

government's efforts to pursue its anti-narcotics strategy and urges the government to do what it can to uphold the rule of law and democratic practices, despite the strains the drug traffickers have imposed on the government. The resolution also stresses the view that human rights must continue to be safeguarded and urges the indigenous leaders to terminate provocative acts and negotiate the outstanding issues with the government of Bolivia.

I urge our colleagues to take note of the successful drug eradication program in Bolivia and encourage the democratically-elected government in La Paz to sustain its commitment for total coca eradication by the end of next year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 376—EX-  
PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE  
SENATE THAT THE MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO FOUGHT THE JAS-  
PER FIRE IN THE BLACK HILLS  
OF SOUTH DAKOTA SHOULD BE  
COMMENDED FOR THEIR HEROIC  
EFFORTS

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 376

Whereas the Jasper Fire started at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 24, 2000, near Jasper Cave in the Black Hills National Forest and was contained at 6:00 p.m. on September 8, 2000;

Whereas two days after it started, the Jasper Fire nearly quadrupled in size in a matter of hours, burned as fast as 100 acres per second, and ultimately became the worst forest fire in the history of the Black Hills, consuming 83,508 acres;

Whereas the Jasper Fire threatened private homes in the Black Hills, including the South Dakota communities of Deerfield, Custer, and Hill City, Jewel Cave National Monument, and Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and forced the evacuation of many residents in northwestern Custer County and southwestern Pennington County;

Whereas volunteers from 67 community fire departments from across South Dakota made up a substantial part of the 1,160 men and women who worked around the clock to contain the Jasper Fire;

Whereas the Tatanka Hotshot crew, an elite 20-person firefighting team based in the Black Hills, came from fighting fires in western Wyoming to help fight the Jasper Fire;

Whereas while the Tatanka Hotshot crew has fought several fires throughout the country, the Jasper Fire was the first major fire they fought in their home forest;

Whereas the outpouring of support for the firefighters by local residents and communities, such as Hill City and Custer, helped boost firefighter morale; and

Whereas, in spite of the rugged terrain and the intense speed and size of the fire, the Jasper Fire was contained successfully with only one home lost and with no injuries to any firefighters or local citizens: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Jasper Fire was the largest forest fire in the history of the Black Hills National Forest, consuming 83,508 acres;

(2) the volunteer firefighters from across South Dakota played a crucial role in combating the Jasper Fire and preventing it from destroying hundreds of homes;

(3) the Tatanka Hotshot crew was instrumental in providing the effort, expertise and training necessary to establish a fire line around the Jasper Fire; and

(4) the men and women who fought the Jasper Fire are commended for their bravery, their extraordinary efforts to contain the fire, and their commitment to protect lives, property, and the surrounding communities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

BOND (AND MIKULSKI)  
AMENDMENT NO. 4306

Mr. BOND (for himself, and Ms. MIKULSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 4635) making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

DIVISION A

That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION  
COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61); pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 92 Stat. 2508); and burial benefits, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of Article IV of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended, and for other benefits as authorized by law (38 U.S.C. 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61; 50 U.S.C. App. 540-548; 43 Stat. 122, 123; 45 Stat. 735; 76 Stat. 1198), \$22,766,276,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That not to exceed \$17,419,000 of the amount appropriated shall be reimbursed to "General operating expenses" and "Medical care" for necessary expenses in implementing those provisions authorized in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990, and in the Veterans' Benefits Act of

1992 (38 U.S.C. chapters 51, 53, and 55), the funding source for which is specifically provided as the "Compensation and pensions" appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to "Medical facilities revolving fund" to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapters 21, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 39, 51, 53, 55, and 61, \$1,634,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, other than under subsection (a)(1), (2), (5) and (11) of that section, shall be charged to the account: Provided further, That funds shall be available to pay any court order, court award or any compromise settlement arising from litigation involving the vocational training program authorized by section 18 of Public Law 98-77, as amended.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 19; 70 Stat. 887; 72 Stat. 487, \$19,850,000, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND  
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 37, as amended: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That during fiscal year 2001, within the resources available, not to exceed \$300,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$162,000,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

EDUCATION LOAN FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, \$1,000, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 3698, as amended: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$3,400.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$220,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "General operating expenses".

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, \$52,000, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. chapter 31, as amended: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,726,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program,