

I'm submitting this resolution because I believe it is important for our nation to recognize the role biotechnology has played in enhancing, saving and extending our lives. Indeed, biotechnology has extended the average American's life by nearly 25 years.

Mr. President, the 20th century has shown the most significant advancements in all fields of biotechnology and there is reason to believe it will continue to deliver great hope and promise well into the 21st century. This industry is one of our fastest growing and will add thousands of new job opportunities to our economy. Just as the weeks of January and February, 2000 represent the start of a countdown to a new millennium beginning in 2001, they also represent the countdown to breakthroughs we all once thought were impossible.

Already, advances made in agricultural biotechnology have given us increased crop yields and promises of new uses for our agricultural commodities as well as the higher quality, more nutritious products to improve the competitiveness of our farmers. Great strides have been made through the use of biotechnology and health care and hold the keys to successfully treating or curing diseases such as cancer, diabetes and countless other conditions. Biotechnology has assisted us in improving water quality, conserving precious topsoil and reducing the need for pesticides which helps us improve our environment for future generations.

Mr. President, these are just a few examples of the impact biotechnology has had on our lives. I believe Americans should understand the importance of biotechnology in our way of life. With the passage of the resolution I introduce today, we provide a forum for many events in February to salute and promote this industry of the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important industry.●

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT EMPLOYEES WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

THOMPSON AMENDMENT NO. 2290

Mr. WARNER (for Mr. THOMPSON) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 858) to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to extend coverage under the whistleblower protection provisions of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to personnel of the courts of the District of Columbia; as follows:

On page 5, strike lines 5 through 12.

On page 5, line 13, strike "(e)" and insert "(d)".

On page 5, line 18, strike "(f)" and insert "(e)".

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that on Wednesday, October 13, 1999, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Governmental Affairs will hold a joint oversight hearing on the Department of Energy's implementation of provisions of the Department of Defense Authorization Act which create the National Nuclear Security Administration. The hearing will begin at 10 a.m. in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SGT. JOHN M. FEILER

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an Idaho native and his contributions to this nation. Early next week Sgt. John Feiler will be recognized here in Washington D.C. as Fort Hood's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the third quarter of 1999.

Let me to tell you a little about this wonderful Idahoan. John Feiler, a native of Burley, Idaho enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Burley High School. He began his training as a Combat Engineer in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was then assigned to the Engineer Battalion at Camp Eschborn in Germany. While in Germany he was an active participant in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Provide Comfort in Southwest Asia, for which he earned several awards and decorations.

After the Persian Gulf War, John was reassigned to Fort Stewart, Georgia. While there, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and a short time later he attended the Staff Sergeant Selection Board. During his assignment in Fort Stewart, he was selected as the Commandant's Inspection Awardee, made the Commandant's list, was nominated as the 24th ID Engineer Brigade NCO of the Year for two consecutive years ('93 & '94), and nominated to represent the 24th ID as their NCO of the Year for the XVIII Airborne Corps NCO of the Year competition.

In August of 1994 Sgt. Feiler pursued and completed the Army Recruiters Course. He served three years as a recruiter and was awarded the Gold Recruiter Badge as a permanent award.

In December of 1997 he arrived in Fort Hood, Texas and was assigned to his current unit, A Company 299th Engineer Battalion. During the eighteen months that he has served in the battalion, he has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement medals, and was chosen as one of the "Heroes of Battle" during the battalion's 99-05 NTC rotation. He is currently serving as a squad leader there.

His awards include the following: the Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with nine oak leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal (third award), the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal (Saudi Arabia), and the Liberation of Kuwait Medal (Kuwait).

Idaho and the nation are proud of the way in which Sgt. John Feiler has served our country. I am pleased to draw the Senate's attention to the outstanding contributions he has made and hope all my colleagues will join me in honoring him.●

C.B. KING UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 291, S. 1567.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1567) to designate the United States courthouse located at 223 Broad Street in Albany, Georgia, as the "C.B. King United States Courthouse."

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

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

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

The bill (S. 1567) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1567

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 223 Broad Street in Albany, Georgia, shall be known and designated as the "C.B. King United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "C.B. King United States Courthouse".

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 292, S. 1595.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1595) to designate the United States courthouse at 401 West Washington Street in Phoenix, Arizona, as the "Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse".

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

Mr. WARNER. 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 that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1595) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1595

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

The United States courthouse at 401 West Washington Street in Phoenix, Arizona, shall be known and designated as the "Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse".

JOSE V. TOLEDO FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 294, H.R. 560.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 560) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at the intersection of Comercio and San Justo Streets, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "Jose V. Toledo Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

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

Mr. WARNER. 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 that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 560) was read the third time and passed.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT EMPLOYEES WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 295, H.R. 858.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 858) to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to extend coverage under the whistleblower protection provisions of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to personnel of the courts of the District of Columbia.

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

had been reported from the Committee on Government Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted in shown in italic.)

H.R. 858

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 "District of Columbia Court Employees Whistleblower Protection Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR PERSONNEL OF THE COURTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

["§ 11-1733. Whistleblower protection for court personnel

["Notwithstanding any other provision of law, section 1503 of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 (DC Code, sec. 1-616.3) shall apply to court personnel, except that court personnel may institute a civil action pursuant to subsection (c) of such section in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia or the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.".

[(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

["11-1733. Whistleblower protection for court personnel.".]

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Court Employees Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH CONGRESS BY DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 11-1733. Court personnel communications with Congress

"(a) In this section, the term—
 "(1) 'Congress' means the United States Congress and includes any member, employee, or agent of Congress; and

"(2) 'District of Columbia court' means the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

"(b) Nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia court shall be treated as employees of the Federal Government solely for purposes of section 7211 of title 5, United States Code (relating to employees' right to petition Congress).

"(c)(1) An employee or former employee may file a civil action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia for relief of a violation of subsection (b), if—

"(A) the employee or former employee reasonably believes that such a violation occurred;

"(B) the employee or former employee files a grievance relating to such violation with the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration of the District of Columbia not later than 270 days after the violation occurred;

"(C) the Joint Committee—

"(i) makes a final decision; or

"(ii) makes no decision within 60 days after the filing of the grievance; and

"(D) the employee or former employee files such civil action not later than 1 year after the date of the violation.

"(2) Relief in an action filed under paragraph (1) may include—

"(A) an injunction to restrain continued violation of this section;

"(B) rescission of a retaliatory action;

"(C) the reinstatement of the employee or former employee to the same position held before the retaliatory action, or to an equivalent position;

"(D) the reinstatement of the employee's or former employee's full fringe benefits and seniority rights;

"(E) compensation for lost wages and benefits; and

"(F) the payment by the District of Columbia court of the employee's or former employee's reasonable costs and attorney fees, if the employee or former employee is the prevailing party.

"(d) In any civil action filed under subsection (c), the District of Columbia court may file a motion for an award of reasonable attorney fees and court costs. The presiding judge may order such fees and costs to be awarded to the District of Columbia court, if the judge determines that an action brought by an employee or former employee under this section was not well grounded in fact and not warranted by law.

"(e) The filing of a civil action in accordance with this section shall constitute the employee's or former employee's exclusive remedy under the laws of the United States or the District of Columbia for violation of this section.

"(f) The District of Columbia court shall conspicuously display notices of an employee's protections and obligations under this section, and shall use other appropriate means to keep all employees informed of such protections and obligations."

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"11-1733. Court personnel communications with Congress."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by section 2 shall take effect as if included in the enactment of title XI of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend chapter 17 of title 11, District of Columbia Code, to provide for personnel protection for District of Columbia court employees."

AMENDMENT NO. 2290

(Purpose: To make certain technical and conforming amendments, and for other purposes)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], for Mr. THOMPSON, proposes an amendment numbered 2290.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 5, strike lines 5 through 12.

On page 5, line 13, strike "(e)" and insert "(d)".

On page 5, line 18, strike "(f)" and insert "(e)".

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the committee amendment, as amended, be agreed to, the bill be read the third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed