

EC-1183. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Capitalization of Interest Expense in Safe Harbor Sale and Leaseback Transactions" (TD 9179) received on March 1, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1184. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment to Net Unrealized Built-in Gain" (TD 9180) received on March 1, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1185. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bureau of Labor Statistics Price Indexes for Department Stores—December 2004" (Rev. Rul. 2005-12) received on March 1, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1186. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tax-Exempt Leasing Involving Defeasance" (Notice 2005-13) received on March 1, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1187. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Check the Box" (TD 9183) received on March 1, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1188. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's March 2005 report entitled "Medicare Payment Policy"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1189. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2005 National Drug Control Strategy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-28. A resolution adopted by the Legislative Research Commission of the Commonwealth of Kentucky relating to tobacco growers selling their excess 2004 crop; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

RESOLUTION

Whereas on October 22, 2004, the President signed into law the Fair and Equitable Tobacco Reform Act of 2004; and

Whereas the tobacco quota buyout legislation represents the most significant change in the tobacco production program since the 1930s; and

Whereas the buyout means there will be no constraints on who can produce tobacco, where it is grown, how much can be marketed, and what the price may be; and

Whereas the tobacco production system will shift to contracting directly with tobacco companies; and

Whereas many quota owners and growers may decide to quit tobacco production altogether; and

Whereas some growers may have excess tobacco remaining from their 2004 crop, but,

because of federal laws and regulations, cannot sell it; and

Whereas at least one large tobacco company has indicated it will not accept carry-over tobacco, or tobacco produced and harvested in a prior crop year; and

Whereas it is important that tobacco growers be able to sell all their 2004 leaf crop; Now, therefore, be it *Resolved* by the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee of the Kentucky General Assembly:

Section 1. The Agriculture and Small Business Committee strongly urges the United States Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture take the necessary steps to allow tobacco producers to sell the excess tobacco from their 2004 crop.

Section 2. Copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Commonwealth's delegation to the Congress of the United States, and to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

POM-29. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the Medal of Honor; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE RESOLUTION 5

Whereas United States Army and Department of Defense officials are reviewing a recommendation to upgrade Major Winters' Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honor; and

Whereas Major Winters was originally nominated for the Medal of Honor by Colonel Robert F. Sink, commander of the 506th Regiment, for heroic actions on June 6, 1944, during the Allied invasion of Normandy, France, as 1st Lieutenant, Acting Commanding Officer of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, VII corps; and

Whereas Major Winters' extraordinary planning, fighting and commanding on that day 60 years ago in Nazi-occupied Normandy during his regiment's first combat operation saved countless lives and expedited the Allied inland advance; and

Whereas With his company outnumbered by German soldiers, Major Winters destroyed German guns at Breccourt Manor and secured causeways for troops coming off Utah Beach; and

Whereas Major Winters' battle plan for a small-unit assault on German artillery has been taught at the United States Military Academy at West Point; and

Whereas Major Winters accomplished a hazardous mission with valor, inspired his service colleagues through example and effectively organized his company into support and assault teams on the day of invasion in the campaign for European liberation during World War II: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to award the Medal of Honor to Major Richard D. Winters without further delay; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-30. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio relative to the Clear Skies Act of 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION 20

Whereas although the nation's air quality has improved significantly since the early

1970's, pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury continue at levels that cause environmental and public health concerns. Because of those concerns, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has established stricter National Ambient Air Quality Standards, most recently for ozone and particulate matter; and

Whereas currently, 474 counties, including 33 in Ohio, are in nonattainment with the ozone standard and 224 counties, including 32 in Ohio, are in nonattainment with the particulate matter standard. Nonattainment designations place a significant burden on state and local governments, which must develop plans to reduce emissions and come into attainment by a specific date; and

Whereas in order to ensure that the states have the most effective means of attaining the new standards, the Clear Skies Act of 2005 (S. 131) has been introduced in the United States Senate. This legislation not only is based on the successful Acid Rain Programs, it also incorporates a multi-emissions approach that takes advantage of the benefits that would result from controlling multiple pollutants at the same time; and

Whereas the Clear Skies Act balances environmental, energy, and economic needs. For example, it requires power plants to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury by 70% by 2018 and allows the nation to continue burning coal, our most abundant and low-cost energy source, while improving our nation's air quality: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the Senate of the 126th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Clear Skies Act of 2005 in order to improve our nation's air quality and ensure our nation's economic stability; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-31. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the Republic of Poland; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 25

Whereas the Republic of Poland is a free, democratic and independent nation; and

Whereas in 1999 the United States and the Republic of Poland became formal allies when Poland was granted membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

Whereas the Republic of Poland has proven to be an indispensable ally in the global campaign against terrorism; and

Whereas the Republic of Poland has actively participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Iraqi reconstruction, shedding blood along with American soldiers; and

Whereas the President of the United States and other high-ranking officials have described the Republic of Poland as "one of our closest friends"; and

Whereas on April 15, 1991, the Republic of Poland unilaterally repealed the visa obligation to United States citizens traveling to Poland; and

Whereas the United States Department of State Visa Waiver Program currently allows approximately 23 million citizens from 27 countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for up to 90 days without having to obtain visas for entry; and

Whereas the countries that currently participate in the Visa Waiver Program include Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; and

Whereas it is appropriate that the Republic of Poland be made eligible for the United States Department of State Visa Waiver Program: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and Congress of the United States to make the Republic of Poland eligible for the United States Department of State Visa Waiver Program; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to all members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation and to Przemyslaw Grudzinski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United States.

POM-32. A resolution adopted by the National Conference of Insurance Legislators relative to the Long-Term Care Partnership Program Act of 2004; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-33. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Parma, Ohio relative to the Pell Grant Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. NELSON of Florida:

S. 500. A bill to regulate information brokers and protect individual rights with respect to personally identifiable information; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 501. A bill to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 502. A bill to revitalize rural America and rebuild main street, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 503. A bill to expand Parents as Teachers programs and other quality programs of early childhood home visitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 504. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a scholarship and

loan repayment program for public health preparedness workforce development to eliminate critical public health preparedness workforce shortages in Federal, State, local, and tribal public health agencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 505. A bill to amend the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area Act of 2000 to adjust the boundary of the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 506. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a scholarship and loan repayment program for public health preparedness workforce development to eliminate critical public health preparedness workforce shortages in Federal, State, local, and tribal public health agencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 507. A bill to establish the National Invasive Species Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BAYH, Mr. DAYTON, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 508. A bill to provide for the environmental restoration of the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HARKIN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 509. A bill to improve the operation of energy markets; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. TALENT):

S. 510. A bill to reduce and eliminate electronic waste through recycling; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. COBURN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 511. A bill to provide that the approved application under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for the drug commonly known as RU-486 is deemed to have been withdrawn, to provide for the review by the Comptroller General of the United States of the process by which the Food and Drug Administration approved such drug, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. REED):

S. 512. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. REED, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 513. A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BYRD:

S. 514. A bill to complete construction of the 13-State Appalachian development high-

way system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BYRD:

S. 515. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to increase the maximum Federal share of the costs of State programs under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 516. A bill to advance and strengthen democracy globally through peaceful means and to assist foreign countries to implement democratic forms of government, to strengthen respect for individual freedom, religious freedom, and human rights in foreign countries through increased United States advocacy, to strengthen alliances of democratic countries, to increase funding for programs of nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and private groups that promote democracy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 517. A bill to establish a Weather Modification Operations and Research Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DODD):

S. 518. A bill to provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 519. A bill to amend the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 to authorize additional projects and activities under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. BURR):

S. 520. A bill to limit the jurisdiction of Federal courts in certain cases and promote federalism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 521. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis C virus infection; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 522. A bill for the relief of Obain Attouoman; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 523. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to rename the death gratuity payable for deaths of members of the Armed Forces as fallen hero compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 524. A bill to strengthen the consequences of the fraudulent use of United States or foreign passports and other immigration documents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 525. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to reauthorize the Act, to improve early learning