

surviving veterans, will be able to take the United States citizenship test with a translator.

The United States owes a great debt to the widows of Hmong veterans. During the Vietnam War, in the covert operations in Laos, they sacrificed everything they had in service to this country. It is almost impossible to imagine the impact of the Vietnam War on the Hmong Community in South East Asia. Hmong soldiers died at ten times the rate of American soldiers in the Vietnam War. As many as 20,000 Hmong were killed serving our country. When adults were killed, children as young as twelve and thirteen rose up to take their place. When Hmong soldiers died, they left behind families with no means of support. They left their loved ones to fend for themselves in a hostile country.

Because of the covert nature of the United States Operations in Laos, the heroics and sacrifice of this community long went unrecognized. By facilitating the naturalization of Hmong widows, we offer small compensation, but tremendous thanks and honor to people who gave us their lives and livelihoods. Twenty five years later, we cannot give them back their loved ones, though their loved ones gave their lives for us. All we can do is we honor their service in a way that is long overdue and give them the tools to become citizens in the nation for which they heroically fought, and died.

No one in Congress understood better what we owe to the Hmong community than my old and dear friend, Congressman Bruce Vento. No one here did more for the Hmong people. He dedicated himself to ensure that Hmong and Lao veterans and their families received the honor and respect that was so long deserved and too long delayed. One of the many great legacies of his life will indeed be his work with the Hmong community in Minnesota. I wish to honor him today for that dedication and for that deep respect and compassion. But there is no tribute I can deliver that would bring him more greater pride than when 45,000 Hmong veterans, widows and spouses whom he was one of the first to recognize as American heroes, become American citizens.

I thank my colleagues again for their support.

Mr. SESSIONS. 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. 5234) was read the third time and passed.

MOTHER TERESA RELIGIOUS WORKERS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 587, S. 2406.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2406) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for entry into the United States of certain religious workers.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. 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. 2406) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2406

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 "Mother Teresa Religious Workers Act".

SEC. 2. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES OF CERTAIN RELIGIOUS WORKERS.

Section 101(a)(27)(C)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking "before October 1, 2000," each place it appears.

EDUCATION LAND GRANT ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S. 2812).

There being no objection, the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2812) entitled "An Act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide a waiver of the oath of renunciation and allegiance for naturalization of aliens having certain disabilities", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. WAIVER OF OATH OF RENUNCIATION AND ALLEGIANCE FOR NATURALIZATION OF ALIENS HAVING CERTAIN DISABILITIES.

Section 337(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1448(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"The Attorney General may waive the taking of the oath by a person if in the opinion of the Attorney General the person is unable to understand, or to communicate an understanding of, its meaning because of a physical or developmental disability or mental impairment. If the Attorney General waives the taking of the oath by a person under the preceding sentence, the person shall be considered to have met the requirements of section 316(a)(3) with respect to attachment to the principles of the Constitution

and well disposition to the good order and happiness of the United States."

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by section 1 shall apply to persons applying for naturalization before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to thank my colleagues for unanimously agreeing to pass S. 2812, a bill introduced earlier this year by Senator HATCH and myself to amend the Immigration and nationality Act to eliminate a barrier that has prevented persons with certain mental disabilities from becoming United States citizens. By passing this bill today, Congress will make our immigration policy more fair and more humane.

The bill we will pass today will not dramatically change or improve our immigration policies—that work remains to be done—but this bill will make a big difference in the lives of a few American families—families like the Dowds, the Costas, the Wickers, and the Teixlers of Connecticut. Back in July, I explained why we need to pass this legislation. I told a story about a young man named Mathieu. Mathieu's family—his mother, his father, and his sister—have all become naturalized U.S. citizens. But Mathieu has not been allowed to become a citizen because he's a 23-year-old autistic man who cannot swear an oath of loyalty to the United States, which is required as part of the naturalization process. His naturalization request has been in limbo since November of 1996 because Mathieu could not understand some of the questions he was asked by the INS agent processing his application for citizenship. For years Mathieu's mother has lived in fear that her most vulnerable child could be removed from the country and sent to a nation that he hardly knows, and where he has no family or friends.

As I explained in July, Mathieu's mother—again, a United States citizen—wants what every American in her position would want. She wants to know that all of her children, including her most vulnerable child, will have the protections of citizenship. Mathieu's life is here. His friends and caregivers are here. His family is here. Mathieu's place is here, and now, with the passage of this bill, Mathieu's mother can rest easy because Mathieu can join the rest of his family as a U.S. citizen.

This legislation has not been the subject of great debate, but it is an important correction for us to make. I thank Catherine Cushman, and attorney who works for the Connecticut Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, for bringing this issue to my attention. I also thank Catholic Charities, USA for their guidance and expertise on this matter. Finally, I thank Senator HATCH, Senator DEWINE, Senator FEINGOLD, Senator

FEINSTEIN, Senator KENNEDY, and Senator KOHL for their support of this bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate agree to the amendment of the House.

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

INTERNATIONAL PATIENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2961, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2961) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize a 3-year pilot program under which the Attorney General may extend the period for voluntary departure in the case of certain non-immigrant aliens who require medical treatment in the United States and were admitted under the visa waiver pilot program, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. 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 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. 2961) was read the third time and passed.

GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 921, H.R. 4320.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4320) to assist in the conservation of great apes by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of countries within the range of great apes and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of great apes.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. 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 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. 4320) was read the third time and passed.

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS COMMISSION APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEARS 2002 THROUGH 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 914, H.R. 4110.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4110) to amend title 44, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. 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 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. 4110) was read the third time and passed.

APPROVING PLACEMENT OF PAINTINGS IN SENATE RECEPTION ROOM

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 380 submitted by Senator LOTT and Senator DASCHLE.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 380) approving the placement of 2 paintings in the Senate reception room.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 380) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 380

Resolved, That the Senate Commission on Art (referred to in this resolution as the "Commission") shall procure appropriate paintings of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg and Senator Robert F. Wagner and place such paintings in the 2 unfilled spaces on the south wall of the Senate reception room.

SEC. 2. (a) The paintings shall be rendered in oil on canvas and shall be consistent in style and manner with the paintings of Senators Clay, Calhoun, Webster, LaFollette, and Taft now displayed in the Senate reception room.

(b) The paintings may be procured through purchase, acceptance as a gift of appropriate existing paintings, or through the execution

of appropriate paintings by a qualified artist or artists to be selected and contracted by the Commission.

SEC. 3. The expenses of the Commission in carrying out this resolution shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the Senate on vouchers signed by the Secretary of the Senate and approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUPPORT FOR RECOGNITION OF LIBERTY DAY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 376, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding support for the recognition of a Liberty Day.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (H. Con. Res. 376) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

FEDERAL COURTS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 860, S. 2915.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2915) to make improvements in the operation and administration of the Federal courts, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment, as follows:

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic.]

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the "Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2000".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

TITLE I—JUDICIAL FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 101. Extension of Judiciary Information Technology Fund.

Sec. 102. Disposition of miscellaneous fees.

Sec. 103. Transfer of retirement funds.