

Product Safety, and Insurance of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2010, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE,
CUSTOMS, AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness of the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2010, at 1 p.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Doubling U.S. Exports: Are U.S. Sea Ports Ready for the Challenge?"

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT
MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE,
AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 29, 2010, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Developing Federal Employees and Supervisors: Mentoring, Internships, and Training in the Federal Government."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that George Wilder, a detailee in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the debate on this legislation.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 820, 821, 822, and 823; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the Record; the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

David J. Hale, of Kentucky, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

Kerry B. Harvey, of Kentucky, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

Alicia Anne Garrido Limtiaco, of Guam, to be United States Attorney for the District of Guam and concurrently United States Attorney for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands for the term of four years.

Kenneth J. Gonzales, of New Mexico, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico for the term of four years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

DANIEL PEARL FREEDOM OF THE
PRESS ACT OF 2009

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3714 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3714) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to include in the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights and Practices information about freedom of the press in foreign countries, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I congratulate the Senate for enacting the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act, H.R. 3714, a bill to strengthen and protect press freedoms around the world. I am proud to cosponsor the Senate companion to this bill, S. 1739.

I congratulate and commend my good friend, Senator DODD, for his leadership on this bill and for his longstanding commitment to freedom of the press. I have worked closely with Senator DODD for many years on legislation to establish a Federal shield law for journalists, and I am pleased that the Judiciary Committee recently reported Federal shield legislation. I also commend Representative ADAM SCHIFF for championing this important legislation in the House of Representatives.

The Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act will amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require the Secretary of State to include information about freedom of the press practices in other countries in the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. The bill will also require that this report identify countries in which there are violations of freedom of the press, such as physical attacks on journalists, imprisonment, and censorship by foreign governments.

The Committee to Protect Journalists reported that more journalists

have been killed around the world in 2009 than in any other year since that organization first started tracking this data in 1981. This troubling report demonstrates that the press freedoms that we often take for granted at home are in danger of being snuffed out in many other parts of the world. I believe that this bill will help to reverse this trend and to signal to the world community that the United States is committed to ensuring freedom of the press at home and abroad.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote in a letter to fellow Founding Father John Adams that "[t]he light which has been shed on mankind by the art of printing has eminently changed the condition of the world . . . And while printing is preserved, it can no more recede than the sun return on his course." Although these words were written almost two centuries ago, the critical role of a free and vibrant press is no less significant today. Again, I congratulate the lead sponsors of this important legislation for their commitment to freedom of the press. I urge the President to promptly sign this important legislation into law.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3714) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE
CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 264, just received from the House and now at the desk.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 264) authorizing the use of the Capitol grounds for the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 264) was agreed to.

RECOGNIZING AVIATION CONTRIBUTIONS IN HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 61 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 61) expressing the sense of the Congress that general aviation pilots and industry should be recognized for the contributions made in response to Haiti earthquake relief efforts.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 61) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 61

Whereas, on January 12, 2010, the country of Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake;

Whereas, after the earthquake, general aviation pilots rallied to provide transportation for medical staff and relief personnel;

Whereas more than 4,500 relief flights were made by general aviators in the first 30 days after the earthquake;

Whereas business aircraft alone conducted more than 700 flights, transporting 3,500 passengers, and over 1,000,000 pounds of cargo and supplies;

Whereas relief flights were fully paid for by individual pilots and aircraft owners;

Whereas smaller general aviation aircraft were able to deliver supplies and medical personnel to areas outside Port-Au-Prince which larger aircraft could not serve; and

Whereas the selfless efforts of the general aviation community have saved countless lives and provided humanitarian assistance in a time of need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the United States Congress—

(1) recognizes the many contributions of the general aviation pilots and industry to the Haiti earthquake relief efforts; and

(2) encourages the continued generosity of general aviation pilots and operators in the ongoing humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti.

CONGRATULATING THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate con-

sideration of S. Con. Res. 62, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 62) congratulating the outstanding professional public servants, both past and present, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

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

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today the Senate is considering a resolution recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, known as NRCS.

Congress established the Soil Conservation Service, the predecessor to NRCS, in April of 1935. Since that time, the agency has aided landowners in implementing conservation measures to protect and enhance our Nation's natural resources. Meanwhile, American farmers and ranchers have become the most productive of any on Earth—ensuring a safe, diverse, and nutritious food supply for their fellow citizens and many of the world's citizens.

Today, NRCS administers more than 20 conservation programs that provide technical and financial assistance to landowners. These programs improve soil and water quality, increase energy efficiency, enhance agricultural practices, and retire marginal lands to create and protect wildlife habitat. NRCS has directly contributed to the protection or establishment of 160 million acres of wildlife habitat and to the preservation, restoration, or enhancement of 9 million acres of wetlands.

We have seen real progress over the past 75 years, but I would argue private lands conservation is more important in 2010 than ever before, as we confront challenges such as climate change and loss of open space, and explore opportunities for creating wealth in rural communities through renewable energy production and water quality and carbon credit trading.

Properly managed working lands generate environmental benefits we all enjoy, such as clean air, water made clean by filtering through forests and fields, high-quality soils that capture carbon and make life possible, and wildlife habitat that promotes biodiversity and offers recreational opportunities such as fishing and hunting. With 70 percent of U.S. lands in private hands, the continuation of successful farm bill conservation programs—along with other technical assistance efforts—should be of interest to all of us.

NRCS programs provide important public benefits while working with landowners on a voluntary basis. This unique approach is aided by the agency's presence in every county of every State. Agency employees in every of-

fice work toward the common goal of conserving natural resources for the benefit of the landowner and all Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution recognizing the NRCS's 75 years of service.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 62) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 62

Whereas the well-being of the United States is dependent on productive soils along with abundant and high-quality water and related natural resources;

Whereas the Natural Resources Conservation Service (in this resolution referred to as "NRCS") was established as the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture in 1935 to assist farmers, ranchers, and other landowners in protecting soil and water resources on private lands;

Whereas Hugh Hammond Bennett, the first Chief of the Soil Conservation Service and the "father of soil conservation", led the creation of the modern soil conservation movement that established soil and water conservation as a national priority;

Whereas the NRCS, with the assistance of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, State governments, and local partners, developed a new mechanism of American conservation service delivery, which brings together private individuals with Federal, State, and local governments to achieve common conservation objectives;

Whereas the NRCS provides a vital public service by supplying technical expertise and financial assistance to cooperating private landowners for the conservation of soil and water resources;

Whereas the NRCS, as authorized by Congress, has developed and provided land conservation programs that have resulted in the restoration and preservation of millions of acres of wetlands, forests, and grasslands that provide innumerable benefits to the general public in the form of recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, water quality, and reduced soil erosion;

Whereas the NRCS is the world leader in soil science and soil surveying;

Whereas the NRCS is the national leader in the inventory of natural resources on private lands, providing national leaders and the public with the status and trends related to these resources and helping forecast the availability of critical water supplies;

Whereas the NRCS has helped communities develop and implement thousands of locally led projects that continue to provide flood control, soil conservation, water supply, and recreational benefits to all Americans, while providing business and job creation opportunities as well;

Whereas, since its establishment, the NRCS has developed, tested, and demonstrated conservation practices, helped develop the science and art of conservation, and continues to strive toward innovation;