TRIBUTE TO RICHARD TORTORELLI

- Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Richard Tortorelli of Milford, New Hampshire, who has retired from the Milford Fire Department after 41 years of service.

Richard began his career with the Milford Fire Department while in high school. At the age of 21, he joined the fire department as an on-call firefighter. In 1986, he became the first full-time Fire Chief in Milford’s history. Under his leadership, the fire department has seen many changes: a move from Town Hall in 1974 into the current station, a change from a one-town dispatch center to the regional Milford Area Communication Center, and equipment updates along with specialized training.

Even though Richard works in one of the most dangerous professions in the country, he has never lost a member of his department. One of the most rewarding aspects of his career is that the number of fire calls in Milford has decreased over the years. He acknowledges that teaching fire prevention is not as thrilling as fighting a fire, however, it is very important.

I would like to thank Chief Tortorelli for his service to the Town of Milford, and his dedication and leadership to the Milford Fire Department. I commend Richard for his exemplary career and tireless efforts. I wish him luck in his future endeavors. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 100–458, appoints the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) to the Board of Trustees of the Joint Center for Public Service Training and Development, for a term ending October 11, 2004.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 335

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 1 p.m. on Monday, August 2, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 191, S. 335, and that it be considered under the following limitations: 2 hours of total debate on the legislation equally divided between Senator COLLINS and Senator LEVIN or their designees; the only amendment in order be a managers’ amendment offered by Senators COLLINS and LEVIN; I further ask unanimous consent that following the expiration or yielding back of debate time and the disposition of the managers’ amendment, the bill be read a third time and then temporarily set aside. I finally ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

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

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF S. 1344

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1344, the Patients’ Bill of Rights Plus Act, as amended and passed by the Senate on July 15, 1999, be printed as a document of the Senate.

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

EXTENSION OF FUNDING LEVELS
FOR AVIATION PROGRAMS

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1467 introduced earlier today by Senator WARNER.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1467) to extend the funding levels for aviation programs for 60 days.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. 1467. This bill will extend the Federal Aviation Administration’s, FAA, Airport Improvement Program, AIP, for sixty days. It is critical that Congress complete the authorization for this program for this fiscal year. Otherwise, the FAA will be prohibited from issuing much-needed grants to airports in every state, regardless of whether or not funds have been appropriated. In fact, there are still nearly $200 million in funds from the current fiscal year that cannot be spent because AIP authority expires on August 6.

If we do not act to reauthorize this program for at least the remainder of this fiscal year, we will cause harm to the transportation infrastructure of our country. AIP grants play a critical part in airport development. Without these grants, important safety, security, and capacity projects will be hampered throughout the country. Therefore, we must act swiftly.

The safety of the traveling public depends upon the continued flow of AIP monies. For example, airports use these funds to install instrument landing systems, which help guide airplanes to safe landings when visibility is impaired. AIP funds are also used for airport safety projects related to runway approach lighting; aircraft deicing equipment; snow removal equipment; repair of damaged runways; rescue and firefighting; and runway safety areas for aircraft that have trouble stopping after a landing. It is my understanding that AIP funds were used to construct an innovative “arrestor bed” at the end of a runway at New York’s JFK Airport. A few months ago, that arrestor bed prevented a commuter plane from ploughing into a day.

It was credited with saving lives on that flight.

This bill will also extend the Aviation Insurance Program, which is commonly known as the War Risk Insurance Program. It provides insurance for commercial aircraft that are operating in high-risk areas, such as countries at war or on the verge of war.

Commercial insurers will not usually provide coverage for such operations, which are often required to further U.S. foreign policy or national security objectives. For example, commercial airlines were needed to ferry troops and equipment to the Middle East for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. If War Risk Insurance had not been available, our troops may not have been adequately supported.

This extension will also give us more time to work on a more comprehensive aviation bill that is still desperately needed. We have been working hard to accommodate the concerns that many Senators have with respect to provisions in S. 82, the Air Transportation Improvement Act. I believe we can bring a bill to the floor that will require very little of the Senate’s time.

Mr. President, I urge all of my colleagues to support swift passage of this short-term extension of the AIP. If we fail to act, the FAA will not be able to address vital security and safety needs in every State in the Nation. We must reaffirm our commitment to providing the public with a safe and efficient air transportation system. This bill will help us meet that goal.

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

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

The bill (S. 1467) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1467

Be in enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, ETC.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

Section 48103 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "$2,050,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1998 and ending August 6, 1999." and inserting "$2,410,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and $34,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1999, and ending October 5, 1999.

(b) OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of such title is amended by striking "August 6, 1999," and inserting "October 5, 1999," in the

(c) EXTENSION OF AVIATION INSURANCE PROGRAM.—Section 44130 of such title is amended by striking "August 6, 1999," and inserting "October 5, 1999.

(d) AIRWAY FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—Section 48101(a) of such title is
amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(4) $30,000,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1999, and ending October 5, 1999."

(c) FAA OPERATIONS.—Section 106(k) of such title (appropriating $750,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1999, and ending October 5, 1999) is amended by striking "Code." and inserting "Code.".

3. Replace the following:

the third and fourth quarters of fiscal year

with the following:

the third and fourth quarters of fiscal year

4. (e) FAA OPERATIONS.—Section 106(k) of such title (appropriating $750,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1999, and ending October 5, 1999) is amended by striking "Code." and inserting "Code.".

UNITED STATES CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT OF 1999

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1468 introduced earlier today by Senators LOTT, DASCHEL, and others.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1468) to authorize the minting and issuance of Capitol Visitor Center Commemorative coins, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 1468) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1468

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 "United States Capitol Visitor Center Commemorative Coin Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) Congress moved to Washington, District of Columbia, and first convened in the Capitol building in the year 1800;

(2) The Capitol building is now the greatest visible symbol of representative democracy in the world;

(3) The Capitol building has approximately 5,000,000 visitors annually and suffers from a lack of facilities necessary to properly serve them;

(4) The Capitol building and persons within the Capitol have been provided with excellent security through the dedication and sacrifice of the United States Capitol Police;

(5) Congress has appropriated $100,000,000, to be supplemented with private funds, to construct a Capitol Visitor Center to provide continued high security for the Capitol and enhance the total visual and personal experience of visitors to the Capitol;

(6) Congress would like to offer the opportunity for all persons to voluntarily participate in the raising of funds for the Capitol Visitor Center; and

(7) It is appropriate to authorize coins commemorating the first convening of the Congress in the Capitol building with proceeds from the sale of the coins, less expenses, being deposited for the United States Capitol Preservation Commission with the specific purpose of aiding in the construction, maintenance, and preservation of a Capitol Visitor Center.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) BIMETALLIC COINS.—Not more than 200,000 $10 bimetallic coins of gold and platinum, in accordance with such specifications as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(b) $1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.08 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(d) HALF DOLLAR.—Not more than 750,000 half dollar clad coins, each of which—

(A) shall weigh 3.839 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(f) D ESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On the face of each coin minted under this Act from available sources.

(g) PROMOTION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Commission in order to establish a role for the Commission or an entity designated by the Commission in the promotion, advertising, and marketing of the coins minted under this Act.

SEC. 4. SOURCES OF BULLION.

(a) PLATINUM AND GOLD.—The Secretary shall obtain platinum and gold for minting coins under this Act from stockpiles established under the Strategic and Critical Materials Stock Piling Act, and from other available sources.

(b) SILVER.—The Secretary may obtain silver for minting coins under this Act from stockpiles established under the United States Mint Act.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—Not more than—

(1) 100,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 3.839 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(d) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) $5 GOLD COINS.—If the Secretary determines that such action would be beneficial to the sale of coins minted under this Act, enter into a contract with the Commission or an entity referred to in paragraph (1) to carry out the role established under paragraph (1).

(2) $1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.08 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(e) WAIVER.—Each of the mintage levels specified in subsection (a) may be waived in accordance with section 5113(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(f) $5 GOLD COINS.—If the Secretary determines that such action would be beneficial to the sale of coins minted under this Act, enter into a contract with the Commission or an entity referred to in paragraph (1) to carry out the role established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) In general.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the Capitol, the United States Congress in the United States Capitol Building.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year "2000"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the United States Capitol Preservation Commission (in this Act referred to as the "Commission") and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

SEC. 6. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular combination of denomination and quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) FIRST USE OF YEAR 2000 DATE.—The coins minted under this Act shall be the first commemorative coins of the United States to be issued bearing the inscription of the year "2000".

(d) PROMOTION CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the Commission in order to establish a role for the Commission or an entity designated by the Commission in the promotion, advertising, and marketing of the coins minted under this Act;

(2) if the Secretary determines that such action would be beneficial to the sale of coins minted under this Act, enter into a contract with the Commission or an entity referred to in paragraph (1) to carry out the role established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 7. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins minted under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in subsection (d) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall sell bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

(d) SURCHARGES.—All sales under this Act shall include a surcharge established by the Secretary, in an amount equal to not more than—

(1) $5 per coin for the $10 coin or $35 per coin for the $5 coin;

(2) $10 per coin for the $1 coin; and

(3) $3 per coin for the half dollar coin.

SEC. 8. DISTRIBUTION OF SURCHARGES.

All surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins minted under this Act shall be deposited in the Capitol Preservation Fund in accordance with section 5113(f) of title 31, United States Code, and shall be made available to the Commission for the purpose of aiding in the construction, maintenance, and preservation of a Capitol Visitor Center.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, en bloc: Executive Calendar