males in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths among males in the United States;

Whereas in 2011, the American Cancer Society estimates that 240,890 males in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and 33,720 males will die from the disease;

Whereas 30 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in males under the age of 65;

Whereas approximately every 14 seconds, a male in the United States turns 50 years old

and increases his odds of developing cancer, including prostate cancer;

Whereas African-American males suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is up to 65 percent higher than White males and have double the prostate cancer mortality rate of White males;

Whereas obesity is a significant predictor of the severity of prostate cancer;

Whereas the probability that obesity will lead to death and high cholesterol levels is strongly associated with advanced prostate cancer;

Whereas males in the United States with 1 family member diagnosed with prostate cancer have a 1 in 3 chance of being diagnosed with the disease, males with 2 family members diagnosed have an 83 percent chance, and males with 3 family members diagnosed have a 97 percent chance;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test can detect the disease at the early stages, increasing the chances of survival for more than 5 years to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas only 33 percent of males survive more than 5 years if diagnosed during the late stages of the disease;

Whereas there are no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer while it is still in the early stages, making screening critical;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating people in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving the lives of males and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2011 as ''National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month'';

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to increase research funding that is commensurate with the burden of prostate cancer so that—

(i) screening and treatment for prostate cancer may be improved;

(ii) the causes of prostate cancer may be discovered; and

(iii) a cure for prostate cancer may be developed; and

(C) to continue to consider ways for improving access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interested groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 279—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2011, AS ''WORLDWIDE DAY OF PLAY''

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Ms. AYOTTE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 279

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, since 1980, obesity prevalence among children has almost tripled and approximately 12,500,000, or 17 percent, of children and adolescents in the United States are obese;

Whereas according to the American Academy of Pediatrics study entitled ''The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds''—

(1) play is essential to development because play contributes to the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and youth;

(2) play offers an ideal opportunity for parents to engage fully with children; and

(3) despite the benefits derived from play for both children and parents, time for free play has been significantly reduced for some children and youth in the United States;

Whereas Worldwide Day of Play is the centerpiece of The Big Help, the long-term commitment of Nickelodeon to empower children and families by providing the tools and information children and families need to take action on the issues children and families care about;

Whereas in each of the 50 States and in 13 countries, including at United States military bases around the globe, children and families celebrate Worldwide Day of Play;

Whereas on September 24, 2011, Nickelodeon will host the 8th annual Worldwide Day of Play;

Whereas in 2011, in collaboration with the Let's Move! campaign started by First Lady Michelle Obama and the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, the Nickelodeon Worldwide Day of Play will be held on the Ellipse in Washington, District of Columbia;

Whereas September 24, 2011, would be an appropriate date to designate as Worldwide Day of Play: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of September 24, 2011, as ''Worldwide Day of Play''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 19, 2011, AS ''NATIONAL HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS WEEK'' AND RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. HUTCHISON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 280

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions play an important role in educating many underprivileged students and helping those students attain their full potential through higher education;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are degree-granting institutions that have a full-time equivalent undergraduate enrollment of at least 25 percent Hispanic students;

Whereas in 2010, there were 307 Hispanic-serving institutions in the United States, enrolling 1,348,436 Hispanic students in nonprofit postsecondary schools;

Whereas Hispanic-serving institutions are actively involved in stabilizing and improving the communities in which the Hispanic-serving institutions are located;

Whereas 54 percent of Hispanic students in the United States attend nonprofit, postsecondary Hispanic-serving institutions;

Whereas celebrating the vast contributions of Hispanic-serving institutions to the United States strengthens the culture of the United States;

Whereas the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions are deserving of national recognition;

Whereas 2011 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, an organization that works to improve the capacity of Hispanic-serving institutions in helping students across the United States succeed;

Whereas the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities fulfills its mission by promoting the development of member colleges and universities, improving access to, and the quality of, postsecondary educational opportunities for Hispanic students, and meeting the needs of business, industry, and government through the development and sharing of resources, information, and expertise; and

Whereas the week beginning September 19, 2011, would be an appropriate week for national recognition of Hispanic-serving institutions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the achievements and goals of Hispanic-serving institutions across the United States;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities throughout the 25 years since the establishment of the organization;

(3) designates the week beginning September 19, 2011, as ''National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week''; and

(4) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for Hispanic-serving institutions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 281—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 24, 2011, AS ''NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY''

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 281

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States comprise a significant share of the national economy, with 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of the employment, and 49 percent of the economic output of the United States located in the estuary regions of the United States;

Whereas coasts and estuaries contribute more than $800,000,000,000 annually in trade and commerce to the United States economy;

Whereas more than 43 percent of all adults in the United States visit a sea coast or estuary at least once a year to participate in some form of recreation, generating $8,000,000,000 to $12,000,000,000 in revenue annually;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 jobs in the United States are supported by commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other coastal industries that rely on healthy estuaries;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitat for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during extreme weather events;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres, or 50 percent, of the wetland of the United States since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas bays once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can impact estuarine water quality and estuarine habitat;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) declares that it is the national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and if possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lake States and territories of the United States contain a National Estuary Program or a National Estuarine Research Reserve System;

Whereas scientific study leads to better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas September 24, 2011, has been designated as ''National Estuaries Day'' to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal, State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 24, 2011, as ''National Estuaries Day'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 282—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY IN KANELOS V. COUNTY OF MOHAVE, ET AL. AND ZANNA, ET AL. V. MOHAVE COUNTY, ET AL.

Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 282

Whereas, in the cases of *Kanelos* v. *County of Mohave*, et al., Civ. No. 10–8099 (D. Ariz.) and *Zanna*, et al. v. *Mohave County*, et al., Civ. No. 10–8149 (D. Ariz.), pending in federal district court in Arizona, the defendants have requested that a declaration be submitted by Gina Gormley, an employee of Senator John McCain;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Gina Gormley is authorized to testify in the cases of *Kanelos* v. *County of Mohave*, et al. and *Zanna*, et al. v. *Mohave County* et al., except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 29—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL FOR AN EVENT TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL, COLLECTIVELY, TO NEIL A. ARMSTRONG, EDWIN E. ''BUZZ'' ALDRIN, JR., MICHAEL COLLINS, AND JOHN HERSCHEL GLENN, JR., IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. VITTER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 29

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO PRESENT THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on November 16, 2011 for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. ''Buzz'' Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr., in recognition of their significant contributions to society.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 655. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

SA 656. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2608, supra.

SA 657. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 656 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2608, supra.

SA 658. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2608, supra.

SA 659. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 658 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2608, supra.

SA 660. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 659 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 658 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2608, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 655. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate, insert the following:

That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2011 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2011, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2011 (division A of Public Law 112–10).

(2) The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (division B of Public Law 112–10).

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 1.503 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2011 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2011 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2011.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to

section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2011.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) November 18, 2011.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2012 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2011, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2011 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism pursuant to section 3(c)(2) of H. Res. 5 (112th Congress) and as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amount shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress. Section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to any amount so designated.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to amounts for ''Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses''.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2012 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts made available by this Act for ''Department of Defense—Operation and Maintenance—Operation and Maintenance, Air Force'' may be used by the Secretary of Defense for operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq and security assistance teams, including life support, transportation and personal security, and facilities renovation and construction: *Provided*, That the authority made by this section shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act: *Provided further*, That section 9014 of division A of Public Law 112–10 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, funds made available in title IX of division A of Public Law 112–10 for ''Overseas Contingency Operations'' shall be available at a rate for operations not to exceed the rate permitted by H.R. 2219 (112th Congress) as passed by the House of Representatives on July 8, 2011.

SEC. 118. The authority provided by section 127b of title 10, United States Code, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 119. The authority provided by section 1202 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2412), as extended by section 1204(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4623), shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 120. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $29,130,000.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading ''District of Columbia Funds'' for such programs and activities under title IV of H.R. 2434 (112th Congress), as reported by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, at the rate set forth under ''District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses'' as included in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request Act of 2011 (D.C. Act 19–92), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for the necessary expenses of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, to carry out its functions under title XV of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), at a rate for operations of $28,350,000.

SEC. 123. (a) Section 9(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(m)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

(b) Notwithstanding section 9(n)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)(A)), the Small Business Technology Transfer Program shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(c) Notwithstanding section 9(y)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(y)(6)), the pilot program under section 9(y) of such Act shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 124. Section 8909a(d)(3)(A)(v) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2011'' and inserting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 125. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances remaining available to the Department of Energy pursuant to section 129 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2009 (division A of Public Law 110–329), $500,000,000 is rescinded, $774,000,000 is hereby transferred to and merged with ''Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief'', and $226,000,000 is hereby transferred to and merged with ''Corps of Engineers-Civil—Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'': *Provided*, That the amounts made available by this section for the Corps of Engineers-Civil shall be for emergency expenses for repair of damage caused by the storm and flood events occurring in 2011: *Provided further*, That the amounts transferred by this section shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That each amount transferred by this section is designated as an emergency pursuant to section 3(c)(1) of H. Res. 5 (112th Congress) and as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

SEC. 126. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief'' at a rate for operations of $2,650,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a full accounting of disaster relief funding requirements for such account for fiscal year 2012 not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and for fiscal year 2013 in conjunction with the submission of the President's budget request for fiscal year 2013.

(b) The accounting described in subsection (a) for each fiscal year shall include estimates of the following amounts:

(1) The unobligated balance of funds in such account that has been (or will be) carried over to such fiscal year from prior fiscal years.

(2) The unobligated balance of funds in such account that will be carried over from such fiscal year to the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) The amount of the rolling average of non-catastrophic disasters, and the specific data used to calculate such rolling average, for such fiscal year.

(4) The amount that will be obligated each month for catastrophic events, delineated by

event and State, and the total remaining funding that will be required after such fiscal year for each such catastrophic event for each State.

(5) The amount of previously obligated funds that will be recovered each month of such fiscal year.

(6) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for emergencies, as defined in section 102(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(1)).

(7) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for major disasters, as defined in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)).

(8) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for fire management assistance grants, as defined in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187).

SEC. 127. Any funds made available pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated at a rate for operations necessary to sustain essential security activities, such as: staffing levels of operational personnel; immigration enforcement and removal functions, including sustaining not less than necessary detention bed capacity; and United States Secret Service protective activities, including protective activities necessary to secure National Special Security Events. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on each use of the authority provided in this section.

SEC. 128. The authority provided by section 532 of Public Law 109–295 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 129. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 130. Section 550(b) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (6 U.S.C. 121 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''October 4, 2011''.

SEC. 131. Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 132. Section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (42 U.S.C. 1701 note), concerning Service First authorities, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 133. Notwithstanding section 101, section 1807 of Public Law 112–10 shall be applied by substituting ''$374,743,000'' for ''$363,843,000'' and ''$10,900,000'' for ''$3,000,000''.

SEC. 134. The second proviso of section 1801(a)(3) of Public Law 112–10 is amended by striking ''appropriation under this subparagraph'' and inserting ''appropriations made available by this Act''.

SEC. 135. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $14,510,000.

SEC. 136. Sections 399AA(e), 399BB(g), and 399CC(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i(e), 280i–1(g), 280i–2(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 137. Notwithstanding section 101, section 2005 of division B of Public Law 112–10 shall be applied by substituting ''$0'' for each dollar amount.

SEC. 138. The Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635 et seq.) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011'' in section 7 of such Act of 1945.

SEC. 139. Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 140. Commitments to guarantee loans incurred under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–3 and 1735c), shall not exceed a rate for operations of $25,000,000,000: *Provided*, That total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, may be apportioned through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act, at $80,000,000 multiplied by the number of days covered in this Act.

SEC. 141. (a) RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS UNDER BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress approves the renewal of the import restrictions contained in section 3(a)(1) and section 3A (b)(1) and (c)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall be deemed to be a ''renewal resolution'' for purposes of section 9 of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on July 26, 2011.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not be subject to any other provision of this Act.

SEC. 142. Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, of the unobligated balances remaining available for ''Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Title 17-Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program'' pursuant to title IV of division A of Public Law 111–5, $100,000,000 is rescinded.

This Act may be cited as the ''Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012''.

SA 656. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate, insert the following:

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2011 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2011, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2011 (division A of Public Law 112–10).

(2) The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (division B of Public Law 112–10).

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 1.503 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2011 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2011 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2011.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2011.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2012 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) November 18, 2011.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2012 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for

fiscal year 2011, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2011 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2011, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 414(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism pursuant to section 3(c)(2) of H. Res. 5 (112th Congress) and as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010, is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amount shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress. Section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to any amount so designated.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to amounts for ''Department of Justice—Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses''.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2012 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts made available by this Act for ''Department of Defense—Operation and Maintenance—Operation and Maintenance, Air Force'' may be used by the Secretary of Defense for operations and activities of the Office of Security Cooperation in Iraq and security assistance teams, including life support, transportation and personal security, and facilities renovation and construction: *Provided*, That the authority made by this section shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act: *Provided further*, That section 9014 of division A of Public Law 112–10 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, funds made available in title IX of division A of Public Law 112–10 for ''Overseas Contingency Operations'' shall be available at a rate for operations not to exceed the rate permitted by H.R. 2219 (112th Congress) as passed by the House of Representatives on July 8, 2011.

SEC. 118. The authority provided by section 127b of title 10, United States Code, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 119. The authority provided by section 1202 of the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120 Stat. 2412), as extended by section 1204(b) of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4623), shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 120. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $29,130,000.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading ''District of Columbia Funds'' for such programs and activities under title IV of H.R. 2434 (112th Congress), as reported by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, at the rate set forth under ''District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses'' as included in the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request Act of 2011 (D.C. Act 19–92), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for the necessary expenses of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, to carry out its functions under title XV of division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5), at a rate for operations of $28,350,000.

SEC. 123. (a) Section 9(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(m)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

(b) Notwithstanding section 9(n)(1)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)(A)), the Small Business Technology Transfer Program shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(c) Notwithstanding section 9(y)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(y)(6)), the pilot program under section 9(y) of such Act shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 124. Section 8909a(d)(3)(A)(v) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2011'' and inserting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 125. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, there is appropriated—

(1) an additional amount for ''Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief'', $774,000,00, to remain available until expended; and

(2) an additional amount for ''Corps of Engineers-Civil—Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies'', $226,000,00, to remain available until expended.

(b) The amount made available by this section for the Corps of Engineers—Civil shall be for emergency expenses for repair of damage caused by the storm and flood events occurring in 2011.

(c) Each amount in this section is designated as an emergency pursuant to section 3(c)(1) of H. Res. 5 (112th Congress) and as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

SEC. 126. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief'' at a rate for operations of $2,650,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a full accounting of disaster relief funding requirements for such account for fiscal year 2012 not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and for fiscal year 2013 in conjunction with the submission of the President's budget request for fiscal year 2013.

(b) The accounting described in subsection (a) for each fiscal year shall include estimates of the following amounts:

(1) The unobligated balance of funds in such account that has been (or will be) carried over to such fiscal year from prior fiscal years.

(2) The unobligated balance of funds in such account that will be carried over from such fiscal year to the subsequent fiscal year.

(3) The amount of the rolling average of non-catastrophic disasters, and the specific data used to calculate such rolling average, for such fiscal year.

(4) The amount that will be obligated each month for catastrophic events, delineated by event and State, and the total remaining funding that will be required after such fiscal year for each such catastrophic event for each State.

(5) The amount of previously obligated funds that will be recovered each month of such fiscal year.

(6) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for emergencies, as defined in section 102(1) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(1)).

(7) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for major disasters, as defined in section 102(2) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122(2)).

(8) The amount that will be required in such fiscal year for fire management assistance grants, as defined in section 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5187).

SEC. 127. Any funds made available pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated at a rate for operations necessary to sustain essential security activities, such as: staffing levels of operational personnel; immigration enforcement and removal functions, including sustaining not less than necessary detention bed capacity; and United States Secret Service protective activities, including protective activities necessary to secure National Special Security Events. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on each use of the authority provided in this section.

SEC. 128. The authority provided by section 532 of Public Law 109–295 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 129. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 130. Section 550(b) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (6 U.S.C. 121 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''October 4, 2011''.

SEC. 131. Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 132. Section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (42 U.S.C. 1701 note), concerning Service First authorities, shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 133. Notwithstanding section 101, section 1807 of Public Law 112–10 shall be applied by substituting ''$374,743,000'' for ''$363,843,000'' and ''$10,900,000'' for ''$3,000,000''.

SEC. 134. The second proviso of section 1801(a)(3) of Public Law 112–10 is amended by striking ''appropriation under this subparagraph'' and inserting ''appropriations made available by this Act''.

SEC. 135. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ''Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission—Salaries and Expenses'' at a rate for operations of $14,510,000.

SEC. 136. Sections 399AA(e), 399BB(g), and 399CC(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i(e), 280i–1(g), 280i–2(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 137. Notwithstanding section 101, section 2005 of division B of Public Law 112–10 shall be applied by substituting ''$0'' for each dollar amount.

SEC. 138. The Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635 et seq.) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011'' in section 7 of such Act.

SEC. 139. Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for ''September 30, 2011''.

SEC. 140. Commitments to guarantee loans incurred under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–3 and 1735c), shall not exceed a rate for operations of $25,000,000,000: *Provided*, That total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, may be apportioned through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act, at $80,000,000 multiplied by the number of days covered in this Act.

SEC. 141. (a) RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS UNDER BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress approves the renewal of the import restrictions contained in section 3(a)(1) and section 3A (b)(1) and (c)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall be deemed to be a ''renewal resolution'' for purposes of section 9 of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on July 26, 2011.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not be subject to any other provision of this Act.

This Act may be cited as the ''Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012''.

SA 657. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 656 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:

Section ____

This Act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

SA 658. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:

Section ____

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 659. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 658 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''3 days'' and insert ''2 days''.

SA 660. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 659 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 658 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 2608, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike ''2 days'' and insert ''1 day''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 23, 2011, at 10 a.m.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS DISCHARGED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN–924, 567 nominations in the Public Health Service received by the Senate on September 8, 2011, beginning with Aysha Z. Akhtar and ending with Mykah N. Wynter; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Ashton B. Carter, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense.

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Timothy J. Leahy

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Rebecca J. McCormick-Boyle

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Raquel C. Bono

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Jan-Marc Jouas

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment as The Surgeon General, United States Army, and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 3036:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Douglas J. Venlet

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) David C. Johnson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Donald E. Gaddis

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Mark R. Whitney

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Cindy L. Jaynes

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Judith A. Fedder

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael T. Flynn

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Scott M. Hanson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Clyde D. Moore, II

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Cecil E.D. Haney

IN THE ARMY

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert F. Thomas

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Allyson R. Solomon

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Gary W. Keefe

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Frederik G. Hartwig
Colonel Donald L. Johnson
Colonel Kenneth W. Wisian

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brigadier General Joseph G. Balskus
Brigadier General William S. Hadaway, III
Brigadier General Mark R. Kraus
Brigadier General Catherine S. Lutz

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. James L. Terry

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. William T. Grisoli

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Margaret W. Boor

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Raphael G. Peart

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Terry M. Haston

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Michael S. Rogers

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Frank C. Pandolfe

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Colonel Randall R. Ball
Colonel John P. Bartholf
Colonel Steven J. Berryhill
Colonel Gretchen S. Dunkelberger
Colonel Greg A. Haase
Colonel Scott L. Kelly
Colonel Maureen McCarthy
Colonel Mark A. McCauley
Colonel Marsa L. Mitchell
Colonel Harry D. Montgomery, Jr.
Colonel Jon K. Mott
Colonel Brian C. Newby
Colonel David W. Newman
Colonel David Snyder
Colonel Dean L. Winslow

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Raymond V. Mason

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601; and to be a Senior Member of the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations under title 10, U.S.C., section 711:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Terry A. Wolff

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN789 AIR FORCE nominations (75) beginning DAVID B. BARKER, and ending ANGELA M. YUHAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 20, 2011.

PN913 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning MARK W. DUFF, and ending BRYAN A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2011.

PN914 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning CHAD J. CARDA, and ending BARRY J. VAN SICKLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2011.

PN926 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher J. Oleksa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN927 AIR FORCE nomination of Arthur L. Bouck, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN928 AIR FORCE nomination of Tamala L. Gulley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN929 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael H. Heuer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

IN THE ARMY

PN877 ARMY nominations (6) beginning LARRY W. DOTSON, and ending DAMIAN K. WADDELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2011.

PN878 ARMY nomination of Jack M. Markusfeld, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2011.

PN879 ARMY nomination of Stephen R. Taylor, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2011.

PN880 ARMY nomination of Hal D. Baird, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2011.

PN930 ARMY nomination of James E. Orr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN931 ARMY nominations (9) beginning STEVEN A. CHAMBERS, and ending JAMES P. WALDRON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN932 ARMY nominations (7) beginning SUSAN M. CAMORODA, and ending GERSON S. VALLES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN942 ARMY nomination of Hyun S. Sim, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN943 ARMY nomination of Olga Betancourt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN944 ARMY nomination of Michael C. Freidl, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN945 ARMY nomination of Natacha L. Miller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN946 ARMY nomination of Benjamin D. Owen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN947 ARMY nominations (5) beginning HEIDI J. COX, and ending MARK A. RICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN948 ARMY nominations (4) beginning COLIN A. BITTERFIELD, and ending ANDREAS W. WOOTEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN949 ARMY nominations (26) beginning RICHARD J. ALLINGER, and ending MARGARET A. YOUNGBLOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN950 ARMY nominations (8) beginning BRIAN R. BENJAMIN, and ending MARK D. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN951 ARMY nominations (11) beginning TERESE B. ACOCELLA, and ending GARY L. WILLIAMSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN952 ARMY nominations (51) beginning MICHAEL D. ALPERIN, and ending DAVID S. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN953 ARMY nominations (19) beginning CLAYTON T. ABE, and ending TERRENCE A. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN954 ARMY nominations (6) beginning GEORGE V. HANKEWYCZ, and ending HENRY K. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN955 ARMY nominations (15) beginning JOHN F. BOWLEY, and ending MAUREEN E. WEBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN972 ARMY nomination of Kelly A. Cricks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN973 ARMY nomination of Damian G. McCabe, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN974 ARMY nomination of John R. Pendergrass, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN975 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ROBERT D. BLACK, and ending TRUDY A. SALERNO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN976 ARMY nominations (4) beginning JAMES A. CHRISTENSEN, and ending KATHLEEN A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN977 ARMY nominations (7) beginning MATTHEW J. CONDE, and ending VICTOR M. PALOMARES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN978 ARMY nominations (34) beginning LEE A. ADAMS, and ending MARK A. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN979 ARMY nominations (3) beginning KATHIE S. CLARK, and ending NANCY L. MCLAUGHLIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN980 ARMY nominations (8) beginning LYNN R. GAYLORD, and ending VICKI L. NOLIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

PN981 ARMY nominations (3) beginning NATHAN W. BLACK, and ending TROY G. DANDERSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 15, 2011.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN237 MARINE CORPS nominations (610) beginning PAUL M. ABOUD, and ending RICHARD M. ZJAWIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 3, 2011.

PN936 MARINE CORPS nomination of John L. Hyatt, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

IN THE NAVY

PN372 NAVY nomination of Paul E. Schoenbucher, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 30, 2011.

PN881 NAVY nomination of John N. Desverreaux, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of August 2, 2011.

PN915 NAVY nomination of David D. Dinkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2011.

PN933 NAVY nomination of Kevin J. Oliver, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN934 NAVY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL FORTUNATO, and ending MATTHEW T. WELLOCK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN935 NAVY nominations (484) beginning JOSEPH H. ADAMS, II, and ending JEREMY S. YARBROUGH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 8, 2011.

PN956 NAVY nominations (242) beginning DAMON M. ARMSTRONG, and ending MARISOL C. ZIEMBA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN957 NAVY nominations (39) beginning JAMES P. ALDERETE, II, and ending SETH T. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN958 NAVY nominations (131) beginning SAAD M. ALAZIZ, and ending MICHAEL A. ZUNDEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN959 NAVY nominations (22) beginning MICHAEL W. BLOOMROSE, and ending CHRISTOPHER P. TOSCANO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN960 NAVY nominations (131) beginning HECTOR ACEVEDO, and ending JAY ZULUETA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN961 NAVY nominations (72) beginning JAVIER ARAUJO, and ending RAYMOND C. YAU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN962 NAVY nominations (25) beginning THOMAS T. COOK, and ending LEROY C. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN963 NAVY nominations (36) beginning ADNAN S. AHSAN, and ending REBECCA L. WALDRAM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

PN964 NAVY nominations (9) beginning FABIO O. AUSTRIA, JR., and ending DONNA L. SMOAK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 14, 2011.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

AUTHORIZATION OF TESTIMONY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 282, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 282) to authorize testimony in Kanelos v. Mohave, et al., and Zanna, et al. v. Mohave County, et al.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony in related civil actions pending in Arizona Federal district court. In these actions, plaintiffs claim that Arizona local officials hosting a Senator McCain town hall meeting allegedly violated plaintiffs' rights by prohibiting their distribution of political literature at the meeting and subsequently enacting a policy limiting the use of county facilities to the conduct of official government business. The defendants have requested a declaration from a member of Senator MCCAIN's staff who witnessed relevant events. Senator MCCAIN would like to cooperate with this request. This resolution would authorize testimony in connection with these actions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider laid upon the table, without any intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 282) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 282

Whereas, in the cases of *Kanelos* v. *County of Mohave*, et al., Civ. No. 10–8099 (D. Ariz.) and *Zanna*, et al. v. *Mohave County*, et al., Civ. No. 10–8149 (D. Ariz.), pending in federal district court in Arizona, the defendants have requested that a declaration be submitted by Gina Gormley, an employee of Senator John McCain;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That Gina Gormley is authorized to testify in the cases of *Kanelos* v. *County of Mohave*, et al. and *Zanna*, et al. v. *Mohave County* et al., except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3:30 p.m., Monday, September 26; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in period of morning business until 4:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to concur with respect to the House message to accompany H.R. 2608, which is the vehicle for the continuing resolution and the FEMA funding, with the time until 5:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; further, that the second-degree filing deadline for the motion to concur be at 5 p.m. on Monday.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the next rollcall vote will be at 5:30 p.m. Monday on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House message to accompany H.R. 2608 with an amendment, which is basically a 6-week continuing resolution to fund the government, together with FEMA.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011, AT 3:30 P.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate adjourn under the previous order, with the understanding that the vote at 5:30 Monday will be continued more than the normal time, but people need to be reasonable. We cannot leave it open forever.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:59 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 26, 2011, at 3:30 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MAURICE A. JONES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE RONALD C. SIMS, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

MATTHEW S. RUTHERFORD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE MARY JOHN MILLER.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

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

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AYSHA Z. AKHTAR AND ENDING WITH MYKAH N. WYNTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2011.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 23, 2011:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

ASHTON B. CARTER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. TIMOTHY J. LEAHY

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. REBECCA J. MCCORMICK-BOYLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. RAQUEL C. BONO

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAN-MARC JOUAS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE SURGEON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 3036:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PATRICIA D. HOROHO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) DOUGLAS J. VENLET

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) DAVID C. JOHNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) DONALD E. GADDIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MARK R. WHITNEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. CINDY L. JAYNES

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JUDITH A. FEDDER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL T. FLYNN

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. SCOTT M. HANSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CLYDE D. MOORE II

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. CECIL E. D. HANEY

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT F. THOMAS

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ALLYSON R. SOLOMON

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. GARY W. KEEFE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL FREDERIK G. HARTWIG
COLONEL DONALD L. JOHNSON
COLONEL KENNETH W. WISIAN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH G. BALSKUS

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM S. HADAWAY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL MARK R. KRAUS
BRIGADIER GENERAL CATHERINE S. LUTZ

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES L. TERRY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM T. GRISOLI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARGARET W. BOOR

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. RAPHAEL G. PEART

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TERRY M. HASTON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. MICHAEL S. ROGERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. FRANK C. PANDOLFE

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COLONEL RANDALL R. BALL
COLONEL JOHN P. BARTHOLF
COLONEL STEVEN J. BERRYHILL
COLONEL GRETCHEN S. DUNKELBERGER
COLONEL GREG A. HAASE
COLONEL SCOTT L. KELLY
COLONEL MAUREEN MCCARTHY
COLONEL MARK A. MCCAULEY
COLONEL MARSA L. MITCHELL
COLONEL HARRY D. MONTGOMERY, JR.
COLONEL JON K. MOTT
COLONEL BRIAN C. NEWBY
COLONEL DAVID W. NEWMAN
COLONEL DAVID SNYDER
COLONEL DEAN L. WINSLOW

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RAYMOND V. MASON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601; AND TO BE A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE MILITARY STAFF COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 711:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. TERRY A. WOLFF

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID B. BARKER AND ENDING WITH ANGELA M. YUHAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 20, 2011.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK W. DUFF AND ENDING WITH BRYAN A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2011.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHAD J. CARDA AND ENDING WITH BARRY J. VAN SICKLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2011.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER J. OLEKSA, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ARTHUR L. BOUCK, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF TAMALA L. GULLEY, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL H. HEUER, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LARRY W. DOTSON AND ENDING WITH DAMIAN K. WADDELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON AUGUST 2, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JACK M. MARKUSFELD, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN R. TAYLOR, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF HAL D. BAIRD, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES E. ORR, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN A. CHAMBERS AND ENDING WITH JAMES P. WALDRON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SUSAN M. CAMORODA AND ENDING WITH GERSON S. VALLES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATION OF HYUN S. SIM, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF OLGA BETANCOURT, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL C. FREIDL, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NATACHA L. MILLER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN D. OWEN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HEIDI J. COX AND ENDING WITH MARK A. RICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH COLIN A. BITTERFIELD AND ENDING WITH ANDREAS W. WOOTEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RICHARD J. ALLINGER AND ENDING WITH MARGARET A. YOUNGBLOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN R. BENJAMIN AND ENDING WITH MARK D. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TERESE B. ACOCELLA AND ENDING WITH GARY L. WILLIAMSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL D. ALPERIN AND ENDING WITH DAVID S. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CLAYTON T. ABE AND ENDING WITH TERRENCE A. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GEORGE V. HANKEWYCZ AND ENDING WITH HENRY K. THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN F. BOWLEY AND ENDING WITH MAUREEN E. WEBER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KELLY A. CRICKS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAMIAN G. MCCABE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN R. PENDERGRASS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT D. BLACK AND ENDING WITH TRUDY A. SALERNO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES A. CHRISTENSEN AND ENDING WITH KATHLEEN A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW J. CONDE AND ENDING WITH VICTOR M. PALOMARES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LEE A. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH MARK A. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHIE S. CLARK AND ENDING WITH NANCY L. MCLAUGHLIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LYNN R. GAYLORD AND ENDING WITH VICKI L. NOLIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NATHAN W. BLACK AND ENDING WITH TROY G. DANDERSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2011.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL M. ABOUD AND ENDING WITH RICHARD M. ZJAWIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 3, 2011.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOHN L. HYATT, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF PAUL E. SCHOENBUCHER, JR., TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN N. DESVERREAUX, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DAVID D. DINKINS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF KEVIN J. OLIVER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL FORTUNATO AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW T. WELLOCK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH H. ADAMS II AND ENDING WITH JEREMY S. YARBROUGH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAMON M. ARMSTRONG AND ENDING WITH MARISOL C. ZIEMBA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES P. ALDERETE II AND ENDING WITH SETH T. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SAAD M. ALAZIZ AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL A. ZUNDEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL W. BLOOMROSE AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER P. TOSCANO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH HECTOR ACEVEDO AND ENDING WITH JAY ZULUETA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAVIER ARAUJO AND ENDING WITH RAYMOND C. YAU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS T. COOK AND ENDING WITH LEROY C. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADNAN S. AHSAN AND ENDING WITH REBECCA L. WALDRAM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FABIO O. AUSTRIA, JR. AND ENDING WITH DONNA L. SMOAK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2011.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AYSHA Z. AKHTAR AND ENDING WITH MYKAH N. WYNTER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2011.