

S. 3312

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3312, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure that victims of public health emergencies have meaningful and immediate access to medically necessary health care services.

S. CON. RES. 93

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 93, a concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month".

S. RES. 598

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 598, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States to lead renewed international efforts to assist developing nations in conserving natural resources and preventing the impending extinction of a large portion of the world's plant and animal species.

S. RES. 618

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 618, a resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and memorializing the citizens of the United States, Kenya, and Tanzania whose lives were claimed as a result of the al Qaeda led terrorist attacks.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 624—DESIGNATING AUGUST 2008 AS "NATIONAL TRUANCY PREVENTION MONTH"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 624

Whereas public schools in the United States are facing a dropout crisis, with approximately 1,200,000 students not graduating from high school on time and only 70 percent of students earning high school diplomas;

Whereas truancy has been shown to be the first and best indicator that a child will drop out of school, use marijuana for the first time, and commit juvenile crimes by the age of 15;

Whereas the incidence of truancy in a recent national survey found that 11 percent of eighth grade students, 16 percent of tenth grade students, and 35 percent of twelfth grade students reported skipping 1 or more days of school during the previous 30 days;

Whereas chronic truants often miss more days of school than they attend;

Whereas absentee rates relate directly to graduation rates and are highest in public schools in urban areas;

Whereas truant eighth graders are more likely to say they do not believe they will graduate from high school or attend college than their peers who attend regularly;

Whereas truancy has been found to be a risk factor for substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and school dropout;

Whereas the average annual income for a high school dropout in 2005 was \$17,299, compared to \$26,933 for a high school graduate;

Whereas it has been demonstrated that when truancy is addressed, there is a reduction in the rates of daytime crime, juvenile crime, drug use, and delinquency;

Whereas effective truancy reduction programs can take many forms and can be implemented in many different settings, including in schools, courts, and through community programs;

Whereas truancy prevention programs focused on middle grade students are key to preventing future dropouts; and

Whereas truancy reduction programs are highly cost effective, reduce juvenile and adult crime, and save taxpayer money: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 2008 as "National Truancy Prevention Month";

(2) recognizes the significant harm of chronic truancy to the youth of the United States;

(3) acknowledges the work being done by truancy prevention programs throughout the United States to help at-risk youth; and

(4) encourages law enforcement, school officials, the judiciary, community leaders, and the business community to work together to address truancy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 625—DESIGNATING AUGUST 16, 2006, AS NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY

Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 625

Whereas the airborne forces of the Armed Forces have a long and honorable history as units of adventuresome, hardy, and fierce warriors who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the effective ground combat power of the United States by Air Force air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and, indeed, to the far corners of the world;

Whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, an event that validated the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind the battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas the United States experiment of airborne infantry attack began on June 25, 1940, when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War, and was launched when 48 volunteers began training in July 1940;

Whereas the success of the Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately preceding the entry of the United States into World War II led to the formation of a formidable force of airborne units that have served with distinction and have had repeated success in armed hostilities;

Whereas among those airborne units are the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions, the venerable 82nd Airborne Division, the versatile 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the airborne regiments and battalions (some as components of those divisions, some as separate units) that achieved distinction as the elite 75th Ranger Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 187th Infantry (Airborne) Regiment, the 503rd, 507th, 508th, 517th, 541st, and 542nd Parachute Infantry Regiments, the 88th Glider Infantry Regiment, the 509th, 551st, and 555th Parachute Infantry Battalions, the 325th and 327th Glider Infantry, and the 550th Airborne Infantry Battalion;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne forces during World War II prompted the evolution of those forces into a diversified force of parachute and air assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force that has evolved from those World War II beginnings is an agile, powerful force that, in large part, is composed of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the 75th Ranger Regiment;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force also includes other elite forces composed entirely of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control teams, all or most of which comprise the forces of the United States Special Operations Command;

Whereas in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special forces units, and units of the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), together with other units of the Armed Forces, have been prosecuting the war against terrorism by carrying out combat operations in Afghanistan, training operations in the Philippines, and other operations elsewhere;

Whereas in the aftermath of the President's announcement of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special forces units, and units of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 25th Infantry Division, together with other units of the Armed Forces, have been prosecuting the war against terrorism, carrying out combat operations, conducting civil affairs missions, and assisting in establishing democracy in Iraq;

Whereas the airborne forces are and will continue to be at the ready and the forefront until the Global War on Terrorism is concluded;

Whereas of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, all have achieved distinction by earning the right to wear the airborne's "Silver Wings of Courage", thousands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, 69 have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished-Service Cross, Silver Star, or other decorations and awards for displays of such traits as heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor;

Whereas the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are members of a proud and honorable fraternity of the profession of arms that is made exclusive by those distinctions which, together