

On Saturday, we should join them in committing to work toward a malaria-free future. To that end and in support of the World Malaria Day, I have introduced a resolution with Senators ISAKSON, BINGAMAN, DURBIN, CARDIN, WICKER, BROWNBACK, and CANTWELL reaffirming U.S. leadership for efforts to combat malaria. I hope our colleagues will support this resolution and, more importantly, join us over the coming months and years in working toward this year's theme: "counting malaria out."

Mr. BEGICH. 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 related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as World Malaria Day and in the United States as Malaria Awareness Day;

Whereas, despite malaria being completely preventable and treatable and the fact that malaria was eliminated in the United States over 50 years ago, more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting malaria;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, nearly 1,000,000 people die from malaria each year, the vast majority of whom are children under the age of 5 in Africa;

Whereas malaria greatly affects child health, with a child dying from malaria roughly every 30 seconds and nearly 3,000 children dying from malaria every day;

Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, with estimates by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that malaria infection causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and from 75,000 to 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas HIV infection increases the risk and severity of malarial illness, and malaria increases the viral load in HIV-positive people, which can lead to increased transmission of HIV and more rapid disease progression, with substantial public health implications;

Whereas in malarial regions, many people are co-infected with malaria and one or more of the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) such as hookworm and schistosomiasis, which causes a pronounced exacerbation of anemia and several adverse health consequences;

Whereas the malnutrition and chronic illness that result from childhood malaria leads to increased absenteeism in school and perpetuates cycles of poverty;

Whereas an estimated 90 percent of deaths from malaria occur in Africa, and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership estimates that malaria costs countries in Africa \$12,000,000,000 in lost economic productivity each year;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimates that malaria accounts for 40 percent of healthcare expenditures in high-burden countries, demonstrating that effective,

long-term malaria control is inextricably linked to the strength of health systems;

Whereas heightened efforts over recent years to prevent and treat malaria are currently saving lives;

Whereas the progress and funding to control malaria has increased ten-fold since 2000, in large part due to funding under the President's Malaria Initiative (a United States Government initiative designed to cut malaria deaths in half in target countries in sub-Saharan Africa), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank, and new financing by other donors;

Whereas the President's Malaria Initiative has purchased almost 13,000,000 artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT), protected over 17,000,000 people through spraying campaigns, and distributed over 6,000,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has distributed 70,000,000 bed nets to protect families from malaria and provided 74,000,000 malaria patients with ACTs, and the World Bank's Booster Program is scheduled to commit approximately \$500,000,000 in International Development Association funds for malaria control in Africa;

Whereas public and private partners are developing effective and affordable drugs to treat malaria, with more than 23 types of malaria vaccines in development;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vector control, or the prevention of malaria transmission via anopheles mosquitoes, which includes a combination of methods such as insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, and source reduction (larval control), has been shown to reduce severe morbidity and mortality due to malaria in endemic regions;

Whereas the impact of malaria efforts have been documented in numerous regions, such as in Zanzibar, where malaria prevalence among children shrank from 20 percent to less than 1 percent between 2005 and 2007, and in Rwanda, where malaria cases and deaths appeared to decline rapidly after a large-scale distribution of bed nets and malaria treatments in 2006; and

Whereas a malaria-free future will rely on consistent international, national, and local leadership and a comprehensive approach addressing the range of health, development, and economic challenges facing developing countries: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day, including the achievable target of ending malaria deaths by 2015;

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Malaria Awareness Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to raise awareness and support to save the lives of those affected by malaria;

(3) reaffirms the goals and commitments to combat malaria in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-293);

(4) commends the progress made by anti-malaria programs, including the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria;

(5) reaffirms United States support for and contribution toward the achievement of the targets set by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership Global Malaria Action plan;

(6) encourages fellow donor nations to maintain their support and honor their funding commitments for malaria programs worldwide;

(7) urges greater integration of United States and international health programs targeting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis,

neglected tropical diseases, and basic child and maternal health; and

(8) commits to continued United States leadership in efforts to reduce global malaria deaths, especially through strengthening health care systems that can deliver effective, safe, high-quality interventions when and where they are needed and assure access to reliable health information and effective disease surveillance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 61, the nomination of Ladda Tammy Duckworth to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the Record; that 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 nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Ladda Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1664

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 1664 has been received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1664) to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to prohibit unreasonable and excessive compensation and compensation not based on performance standards.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, April 23; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the

morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of S. 386.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, tomorrow, the Senate will resume consideration of the Fraud Enforcement Recovery Act, and rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the day in relation to the pending amendments. Earlier today, the majority leader announced if the Senate is unable to complete action on the bill tomorrow, the Senate would remain in session through the weekend.

In addition, the Senate will turn to the consideration of the House message to request a conference with respect to the budget resolution when it is available. Senators should expect rollcall votes in relation to motions to instruct the conferees during tomorrow's session.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order following the remarks of Senator DURBIN.

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

LADDA "TAMMY" DUCKWORTH CONFIRMATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska for yielding to me and I also thank him for reading into the RECORD the approval of the nomination of Tammy Duckworth as Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Veterans' Administration. She is going to have an exceptional responsibility as the chief communicator for the VA, but I cannot think of a better person to fill that job.

Tammy Duckworth's life is one of service to her country. She was born into a military family. The daughter of a marine, she is a second generation Purple Heart recipient.

Tammy started her own military career by joining ROTC in graduate school. She was commissioned in the Army Reserve in 1992. After completing helicopter flight school, she joined the Illinois National Guard in 1996.

In 2004, Tammy was a doctoral student when she made a personal request to be deployed to Iraq. On the afternoon of November 12, 2004, she was on her last mission of the day flying a helicopter for the Illinois National Guard in Baghdad. Her Blackhawk helicopter was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade that ripped through the cockpit and hit Tammy in the legs. Not realizing the degree of her injuries, she

tried to assist her copilot in landing the damaged aircraft.

Once on the ground, her crew loaded Tammy onto a second helicopter. Tammy's next memory was waking up at Walter Reed with her husband, Bryan Bowsbey, also a member of the Illinois National Guard, by the side of her bed. She learned then that the incident in that helicopter had cost her both of her legs and shattered her right arm.

Well, 10 weeks later, after that horrendous experience, I met Tammy Duckworth. Each year, the President gives a State of the Union Address, and it has been my tradition to invite Illinois soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines who are recuperating in local military hospitals as my guests. That year, they told me there was a MAJ Tammy Duckworth from the Illinois National Guard who would join me. I will never forget it. She was in a wheelchair and in full dress uniform, with both legs missing, her arm in a sling, and her husband behind the wheelchair, and she had a big smile on her face. She came in and introduced herself. We got to know one another and spoke. We left my office then and went to an adjoining office for a press conference, where I introduced my guest to the Illinois press.

A number of people showed up from the Illinois media, and one was a friend of mine, a reporter for the Chicago Sun Times, Lynn Sweet. Lynn asked a hard question—an important one, but a very hard question for someone who is a disabled veteran having lost both of her legs in combat just a few weeks ago. Lynn asked of Major Duckworth: What do you think of those people who object to this war and complain that we never should have been in this war in the first place? What do you think of those who protest that this war should not have ever started?

Tammy paused for a moment and said: Isn't that why we are fighting this war, so that people in America can express their point of view regardless of whether they agree with this Government or not?

I was breathless at the end of that. I thought I cannot believe that answer from a woman who has been through what she had been through. I caught my breath and said: Are there any other questions? No. Afterward, I told Tammy that was the most amazing answer I can ever recall hearing from anybody. We had a good evening. I took her down to the Senate dinner before the State of the Union Address and introduced her to many colleagues, including JOHN MCCAIN, TOM HARKIN, DANNY INOUE, and many others. She was my guest at the State of the Union Address. I kept in touch with her.

Tammy went through rehab. The Walter Reed Military Hospital did an extraordinary job fitting her with computer-assisted legs so she could walk with crutches. She made a miraculous recovery. I kept in touch for the next several months, and when I visited

Walter Reed, a lot of those buff marines, who had lost a limb, said every time they were grunting and groaning and weren't sure they could go forward, somebody would say, "Come on, Tammy," and they would keep pushing forward. She became an inspiration to everybody. At the time, she was the most seriously injured woman veteran in the Iraq war.

I kept in touch with her, and a few months later I called her with a rather bold suggestion. I said: Tammy, have you ever thought about running for office? She said: Never. I said: Would you consider it? We have a vacancy in a congressional seat in Illinois where you live. She called me back and said: Bryan and I have a lot of questions to ask. I said I would be glad to try to answer them.

At the end of the day, she became a candidate for Congress—just 13 months after she had been shot down over Iraq. She ran a spirited campaign. She did not succeed, but she brought together the most amazing group of friends and supporters and volunteers I had ever seen. She was asked to head up the Illinois Veterans Affairs Department, where she did a terrific job. She started several first-in-the-Nation programs in that department: the Illinois Warrior Assistance Program, requiring additional screening for PTSD and traumatic brain injury; the GI Loan for Heroes Mortgage Loan Program; the VetsCash grant program, which provided over \$5 million in grants to service organizations; and Veterans Adaptive Activities Day, bringing together Illinois organizations specializing in adaptive recreations and sports.

Tammy is so self-sufficient and independent, it is hard to believe. She has her own pickup truck, which she likes to motor around in, which is all set up for her to use. She is so independent that the time came when her husband was activated to serve in Iraq, and instead of asking for special consideration because she would have been left alone in her rehabilitative state, she said: He wants to serve, and he should. He left for a year, and she kept things together while he was gone. She did a great job in the process.

When President Obama was elected, he called on Tammy to bring her ethic and record of public service to Washington. I know she is going to do a great job.

She was an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran. She knows the difficulties servicemembers can face in the battlefield. As a recipient of VA military care at Walter Reed, you can bet the patients won't have a stronger advocate in the VA and for the VA facilities themselves. She uses them today and understands the frustration bureaucracies can create. She will be a real fighter for veterans. She has the perspective of somebody who has worked with and for veterans and is one herself.

As the spouse of a servicemember who deployed to combat, she certainly