



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

No. 122

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of salvation, sometimes we are tempted to doubt Your promises and to feel cynical about the chaos in our world. When these feelings come, help us to remember Your great deeds in our Nation's history, recalling the many victories You have already helped us win.

Continue to lead our lawmakers like a shepherd in green pastures and beside still waters. Nourish their spirit with the food of Your wisdom, soothing their doubts and calming their fears. Give them indefatigable courage for the living of these challenging days, using them as instruments to share hope and encouragement to our Nation and world.

Lord, we thank You today for the life and legacy of Ambassador Chris Stevens.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, the Senate will now consider the motion to proceed to S. 3547, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. Seventy minutes will be equally divided this morning between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

We will begin consideration of the Veterans Jobs Corps bill today. It is unfortunate that we are having to go through another couple of filibusters on this bill, but that is what we have been through.

I mentioned yesterday on the floor that for the 6 years we have had a Democratic majority, there have been 380—this makes now 381—filibusters. During the time of Lyndon Johnson, 6 years, the same period of time, there was 1 filibuster—381 to 1. That is the kind of obstruction that has taken place in this body by the Republicans, and it is untoward by any stretch of the imagination. There has never been anything close to this.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. REID. I was disturbed and saddened to learn late last night of the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other personnel in an attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya. I would be happy to talk by name about them, but their names have not been released at this stage. It doesn't take away from how important the jobs are of these Foreign Service officers.

I join President Obama in condemning these senseless acts of violence. My thoughts are with the families of those who were killed in this horrible attack. It is too often forgotten that American diplomats risk their lives on a daily basis.

I had the good fortune in my days on the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House to travel the world. I always make sure, wherever I go, to visit with the Foreign Service personnel. They are everywhere. There is no group of people—and I tell them this every time I have the opportunity to visit with them—who do more for our country in a positive sense than these Foreign Service officers. They work so hard, and most of the time their duty stations are very difficult.

For example, take this good man, Ambassador Stevens, who was just confirmed a few months ago. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco. He taught English there. He was fluent in Arabic, French, and English. He served in the Foreign Service in Jerusalem, Cairo, and Saudi Arabia. He was the Staff Assistant of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. He had an education that was really unbelievably strong and powerful. He graduated from Berkeley. He had a law degree from Hastings, one of the premier law schools in the country. He had a master's degree from the National War College. What a loss to our country.

Our diplomatic corps is filled with admirable and dedicated public servants, and the four Americans who lost

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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their lives yesterday exemplify the courage that happens every day in diplomatic posts around the globe. They learn the language, and they live with the people wherever they go.

As I have indicated, I have traveled to many of the American Embassies abroad. I have always been so impressed and grateful for their leadership, and I communicate that to them every chance I get. We are so fortunate to have had Hillary Clinton leading the State Department for the last 3½ years.

I have indicated that Ambassador Stevens was not a political appointment; he was a Foreign Service officer. As I indicated, he served in the Peace Corps and spent his life giving his time and his talents to drum up democracy and American values around the world.

I support President Obama's directive to increase securing our diplomatic posts around the world and provide whatever resources are necessary to keep our personnel in Libya safe. I will continue to monitor the situation as we learn more about these terrible events.

JAMES BILLINGTON'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. REID. Madam President, Henry Ward Beecher, the famous abolitionist, once said, "A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life." I agree. Our Founding Fathers also agreed, and that is why we have the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress was initially the library of Thomas Jefferson. That is what started the Library of Congress. It was established in 1800. It was this country's first Federal cultural institution. It is the largest library in the world. There are 35 million books and 838 miles of bookshelves. The numbers are staggering. Almost 10,000 new items are added every day.

For 25 years the Librarian of Congress has been Dr. James Billington. He has been a faithful and effective leader. I first got to know Dr. Billington in 1986 when I came to the Senate. There was a little squabble between a couple of the more senior Senators, which was a wonderful opportunity for me because one of the very senior Senators thought that maybe he deserved more than being the chair of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch. I grabbed that. I was happy to do that. I loved that experience. I learned a lot about what goes on here and how we pay for things. At that time it was an effort to really hurt the Library of Congress, so I had that opportunity to stand for the Library of Congress. Every time we had a vote, we won and they were not able to damage the Library of Congress.

I got to know Dr. Billington. I had the good fortune to travel once with him to Russia. Dr. Billington, before coming to the Library of Congress, was one of the foremost scholars on the former Soviet Union. He knew every-

thing about that land. He still writes about the new Russia. He is a very stalwart academic. When he took over the Library of Congress in 1987, computers were a scarcity, but he had a vision of what the future should be, and he thought it would be important to digitize the Library's collections and make them available on the Internet. There was a little pushback at first, but, of course, now that is history. That is what happened.

I have such admiration for him as a person. He is a good person not only from an academic standing but as an administrator. I am glad they were unable to slash the Library's budget as they tried, and as a result, people came to a better understanding of what the Library of Congress was all about. I am glad I was able to play a part in that. He has always ensured that the Library of Congress would remain an unmatched resource for knowledge and enlightenment. So it is with pleasure that I congratulate my friend Dr. Billington on 25 years—a quarter of a century—of dedicated service at the Library of Congress.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. REID. Very quickly, Madam President, I was very disappointed to hear Speaker BOEHNER say yesterday that he was giving up on reaching a bipartisan agreement to avoid huge cuts to both domestic and defense programs. I don't feel that way. I can assure everyone within the sound of my voice that I have not given up on finding a reasonable and balanced approach to reducing our debt and avoiding these difficult cuts. Democrats agree that across-the-board cuts are not the best way to solve the problems. Sequestration is a bitter pill, but we did that on purpose. That was no accident. That is why there was overwhelming support for the budget deficit reduction act to have sequestration. The sequestration was engineered to be hard to take, so it forced us to compromise. It was designed to be tough enough to force the two sides to reach a balanced deal. That is why there was widespread bipartisan support for this.

I hope Speaker BOEHNER will reconsider. I believe it is much too early to give up. I urge my Republican colleagues not to give up on themselves because I am not going to give up on them. It is time for them to stop rooting for the economy to fail and root for Congress to succeed and reach common ground. Remember, the markets are watching our every move, with Moody's saying yesterday that they were thinking of downgrading our debt standing credit rating. This is not the right time to say there is no hope in getting things done. I disagree. I say that the glass is half full, not half empty.

The Speaker's statement came an hour after that reminder from Moody's came forward. We are willing to work. I say that to my friend JOHN BOEHNER

and to everyone else. We are willing to negotiate, we are willing to cooperate, we are willing to consider the difficult cuts to programs we hold dear, and I think the Republicans should do the same. So far they have refused. Due to the orders of their leader Grover Norquist, they have refused to raise even a penny of new revenue. They have refused to ask millionaires to contribute their fair share to help reduce the debt and the deficit. And Democrats won't agree to a one-sided solution that lets the superwealthy off the hook while forcing the middle class and those in greatest need to bear all the hardship. I repeat, we are willing to consider difficult cuts to programs we believe are extremely important.

The sequestration is not a perfect legislative tool, but rarely do we do anything legislatively that is perfect. That is the way it has been for generations. But at least it has the benefit of being a balanced approach, and it has the power of law.

Republicans, including Vice Presidential candidate PAUL RYAN, would do well to remember that they voted for the sequestration.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, we learned yesterday, and are receiving reports this morning, of the attacks against the U.S. Embassy in Cairo and the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. In Benghazi, our Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed in the service of our Nation. Our thoughts and sympathies today are with the families of these brave Americans.

These attacks remind us of the sacrifices made on a daily basis by foreign service officers, diplomatic security personnel, and our marine security guards. I join my colleagues in strongly condemning the murder of these innocent Americans, and I support employing every available tool at our disposal to ensure the safety of Americans overseas and to hunt down those responsible for these attacks.

Yesterday we commemorated the anniversary of the attacks of September 11, and today we are reminded that brave Americans serve us every day at the risk of their own lives. We honor the Americans we lost in Libya and we will stand united in our response.

Among the things we can agree on in Washington is that the attacks on the United States and its representatives will be met with resolve and that America's presence and defense of our national interests across the globe will not be deterred by the acts of violent extremists.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

VETERANS JOBS CORPS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3457, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 476, S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans job corps, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the next 70 minutes will be evenly divided and controlled between the two leaders, with Republicans controlling the first half.

The Senator from Tennessee.

MAKING TOUGH CHOICES

Mr. CORKER. Madam President, this is a great Nation.

I was interested to hear the comments of our two leaders today, and I am saddened, as are all of us here, regarding the news of Ambassador Stevens and three other hard-working public servants who represent us. We are a great Nation. This is a great Nation. People such as those individuals demonstrate the exceptionalism of Americans all around the world.

That is why it saddens me to come to the floor today, on the eve of hearing about whether the Federal Reserve, which will decide tomorrow, is going to print more money. Our markets are volatile each day, trying to figure out and read the minds of what our central bankers are going to do. Two days ago I spoke with one of our leading administration officials—someone whom I respect greatly—who had just attended a meeting in the Asian area where Christine Legarde was speaking to a small group of folks. She is the head of the International Monetary Fund. She stated that the real difference in how the world is going to evolve over the next short term and how the economies of the world are going to react is based upon whether people in Europe and people in the United States of America are going to rise up and deal with the problems they have internally.

I look at what is happening on both sides of the Atlantic, with central bankers printing money to buy debt of great nations—nations that have evolved, that are sophisticated, that are democracies. They pave the way for other cultures to evolve and develop economically themselves. Yet we wake up in a world where because politicians in Europe and politicians here in the United States of America have not risen to deal with the fiscal issues

within their own countries, the central bankers are left in a situation where they are printing money and buying debt in order to move a crisis further away from the day we now live in.

I know the majority leader talked about negotiations that are taking place regarding sequester and I know everybody in this body has been involved in some meeting of some kind to deal with the fiscal issues our Nation faces. I realize that over the next 60 days there is likely nothing that we as a body are going to do. I understand that. I don't think anyone in America expects that is going to happen over the next week and a half. We will figure out a way to move out of here and hopefully not do any damage to our country.

What I hope will happen is when we come back after the election, during a lameduck session or shortly thereafter, all of us will get serious about dealing with our Nation's fiscal issues. The majority leader spoke to the economy. I want our economy to do well. I want citizens in Tennessee and New York and all across our country to do well. Yet what we have done over the course of the last year and a half or so is passed silly little bills that have nothing whatsoever to do with sustaining a long-term economy, and we find ourselves again waking up on the eve of finding out whether the Chairman of our Federal Reserve is going to print more money to buy our debt to make it less painful for us and cause us to be in a position where we put off making the tough decisions. I hope the Federal Reserve Chairman tomorrow is going to show the humility he needs to show, that monetary policy has its limits, and it is up to us now to do our job.

So I am saddened today about the news of some wonderful public servants having lost their lives. I wake up every day with a tremendous sense of privilege to serve in this body and to represent people such as those who died, who are living in tough circumstances around the world, to make sure that all of us here are safe. I hope what will happen in this body is that Republicans and Democrats alike will honor the sacrifices, as we honored them yesterday and we today solemnly think about, that people make around this world on our behalf to keep us free and safe, and that we as a body, Republicans and Democrats, are going to rise and do the things we need to do to put in place a real fiscal reform package that will not rely upon the sugar of the Federal Reserve, but that we will do the things we need to do to create a sustained economy.

I believe—and I think most people in this body know it when they think about it—we are one fiscal reform package away from being able to focus on being a great Nation—we are a great Nation—but to be able to focus on that. When we look at where we are as a country, with the tremendous energy resources that 2 years ago we didn't even realize we had in this continent;

when we look at the technology breakthroughs that are happening in this great country; when we look at the pharmaceutical breakthroughs that are happening and saving lives around the world, we are one reform package away from putting this problem in our rear-view mirror and focusing on the greatness of this Nation.

So, again, I know we are not going to do anything over the next week and a half and we are not going to do anything over the next 60 days. But I hope Senators from all around this country and House Members from all around this country will come back after this election and have the courage that has been demonstrated so often by so many Americans to make the tough choices that are necessary to put our fiscal woes behind us, to cause this economy to grow, to allow the standard of living of Americans to rise and, candidly, to help lift hundreds of millions of people around this world out of poverty. That is what people are depending on. It is an embarrassment to find ourselves in this position where we are being diminished around the world, because people are looking at us—the great example to the world of free enterprise and limited government and democracy—and knowing that we don't have that courage today.

So I am hopeful we are going to come back and deal with these issues, we are going to do it in a bipartisan way, and then as a Nation we can continue to focus on our greatness and we can help not only uplift our own citizens through economic growth but help continue to be a beacon to the world.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam President, I have been coming to the Senate floor on a daily basis to talk about the importance of the wind production tax credit, and I intend to do so today. But before I bring up that important topic I want to speak to a situation, an incident, that is on everybody's mind; that is, what happened in Libya earlier today.

I think all of us in the Senate adhere, or should adhere, to the concept that politics should cease at the water's edge. I hope in this terrible tragedy that philosophy will hold fast. I, along with all Coloradans, absolutely condemn the murders—and that is what they were—of Ambassador Stevens and other U.S. State Department personnel today in Libya.

I am a member of the Senate Committees on Armed Services and Intelligence, and I know the men and

women of our diplomatic corps do absolutely vital work under difficult conditions every single day. Ambassador Stevens was a dedicated public servant who was working in Libya to advance freedom and democracy, and we will continue undeterred in our pursuit of those goals.

We salute the service and sacrifice of all those who were taken from us today, and their families are in our thoughts and prayers.

WIND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT

Madam President, as I mentioned when I first rose, I am here again on the floor of the Senate to urge all of us to take action on an issue that already has broad bipartisan support; that is, the renewal of the production tax credit for wind energy.

I was back in my home State of Colorado for the August work period, as I know the Presiding Officer and all my colleagues were, and I saw firsthand the very positive effects wind energy has had on my State of Colorado. I also saw the sobering effects of congressional inaction, which only strengthened my resolve to have extended the production tax credit.

I want to share some specific insights and developments in Colorado and then move to the State I am going to discuss today in a little bit.

Xcel Energy operates in my home State. It has a wide area in the upper Midwest as well, but it announced it had set a record for the amount of electricity generated from wind resources. At one point Xcel's Colorado customers got over half—to be precise, 57 percent—of their electricity generated from wind power. This is a huge success, and it highlights in so many ways the potential that wind energy has to fill a larger and larger portion of our energy portfolio as this industry fully matures.

Sadly, though, I also saw the negative effects of our failure to renew the wind PTC. Vestas Wind systems, which the Presiding Officer is familiar with, does business in Colorado. It announced layoffs last month affecting 2,300 workers worldwide who are manufacturing the turbines themselves, including about 100 workers at Vestas' facilities in Pueblo and Brighton, CO.

This was both predictable and predicted, and it is time for us to act to protect American workers in the wind energy industry. Each day we fail to act to extend the production tax credit, more American jobs are put at risk, and we further cede more of our clean energy leadership to foreign competition. Look no further than Colorado for both the promise of wind energy but also the peril of congressional inaction.

Of course, these effects are not limited to my State. I am biased. I think I represent the best State in the Nation, but every day I come to the floor and I highlight a different State and the positive impacts wind energy has had there. Literally every State in the Nation has a stake in this crucial wind industry space. Today, therefore, I

would like to talk about the great State of North Carolina where wind energy has literally boomed in recent years.

North Carolina—as have a lot of States—has seen a tremendous growth in its wind manufacturing sector. What are the numbers? Well, as of 2012, there are at least 17 wind manufacturing facilities in North Carolina that provide jobs to their local communities, and at least one more facility is scheduled to come online soon. The facilities produce everything from steel to lubricants and bearings.

We can see all the green circles which designate where these facilities are all across the great State of North Carolina. Let me focus on one manufacturer in North Carolina. It is PPG Industries. PPG is a major supplier of fiberglass to the wind industry, and there are hundreds of jobs linked to its activities. Their fiberglass facilities are in Shelby and Lexington, which are outside of Charlotte and Greensboro, respectively. Their growing role has been good for not only the company but for North Carolina. In 2010 PPG expanded its presence and brought online an additional furnace and created another 1,800 jobs. In sum, across North Carolina there are over 2,000 good-paying jobs, and those jobs then create a ripple effect.

If we want to look more broadly at North Carolina, they are manufacturing but they also have very significant wind energy potential in the State itself. Offshore wind resources are abundant. The American Wind Energy Association estimates that wind energy could provide enough electricity to power some 800,000 homes. That is not all: Onshore wind resources could also provide a substantial amount of power for the State.

If we look at these numbers, this is an important industry in North Carolina. It certainly has made a difference. But if we do not extend the wind production tax credit, this strong growth in the manufacturing sector plus the potential to harvest the wind in North Carolina is at risk and the years of strong progress we have seen here toward a clean energy future in North Carolina could be literally dashed if the wind production tax credit expires at the end of the year.

Here is the bad news. The wind industry in North Carolina, because they are anticipating the expiration of PTC, is beginning to downsize and shelve expansion plans, predictably. This story is being repeated potentially all over the country. It is heartbreaking. I remain hopeful, however. I am dedicated to extending the PTC. I know the Presiding Officer has been very helpful and very supportive and understands its importance.

A little bit of good news. The Senate Finance Committee passed a bipartisan tax extenders package as we left for our August State work period and it did include an extension of PTC. I want to stress an important point about that

effort: The package was bipartisan. I want to see the Senate take up the Finance Committee's legislation immediately and pass it immediately.

In a few hours the House is going to see an interesting discussion. The Presiding Officer served in the House. So did I. They are an equal partner of ours in the Senate. Over a dozen Members in the House are going to take the floor today and express their strong support for American jobs and the extension of the PTC. I am pleased these members of the House Sustainable Energy and Environmental Coalition will be adding their voices to what has become a bipartisan and now bicameral push to extend the PTC.

As I begin to close, let me also talk about the support that is out there in the country. It is a broad array of groups that have stood and said we think the PTC ought to be extended. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Governors Association, the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition, the American Farm Bureau Federation and many major national newspapers have all weighed in saying this is important to our country's future.

Members on both sides of the aisle, as I have mentioned, have said the PTC should be extended because they know and they have seen the positive effects of the PTC on their communities and across the country. They also know that wind energy—and renewable energy more generally—is the future. It is the wave of the future. There is no question. All you have to do is look at the rest of the world—look at China, look at Spain, look at Denmark, look at every developed country and the developing countries in Asia and India. They are all investing in clean energy. This is not something they are doing just to feel good. It is where economic growth will occur.

In sum, extending the PTC is a no-brainer. It is common sense. We ought to be doing the job we were sent here to do. We ought to be extending the PTC as soon as possible. PTC equals jobs. We ought to pass it as soon as possible. I am going to continue coming to the floor every day until we finish the job. I will not stop until we vote to protect American jobs. Failure to act has already hurt this vital industry. Continued inaction will result in the loss of thousands of American jobs which then has a ripple effect on the rest of the Nation's economy.

Colleagues, stand with me, stand with the Presiding Officer, stand with American workers. Let's extend the production tax credit now, as soon as possible.

I thank the Chair for her support and her interest.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for 10 minutes to address the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, last night when I went to sleep I was going over in my mind the speech I wanted to give here today—which is an important day in the history of the American space program. It is the day that President Kennedy challenged us to go to the Moon, to land safely on the Moon and to return safely as well.

When I woke up this morning I woke up to terrible news, to learn that our Ambassador in Libya had been killed by a mob. We've lost Ambassador Chris Stevens. We lost three others at the American Embassy in Libya. It is a terrible tragedy.

At the same time yesterday our Embassy in Cairo was stormed. Thanks to the vigilance of its leadership and our wonderful Marine Corps defending the Embassy, we lost no one in Cairo.

Madam President, I first want to extend to all of the families who lost someone in Libya overnight my extreme and definite condolences and sympathy. I am a little bit at a loss for words because these tragedies that happen to our men and women who serve at our Embassies happen all too frequently and then we say: A grateful nation never forgets; and then we go on to bash our Federal employees and our State Department people, saying: Oh, they have these cushy jobs in exotic places and they must be out eating brie somewhere.

We lost, at the Nairobi bombing, Consul General Bartley, head of our consulate service, who was serving there, one of the highest serving African Americans in our Foreign Service. His son interned there that summer, wanted to be like his dad. They died there. They died there. But he was at his duty station.

It has been almost 15 years. These men and women were serving the United States of America. They were at their duty station. They were trying to help Libya to rise up now to be able to create a government and be able to create opportunity for its own people, and they gave their lives. Ambassador Chris Stevens had already served two tours in Libya but wanted to go back again at this new moment in history, to stand up, to help Libya stand up a true government that was free and would give their people a chance at democracy and participating in a new Middle East.

And then there was Sean Smith, who was a 10-year veteran of the Foreign Service. He was an information management officer. He had served in Iraq. He is a father of two children, a devoted husband. We know what happened to them.

So we must continue our strong partnership with Libya after the fall of Qaddafi. But I call upon the new leadership: Call for calm, call for tolerance. If you are angry, there are ways to do protests and so on. You don't have to go around killing the American Ambassador when our Air Force flew over Libya and our President and our Con-

gress worked to support this new government coming up.

And then there is Cairo. Because of anger over a video—I do not know about this video. I don't know its content but I do know the outcome—that our Embassy in Cairo was stormed. They tore down our American flag. They replaced it with another flag. But it is the flag of the United States of America and our flag is in Egypt. Our flag is in Egypt because we are great allies to the Egyptian Government and great supporters of the Egyptian people as they come through the Arab spring—again, trying to create a new day and a new way.

I say to Ambassador Patterson and the entire staff, again: Our thoughts and prayers are with you. I was in Cairo. I know what they do every day. I know how, during the Arab spring many of them were locked in the Embassy, trying to keep our government functioning while their own families had to be evacuated. Some did not see their families for 3 weeks because they were inside, they couldn't leave, and we had the most massive evacuation of civilian employees in our history since, really, the beginning of some other armed conflicts.

So I say to those embassy staff, both our wonderful Ambassador, Anne Patterson, but to a lot of the little people who work at the Embassy, the people who keep the commercial commerce office open, the people who are doing the wonderful work with NGOs to show them how to build a free and new kind of society, and also to the foreign nationals who work in our Embassy—we think about you.

I say to the leadership in both countries again: Call for calm, call for tolerance. But I say to my colleagues here, we have to call for calm and tolerance right in this institution. We have to support our men and women in the State Department, our men and women in the military. All who serve overseas are representatives of the United States of America. Whether you are the Peace Corps or the Marine Corps; whether you are the Foreign Service or the commercial service or whatever—you are in the service of the United States of America, promoting our values, trying to help promote democracy and also trying to have economic and strategic cooperation.

I thank our Foreign Service staff. Many of them live in Maryland but that is not the point. They live in the United States of America. So I say to all, when you point your finger and say we don't need a government—I think we do need a government. And when we talk about standing up for our military now, in these tough budget times, absolutely we should. But remember there are others overseas who also carry our flag in very dangerous areas.

Let's start respecting the people who work for our government. Let's make sure they have the right resources to do their job and then let our President, our talented Secretary of State, help

work with the other world leaders to do something to bring about stability.

I feel very strongly about this. I guess what you are hearing from Senator MIKULSKI is grief for what has happened in Libya, worry about what has happened in Cairo, tension about what continues to happen in the Middle East, and then frustration about what goes on here. When all is said and done—more gets said than gets done and what is said is often not very good.

The world is watching us here. We are supposed to be the greatest democracy in the world. Not only are we supposed to be, I believe that we are. But democracy begins with us. Democracy is not only something written on a piece of paper which are our founding documents but we have to live what is in those founding documents. We have to, first of all, start with civility, start with respect, start with conversations among ourselves about how we could truly work together to help our country and to help our country help the world.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SPACE FLIGHT SPEECH

This is what it was all about 50 years ago when a young President went to Rice University. The Russians were pounding their chests. They put something up in the air called Sputnik. President Eisenhower had responded. We were going to do something called the National Defense Act. We were promoting math and science to catch up with the world. Does it sound familiar? Then, also, though, our President wanted to do more and he went to Rice University. During that speech he rallied the Nation on why, as part of his vision of the New Frontier, why we should travel into space. That historic day he said:

We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade, and do other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and our skills.

That is how in a robust way we took a nascent space program and transformed it into a space superpower. It literally took us to the frontier of space and took us to a new frontier.

For those 50 years, America continued to lead the way in space and to keep space a peaceful area. Not to militarize space, not to colonize it for a single country, but to explore and along the way in exploring the universe to get to invent science and technology that would help transform our lives here.

America continues to lead the way in space. As an appropriator for the space program I am so proud of what we continue to do—what we continue to do in the area of space exploration, space and space science.

Look at where we are now. We are right up there in the space station. We have completed its development. We are going to do new research that has never been done before and we are part of our wonderful, gallant astronaut

program. At the same time, we have invented new technologies to explore the universe. The work for the Hubble Telescope is located in Maryland both at Goddard and the Space Telescope Science Institute.

Most recently, we landed Curiosity on Mars, a robot the size of a Mini Cooper, that will tell us so much about our nearest neighbor. As President Kennedy might have said, I sent Curiosity to Mars not because it is easy but because it is hard and we are very curious.

Over the summer, we lost two of our great people—two of our great astronauts. We lost Dr. Sally Ride, the first woman to go into space, whom we so admired, and then we lost astronaut Neil Armstrong, who on July 20, 1969, took that giant step for mankind.

Tomorrow at the National Cathedral we will honor Astronaut Neil Armstrong, and later this year at the National Space Museum we will honor Dr. Sally Ride. We not only want to respect our astronauts of the past, we want to respect the astronauts of today and our astronauts of tomorrow. We want to respect all those wonderful young men and women who want to study space and aeronautics, who want to explore the new frontiers of today and will come up with new ideas that will lead to new jobs tomorrow.

We keep asking NASA to do the hard jobs, such as explore the universe, protect the planet, make airplanes safer and more reliable, look beyond the reach of Earth, develop those new technologies, and search for extraterrestrial life out there. Maybe it is out there, maybe it isn't—study Earth as if it were a distant planet. Maybe there is intelligent life on Earth. Let's look for that, and let's look for it right here. We need to continue to broaden our reach, to go beyond low-Earth orbit and also continue our research.

This year, there was a unique, bold partnership when a private company, SpaceX, sent cargo to dock at the International Space Station. No private company and few nations have accomplished that. This year, SpaceX will be joined by another private company, Orbital Science, which will launch from the east coast Spaceport Wallops. They are located in Virginia. It is a Maryland-Virginia cooperation. How exciting.

Our future in space will be built on innovation and discovery, whether it is the commercial rocket industry, the James Webb Space Telescope that will take us well beyond the work of the Hubble, new technologies, including fixing satellites or, again, that mission to planet Earth. New technologies don't just happen; they come from American ingenuity, but they are built through investments. They made America great and they made the missions of the United States worth imitating.

In the last couple weeks the Presiding Officer talked about an exceptional America. America is exceptional

because of the daring and the do of people such as our astronauts, because of talented people who think and study and come up with new ideas and because their government backed them.

I wish to conclude by saying I am proud of what President Kennedy announced. Right here in this body two people teamed up. Actually, it was one person in this body and the other was a Vice President. It was an odd couple. Their names were Vice President Lyndon Johnson and Margaret Chase Smith. Margaret Chase Smith was once the longest serving woman in Congress. I now hold that record. Margaret Chase Smith, from Maine, was a devotee of the space program. President Kennedy set the goal. He gave it to Lyndon, his Vice President, to make the goal into a reality. The Vice President turned to Congress, and Margaret Chase Smith helped carry the weight of the Congress to put in the right policies and the right funding. Isn't that a wonderful story? It is a wonderful story we need to take with us, that when we work together with our President and both parties work across the aisle, that is the new frontier which takes and keeps America an exceptional Nation.

God bless our President Kennedy, all the astronauts who risked their lives, and everyone who worked to create these new frontiers.

I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Madam President, I rise today to express my strong support for the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the bill. I would like to thank Senator NELSON for introducing the bill, and I would like to thank Senator MURRAY, chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, for bringing this bill to the Senate and for all she has done for our Nation's veterans.

Veterans have done so much for our country, serving courageously in the military, and they have been tested so profoundly and so many times over the last decade. These men and women have done everything for us. We owe them. That means they deserve the best health care and other benefits they have earned from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

And that means a home. Last weekend I was back in Minnesota for Habitat for Humanity, making critical home repairs for a Minnesota Guard veteran, SGT Brian Neill, and his family. Brian is a 23-year veteran of the National Guard, is part of the Minnesota National Guard unit, the legendary Red Bulls, who had their deployment in Iraq extended so that it

was one of the longest, if not the longest, deployment in U.S. history.

While Brian was in Iraq, his son was hit by a drunk driver while returning home from his junior ROTC training. He sustained a severe brain injury and is severely disabled.

In Iraq, Brian, who mentored younger soldiers, saved the life of one of those soldiers. Brian, being a 23-year vet, mentored these young kids. They were in a convoy, and he saw one of them get out and collapse. He recognized the heatstroke and saved his life.

Sergeant Neill himself returned from Iraq suffering from very serious physical and psychological wounds that leave his wife Jane as a caregiver for both Brian and their son. I have to tell you, they are the most wonderful people. It was an amazing experience to help them with home repairs to make sure they will have the home that meets their needs.

But when I talk to veterans in Minnesota these days, the thing I hear most about is jobs, about employment. Jobs mean money, of course, but it means much more. It means a new mission. Without a job, you really cannot reintegrate into your community and start a new phase of your life.

Veterans unemployment in Minnesota, as I am sure it is in the Presiding Officer's State of New York, is way too high. My message to employers in Minnesota is simple: These are the people you want to hire. They have skills. They have discipline. We all have a role to play in making sure veterans have jobs—employers in the private sector, State government, colleges and universities, municipalities, and also the Federal Government.

This is how we do it in Minnesota. Let me give an example. We had several thousand Red Bulls deployed to Kuwait. The Minnesota National Guard recognized that a large number of them were not going to have jobs when they came back, so the Guard and Minnesota's outstanding Department of Employment and Economic Development went upstream, as they say, to Kuwait to get ahead of the problem. They brought corporate leaders from Minnesota, businesses such as Target and Best Buy, and they also brought folks from MNSCU, which is the Minnesota State Colleges and University System, to Kuwait to provide training for the Guard members on entering or reentering the workforce. They were able to share valuable information with the Red Bulls on writing resumes, getting ready for an interview, and doing it well.

One of the problems is that very often soldiers coming back from Afghanistan, coming back from Iraq, from Kuwait, very often in a job interview will say: We did that, we did this, we did that. That is how you think in the military. Employers want to know what you yourself individually did. So it was simple. The employment guys from Target said: Say "I"—you know, little tips like that. And it has been very helpful.

So we all have a role to play. At the Federal level, last year we passed the VOW to Hire Heroes Act that expanded and created new tax credits for businesses that hire veterans. I have been spreading the word in Minnesota—I know the Presiding Officer has been spreading the word in New York—so our businesses know that for every unemployed veteran they hire, they can get a tax credit for up to \$9,600. That is \$9,600 for hiring a veteran who has a service-related disability and then ratchets down a little bit. But this is a good incentive for businesses to be hiring our veterans.

The legislation we are considering today, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act, is the next step that we can and should take at the Federal level. The bill creates a Veterans Job Corps through the Department of Veterans Affairs, in cooperation with other departments, where thousands of veterans will be able to work on conservation and resource management in our Nation's public lands. Under this bill, veterans will have the opportunity to restore and protect parks, forests, and other public lands, whether they be national, State or tribal. Veterans will be hired to maintain the infrastructure and facilities on these public lands. It will also provide funding for veterans to become firefighters and law enforcement officers. It will also provide licensing and certification for certain skills veterans had when they were deployed—emergency medical, nursing assistants, and also drivers. Many men and women drive in these theaters, and to ease their getting certification, this bill does that as well so they can work in our Nation's parks and these national lands that are so treasured.

This is really based on the Civilian Conservation Corps, the CCC from the New Deal, which was created through a combination of actions by Franklin Roosevelt and legislation, of course, by Congress. It was very successful. It was the most popular program of the New Deal. In fact, at that time veterans were specifically included among those who could be enrolled in the CCC. As I said, the CCC was one of the most successful programs to help us get through the Depression.

My wife Franni's uncle James, who died not long ago at the age of 96, worked for the post office, the Postal Service, and served with the U.S. Army postal service in England, France, and Germany during World War II—a "greatest generation" guy. But before that, during the Depression, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. He was part of the crew that built the road through Evans Notch, a beautiful, mountainous area at the border of Maine and New Hampshire. My wife is from Maine. This was one of James' proudest achievements in life. If you read his obituary, it was one of the most prominent parts, along with his service during World War II.

That is the kind of thing the Veterans Job Corps can be. We have to do

this work on our public lands, our parks, our forests. Our public lands need to be maintained and preserved and improved. Why not put our veterans to work doing it? They have the skills, they have the experience, and they have the discipline. For instance, if you spent a lot of time on duty outside and you work in teams, which is obviously true of a huge number of those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, you are going to be very well suited for this work. If you built roads in Iraq or Afghanistan, you are well prepared to maintain or manage resources in Minnesota's beautiful parks, forests, trails, and other public lands—under a little less pressure, by the way.

Minnesota has over 227,000 acres of land in 73 State and national park and recreation areas. That does not count our innumerable public lands under more local jurisdiction. Those are some of the most beautiful places in the country—the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, Voyageurs National Park, Superior and Chippewa National Forests, or the trail along the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, just to name a few. Those need to be protected, maintained, improved, and restored too. This is important work, and it is dignified work. If you are making sure it is in your obituary 70 years later, you know it is very important, dignified work. What better way to preserve the beauty of these places than having veterans do it, for our heroes to do it.

The bill also incorporates a number of other veterans job provisions from other bills sponsored by my colleagues from both sides of the aisle. The one I started to mention before is the certification-licensure requirements for becoming a nursing assistant or emergency medical technician—I knew I was looking for a word; it was "technician"—and for getting a commercial driver's license. This is also an issue on which my colleague, my senior Senator from Minnesota, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, has spent a lot of time.

The provision in this bill authored by Senator PRYOR also states that they have to take military training into consideration in issuing licenses for those jobs if they want to continue getting Federal funds for some important veteran employment programs that States administer. This will provide an additional incentive for States to make sure that servicemembers' highly relevant training and experience in these fields can be translated into civilian qualifications, eliminating the need for duplicative training and opening the door to many more jobs for highly trained veterans.

I can tell you, after seven USO tours, our men and women in the military are magnificent. They are highly trained and, man, are they disciplined and, man, are they great. They deserve this. The Veterans Job Corps is a great idea for employing our Nation's veterans doing the important work of preserving, protecting, and improving our Nation's public lands and serving as

first responders, police, and firefighters.

It is my strong hope that we will be able to bring debate on this bill to a close, pass it, and have it enacted into law. Our Nation's veterans deserve nothing less.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the bill that is pending, and I must say: Here we go again. And let me say that what we are doing today, under the auspices of helping returning veterans get jobs—and there is nothing wrong with wanting to do that and there is nothing wrong with trying to pay for that—is really passing a bill for political reasons so we can say we did things, because this is not going anywhere in the House of Representatives.

A couple of points I would make are that, first, yesterday, on the anniversary of 9/11, we started the consideration of this bill, but this bill has had no hearings, no committee work, and essentially no debate until today, despite the fact that it will affect six different Federal agencies, at a minimum.

Before I discuss the bill itself, though, I want to mention another anniversary. One year ago yesterday, SPC Christopher D. Horton, Army SPC Bret D. Isenhower, and Army PVT Tony J. Potter, Jr. were killed in Afghanistan. They were 1 of 13 Oklahomans from the Oklahoma National Guard serving in Afghanistan who paid the ultimate sacrifice—a pure and noble sacrifice. As we debate a bill that will largely benefit those who have safely returned home after serving their country, it is important that we not forget those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, this pure and noble sacrifice for the benefit of the rest of us.

The bill before the Senate provides \$1 billion—\$1 billion—in mandatory spending. For the folks at home that means it is not subject to appropriations; it will be spent, period, regardless of what we do if we pass this bill and the President signs it—over 5 years for the creation of a new mandatory program called the Veterans Jobs Corps.

One point I will make is that we already have six veterans jobs programs and not one of them has a metric on it to see if it is working. There hasn't been one hearing to see what the jobs programs we are running now are doing, to measure their effectiveness or their cost effectiveness and see if they are actually performing for veterans what we say we want them to do. Yet we have a bill on the floor that didn't go through that committee, where no

hearings were held, and we are going to do the same thing again. Because there is not a metric in this bill.

So what is happening here is we are playing the political election card to say, How could anybody oppose a veterans jobs corps bill? The real question to be asked is: How callous is it to put forth a political bill when we have no idea whether it may or may not work, for the pure political purpose of an election, without looking at the whole of the veterans jobs programs? There is not going to be any congressional oversight on this.

Just 2 weeks ago I released a report on job training in my own State. I was highly effective in looking at every Federal Government job training program, veterans and nonveterans alike, in my State. I looked at every State job training program and then published a report. Here is what the report found.

And, by the way, we have 47 other job training programs, of which 90 percent don't have metrics on them, and we spend \$19 billion a year on those job training programs.

What we found is that State-run, State-financed, State-supported job training programs work in Oklahoma. We actually take our own money, with our own institutions, with our own individuals and our own employees, knowing what businesses and industry and service industries and institutions need, and we match job training to what those needs are and actually put people to work. Consequently, Oklahoma has a 4.7-percent unemployment rate. So we are highly effective at training people for the jobs that are available. But we are not very effective with the Federal programs.

The assessment in Oklahoma—and I am not sure it applies across the country, but it certainly does in Oklahoma—is that we are very good at employing people in the job training industry but not very good with Federal dollars when it comes to training people a life skill to keep them employed.

This legislation is going to provide \$1 billion for the Federal Government to hire veterans on a temporary basis.

I understand that Senator BURR's recommendations are going to be incorporated. That is a marked improvement to the bill. His puts them in line for a career, not a temporary job—which shows the lack of thinking because Senator BURR, the ranking member on VA, couldn't get a hearing. We didn't have a markup, didn't have a chance for ideas to flow through. I am not certain we are going to have amendments. I have four I would like to offer to the bill that are better pay-fors and will actually improve the bill. I am not sure we are going to do that either.

So we didn't have a hearing, and we didn't have a markup. We come to the floor, and we are not going to have amendments. What is this really all about? Is this about veterans or is this about politicians? I suspect it is about

politicians. I suspect it is about elections and not veterans.

The legislation grants broad authority to the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Homeland Security, the Interior Department, and the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans in jobs such as conservation and first responders.

However, to comply with the pay-go rules, we manipulate the system again. We include revenue increases to equal the cost of the bill. We do that by requiring a continuous levy on payments to Medicare providers and suppliers—which is not a bad idea—and also by denying or revoking passports in cases of seriously delinquent taxes. I have heard that is going to be pulled, but nobody knows. Nobody has seen it. That is why we have committees, so we don't have to play with things before we have a base bill and we know what it will do.

The bill already violates the Budget Control Act's allocation for Veterans Affairs funding. It is subject to a 302(f) point of order because it is outside the bounds of their appropriations.

The bill also states a distinct preference for veterans of the current war in Afghanistan and the most recent war in Iraq by stating that these jobs are primarily for veterans who have served since September 11, 2001.

As with the veterans caregiver bill in 2009, this is blatant discrimination against our other veterans. One class of veterans is better than another class of veterans? Tell me how. Is somebody who died in the Vietnam war less honorable than somebody who has given their life in Afghanistan? Yet we are making that distinction in terms of the benefits available to those who served our country honorably.

So we are blatantly discriminating against veterans who served before 9/11. I would also remind us that those veterans didn't have the post-9/11 GI bill. They didn't have the other significant benefits that have come along and been passed down, both paid benefits, family transfer of the post-9/11 bill, or the educational benefits for in-service that the present veterans have.

Another thing I would remind my colleagues is that right now there is a preference in every branch of the Federal Government for hiring veterans. It is already written into law. Since 1944 the Federal Government has stated that veterans with honorable or general discharges are preferred for hiring in competitive positions and may also be hired without competition in many cases. In other words, they get an absolute preference. Disabled veterans get even a higher preference over non-disabled veterans. Veterans also have priority in retention in terms of government downsizing: If you were a veteran, you don't get downsized; if you are not a veteran, you will.

Senator BURR's bill—which it appears the majority will take and add to their

bill rather than replace their bill—will direct the Office of Personnel Management to require that each of the 10,000 job vacancies presently in the Federal Government today should be filled by veterans. This would actually provide a real career path for veterans, not a temporary make-work job slot that will go away as soon as the \$1 billion runs out.

According to a 2011 GAO report, there are six job training programs, which I have outlined, already on the books. They are not working, but they are on the books, and we are spending money on them. We have no metrics to know whether they are working. We have had no oversight hearings to know whether they are working. None has ever been held.

There is the Labor Department's Disabled Veterans Outreach Program. It does job readiness, skills training, retention training, and employment counseling.

The Labor Department's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project does everything the first one I mentioned does.

The Labor Department's Veterans Employment Representative Program does exactly the same thing as the first two.

The Labor Department's Transition Assistance Program does job search and job readiness training.

The Labor Department's Veterans Affairs Workforce Investment, again, does all the same tasks as the first two I mentioned.

The Veterans Affairs' Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans Program does nearly everything from job training to employment counseling to job referral to on-the-job training to basic adult literacy.

This bill and those training programs are in addition to the post-9/11 GI bill and the Tuition Assistance Program, which provides 100 percent tuition assistance plus expenses, plus a monthly stipend salary for unemployed or any other veterans to attend college, vocational training, pursue licensure, with fees paid for by the Federal Government, and allows them to transfer this benefit to their spouses.

The question I have, with that benefit—and we are doing another one now for political purposes, not because we really care about veterans—why isn't this one working? We are going to spend billions on the post-9/11 GI bill, and we are going to pay them at the rate of a noncommissioned officer all the time they are going to college. Why isn't that working? Where is the oversight hearing to see why what we just did 2 years ago isn't working?

Instead, what we are going to do is—which the Congress has done under both Democrats and Republicans—we are going to throw in more money and do another one. Instead of measuring what works and measuring what we are doing, we are going to create another program. Granted, supposedly it is only 5 years.

When it comes to 5 years, what will happen whether it works or not? Nobody will vote against extending the veterans program, will they? How can anyone be against veterans?

So we would not do the hard work of having committee hearings; we would not do the oversight. We would not even change this bill to make sure it has absolute metrics on what it is doing. So we are continuing down the road to bankruptcy, all in the name of putting a bill—that isn't going to pass the House—on the Senate floor so two or three Members of the Senate can go home and claim they did something.

I think it is hypocritical. I don't think it matches the pure valor of the three individuals I mentioned. It doesn't come close. It doesn't measure up. Those 13 Oklahomans who died in Afghanistan this last year from the Oklahoma National Guard, the Thunderbirds, represented the real value of America. This bill doesn't.

The post-9/11 GI bill pays 100 percent of the highest cost public school in any State. So veterans can go to the best public school paid for completely by the government if they are a post-9/11 veteran. They can get the same equivalent pay as a noncommissioned officer the time they are going. That is what we have already got out there.

Without this legislation, today any unemployed veteran who can get into a community college can go for free, receive 3 years' of pay, all their expenses paid, their housing paid—all of those things paid.

Well, if that isn't working, why isn't it working? Where is the hearing to find out why that isn't working? No, we are just going to pass another bill without a hearing, without a committee markup, for politically expedient purposes. Oh, it is just \$1 billion.

Where is our honor? Where is our valor? Where is our sacrifice?

The Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program, another program, while you are in the military, is paid for. All you have to do is make a C or better—online, off line, whatever way you want to go.

So let me summarize: We have the Tuition Assistance Program, we have the post-9/11 GI bill, we have the GI bill, we have six separate VA job programs. We have a bill on the floor to do another one, and nobody is asking the question: What is wrong with what we are doing now, and why aren't we fixing it?

If what we are doing now isn't working, why aren't we fixing that? Why aren't we going to allow amendments to fix things? Why are we going to fill the tree and not allow the process that our Founders designed the Senate to work so that all ideas could be considered?

No, this is a political exercise. I am going to call it what it is. This isn't about veterans; this is about politicians. My hope is that we wake up before our country fails.

When I came to the Senate, the average family's responsibility for public

debt per individual was \$26,000. Within the 8 years I have been here, it is now 51,400 and some-odd dollars. We are playing a game. We are thinking short term. We are worried about political careers and elections, but we are not worried about the country. This is about the greatest example of the incompetence of the Congress of United States I have ever seen.

I am for helping veterans, I am for paying for it, and I am for making sure they get rewarded for their service and their sacrifice. This bill isn't it. This is a charade. That is exactly what it is. To call it anything else dishonors the service of those who have defended and protected our country.

I yielded the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, like many of my colleagues, before I begin my remarks on the subject that brings me to the floor today, which is the DREAM Act, I wish to take a moment to reflect on the brutal, unconscionable attacks that occurred on our diplomatic posts in Libya and Egypt. Like many of my colleagues, I am outraged and saddened by the brutal murder of four courageous Americans in a cowardly, unconscionable attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Their families are in the thoughts and prayers of my family as they are for many others of my colleagues.

These great diplomats were patriots and professionals, putting their lives on the line to advance American ideals and interests. Their vital work is done daily by countless Americans, diplomats abroad who serve in every corner of the world.

In my own visit to Libya last year with a number of my colleagues, including Senator MCCAIN and Senator GRAHAM, I saw the vital work and the accomplishments of such brave Americans on the ground as well as the great peril and severe danger they constantly face. I also saw their sense of satisfaction and patriotism in the work they are doing. I add my voice to that of my colleagues asking for more support for security, enhanced safeguards, and protection for our diplomats in these kinds of situations. They go about their work with understated perseverance and determination as well as constant courage in the face of often chaotic and unpredictable dangers.

The cowardly attacks on these patriots should not deter the people of Libya from moving forward. Neither should it deter us from working together with others abroad who have a common interest in tolerance, freedom of speech, and democracy.

I commend President Obama and Secretary Clinton for their immediate response to this situation, their words of encouragement. I wish Godspeed to the Marine Corps Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team en route to Libya.

The diplomats who were killed in this tragic and brutal action embodied

American values and the highest traditions, not only of the professionals among our career diplomats, but all who serve and sacrifice for this country in uniform in very similar situations of danger—the marines who guard our embassies as well as the other marines and troops who are fighting on foreign soil to uphold our freedoms.

THE DREAM ACT

Those American values in some sense bring me also to the floor today to talk about the DREAM Act and about a young generation of people in our communities across America and across the country who would benefit from this important legislation. Our immigration system right now is broken and is in dire need of comprehensive reform. Any comprehensive immigration reform legislation must include the DREAM Act. I believe the DREAM Act is worthy of adoption without that comprehensive overarching reform because these young Americans in our communities deserve the opportunity to earn their citizenship by contributing to our Nation. That is exactly the opportunity the DREAM Act seeks to afford them.

Over this last recess I was pleased to talk to many of those DREAMers. I was particularly proud to talk to them about the work a number of us are doing here, to try to achieve and make possible this legislation that would enable and empower them to contribute further. I am grateful to Senator DURBIN and others who have championed this measure at the Federal level, much as I have done in the State of Connecticut as attorney general. I was also proud to talk about the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy. This policy took effect on August 15 when DHS started to accept applications for deferred action.

Under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DREAMers will have a temporary reprieve—and I emphasize temporary reprieve—from deportation. This policy step is a good one. It is in the right direction. But it affords only a temporary reprieve.

The DREAM Act would afford a permanent path to individuals who qualify: individuals who have entered the United States before the age of 16; they have been brought here by parents who may be undocumented—but young children, many of them much younger than 16, most of them in fact younger than 5 or 6 years old and who have been present in the United States for at least 5 consecutive years prior to enactment of the bill; are here through no fault or action of their own but who want to be here permanently and contribute and give back. They must have graduated from a U.S. high school or have obtained a GED or have been accepted into an institution of higher education. They must be between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of application and be of good moral character.

These requirements establish a path for people who want to contribute,

have come here through no fault of their own, know the United States as the only country where they have ever lived. They usually speak no other language. Their life and their friends and their future are here.

I want to talk, as I hope to do literally every week that I am able, about an individual who embodies the DREAM Act. Her name is Zuly Molina. Her full name, actually, is Zuleyma Molina, but she goes by "Zuly." She is a proud member of our Connecticut community, one of 11,000 to 20,000 young people living in Connecticut who would benefit from the DREAM Act. Zuly is here with us today through her picture. I want to talk about her life, which has been full of hardships and challenges, but also her future.

She was born in Mexico and brought to America when she was 6 years old. Her family settled in Connecticut—in fact, in New Britain. She had to learn English, which was not easy for her. In fact, she was taunted and bullied because of her lack of language skills. But she was up to the challenge. She learned English. She speaks it absolutely fluently. She decided to go to the library and translate books on her own so that she would have a command of English. She went through the New Britain public schools and graduated from New Britain High School in 2008, but at that point there were additional challenges.

Zuly wanted to stay in Connecticut and perhaps attend 2 years of community college before going to a 4-year institution. But she was not eligible at that point for in-State tuition and the option of staying in Connecticut was simply too expensive.

What did she do? Endlessly resourceful and determined, she decided to commute every day to Bay Path College in Massachusetts. There she worked in many leadership positions outside the classroom. She was president of Rotaract, which is Rotary's youth service club for young people. She was vice president of the Bay Path Christian Fellowship. She was cocaptain of the cross-country team. And she graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology, becoming the first college graduate in her family.

She felt discouraged even after graduation because she knew she could not apply for many jobs that require documentation. She decided to pursue further education, a master's degree from Bay Path College in occupational therapy. She understands now life will not be easy, but her goals of working for a hospital's feeding program and pursuing an MD are realistic. She hopes she can pursue that profession so she can work for nonprofits that help families with low income—not altogether different from the one where she grew up.

It has taken many years for Zuly to accept and thank her mother for sending her to America. She would be upset—more than upset—if the land of her life, the land that she loves—Amer-

ica—refuses to give her the opportunity to stay here. She has that opportunity temporarily with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. It is an administrative program. It could be ended with a new administration. It could be ended by any administration virtually overnight. She has applied for deferred action and she is undergoing the process, but she deserves more than a temporary reprieve. That is why I stand here urging my colleagues to enable Zuly to come out of the shadows, to seek a career that will enable her to contribute mightily and monumentally to all of us as a doctor, and to raise a family of her own here, as a proud United States citizen.

To these young people who identify as Americans and who were brought to this Nation at young ages as children or infants and who are here through no fault of their own, I urge my colleagues to offer one of the greatest gifts, one of the greatest privileges one can have, which is United States citizenship, so that we can say to the DREAMers on some day soon, "my fellow American."

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as if in morning business.

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

THE RYAN BUDGET

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, we are at a moment in time when Americans across the country are confused by what they are hearing; it is hard to discern truth from fiction.

One of the proposals that is being talked about is from the Republican nominee for Vice President, PAUL RYAN, who is known for his budget proposals. We have to look at them squarely and decide what is reliable, what is true, and what is, as I said earlier, fiction.

Those proposals cut taxes for the rich, raise taxes on the middle class, while abandoning the sick, the poor, and our children. The Ryan budget can only be good for one very small group of Americans: the wealthiest among us.

Now, I was fortunate to succeed in business—succeed in a way that would have been impossible to dream about when I was growing up in a poor family. But I was helped by our country's government for my service in the military during the big war.

But in our democracy, each person gets one vote. So what do you do as a candidate for national office when your vision for the country is good for the

few and bad for the many? You can pretend it is good for everybody. You can say it will benefit all Americans. In short, you can substitute fiction for truth. This approach was on brilliant display at the Republican Convention when PAUL RYAN claimed the Republican plan would help the middle class—help that, frankly, we believe would take us downhill instead of Operation Uplift.

An article on Fox News' Web site described his convention speech as, "an apparent attempt to set the world record for the greatest number of blatant lies and misrepresentations slipped into a single political speech."

Fox News, a conservative communications organization. Maybe that is why they call him "Lyn' Ryan." His speech in Tampa was the most public and extreme example of the smoke-screen he has been blowing around here for a long time. So today I want to look at the numbers in PAUL RYAN's budget because numbers don't lie, even if some politicians do.

It is obvious PAUL RYAN doesn't want us to see the specific programs he would cut, but let's look at the devastating consequences if his cuts were distributed evenly.

Under the Ryan budget, 200,000 preschool children would be kicked off of Head Start rolls in 2014. We have a chart that clearly shows that. Imagine slashing funding for a program designed to help children learn how to learn. In our country today there are many situations where children don't have parental advice or the encouragement of parents to learn. Head Start is a terrific program because Head Start teaches these children that learning is fun, so that when they enter school they are ready to accept learning and they look at it as something that will be interesting and pleasant and worth doing. RYAN's cuts are shortsighted and they are cruel and they will only harm America's future.

As much as \$115 billion could be cut from education funding over the next decade if we follow the Ryan budget. With less support and rising costs for higher education, young people would be forced to take on more debt in order to attend college. If we were to talk to college students today, we would learn how tough it is, so that when they graduate from college they may have a debt of \$50,000 to \$100,000. And here they want the average college student to take on more. It is an outrage.

Why would anyone put obstacles in front of young people seeking an education? They are not concerned about those who want to learn or how they merge into our society.

I never would have been able to attend Columbia University without help from the government and the GI bill. When we came home from World War II, this country invested in us—and that investment helped create the "greatest generation" and decades of prosperity. The GI bill enabled me to cofound one of America's most successful companies, ADP. That company

today employs over 50,000 people in more than 23 countries. But instead of offering a helping hand to this generation's students, the Ryan proposal closes the door in their face.

Under the Ryan budget, government investments in science, technology, and medical research could also be shortchanged—cut by more than \$100 billion over the next 10 years. Medical research funding alone could take a hit of nearly \$6 billion by 2014. This would delay research on new treatments for diseases such as cancer, childhood asthma, and juvenile diabetes. All of these would start to fall by the wayside.

We have a chart that says the Republican budget plan would take \$5.8 billion that would otherwise be used for asthma, juvenile diabetes, cancer, autism, and more. Who would want to deliver a message to a parent in America that says: Your country cannot provide the funds to cure your child's illness?

The Ryan budget also wants to add pain to those dependent on health care programs. Instead of reassuring seniors that they can look forward to retirement in good health, he adds anxiety with cuts. He has proposed to end Medicare as we know it, giving seniors a voucher instead of a guarantee. If that voucher can't cover the cost of needed medical services, this is the Republicans' attitude: Too bad. You are on your own. If RYAN succeeds, tell the Medicare beneficiaries that their costs for medical services can be increased at the will of insurance companies.

RYAN's plan says: All right, cut Medicaid—that is a program for the impoverished—cut Medicaid by more than \$800 billion over a 10-year period. Medicaid is there to provide vital resources for expectant mothers and nursing home care for seniors. We created Medicare and Medicaid to be there for seniors and the poor when they get sick. RYAN, with that sharp knife of his, wants to cut funding and break that promise. It is shameful.

A budget isn't just a collection of numbers; it is an expression of principles and priorities, and we shouldn't look at a budget like an auditor. We should see it as a way to fulfill the obligations of our democracy and to be there for those who need help. A budget sets forth a vision for our Nation's future and makes a statement about what counts in America and what are our values.

So when we see the budget authored by PAUL RYAN called "marvelous" by Mitt Romney—Mitt Romney, candidate for President of the United States called this budget by PAUL RYAN and the budget passed by the House Republicans "marvelous"—we should be deeply disturbed. It is an outrage for Republicans to say we should give the wealthiest Americans more tax breaks as they increase the burden on a middle class already struggling to afford the essentials. Who are we going to fight for, middle-class families or the multimillionaires?

In our country last year, 400 people made over \$200 million on average. Should they carry their fair share of the country's opportunities and continue to invest in the country rather than shepherd the funds for their own personal use?

Everybody knows we cannot build a house from the chimney down and we cannot build a balanced society by soaking the poor to feed the rich. At a time when our economy is fighting strong headwinds, when too many Americans are out of work, PAUL RYAN and his running mate offer the same old prescription: tax cuts for the rich and austerity for everybody else. We will not hear this from him. PAUL RYAN likes to distract and distort. He has been hiding the truth about his budget so the American people do not truly know what is going on.

The bottom line is this: PAUL RYAN knows very well he cannot afford to tell the American people what his real agenda is because he knows what would happen. There would be no more buyers for what he is selling. Americans are now seeing the values the Republican Party and their new leader PAUL RYAN are fighting for.

We let the Republicans have their way for 8 years, and it led to the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Very often we will hear them say: Obama has not done what he should have done. There are 4 million more people working now in the private sector than there were just two years ago and people are excited about the health care plan because they know this health plan is going to help them be better, have wellness in their lives. It ultimately will reduce costs substantially.

It goes that way. But rather than help those who could use a boost, could use some support—could use it to make sure their kids get educated or to help their parents, the people who built the strength of this country over the years, past generations—rather than help them, let's protect those, the wealthiest, who do not need the help.

During World War II, there was an excess profits tax. That tax was there, designed to take some of the excess profits that companies were making. Now we ought to apply the same logic. We have people fighting for their lives in Afghanistan and other places. Instead of saying let's make sure everybody feels like they are included in this great democracy of ours, they are saying: No, let them take care of themselves. As a matter of fact, it was suggested by Mitt Romney, the candidate for President—he said these college students ought to borrow from their parents. In many cases, the parents are struggling to keep food on the table or pay the rent or the mortgage.

Enough is enough. There is too much at stake to let ourselves be fooled by their tricks once again. We have to support the programs that have been working. Perfectly? Not yet, but they

are getting better all the time. More people are going to work and more people view America as an opportunity for them to succeed in life.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

While I have the floor, I wish to pay my respects to Ambassador Chris Stevens' family and to note that four American heroes were murdered yesterday at the American embassy in Benghazi, Libya, people who had an assignment to make sure their country, America, was working in Libya to try to bridge the gaps that might exist. It is a terrible tragedy that happened. We all have to note our sorrow.

My deepest condolences are with their families, their friends and loved ones as they mourn the loss of these patriots. This is a tragedy about which all Americans are deeply saddened.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Senator GRAHAM from South Carolina.

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

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

HONORING OUR FOREIGN SERVANTS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak about the horrific attack yesterday on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi that killed four American citizens. The two confirmed thus far to be among the dead are Sean Smith, an Air Force veteran turned State Department information management officer, and Ambassador Chris Stevens, one of America's finest and bravest Foreign Service officers.

I did not know Sean Smith—I know he was a great American who served his country—but I had gotten to know Chris Stevens quite well. In Ambassador Chris Stevens' death, the Libyan people have lost a great champion and believer in the peaceful aspirations of their democratic revolution; the American people have lost a selfless and dedicated servant of our interests and our values, and I have lost a friend.

My thoughts and prayers today are with Chris's family and the loved ones of his fallen colleagues. May God grant them comfort in their time of grief.

Our most urgent order of business now is to make sure our citizens still living and serving in Libya and Egypt and elsewhere across the region and the world are safe. Americans look to the governments in Libya and Egypt and elsewhere to meet their responsibilities in this regard. We also look to the Libyan Government to ensure that

those responsible for yesterday's attack in Benghazi are swiftly brought to justice. In all of these critical tasks, we are confident that our government will provide all necessary assistance and support.

Yesterday's attacks are an important reminder that so many of America's civilians and diplomats and development professionals are risking everything—everything—to advance our Nation's interests and values abroad. We must do everything in our power to ensure their security.

At the same time, our thoughts turn to broader concerns: the mourning of our fallen friends, and how we as a Nation should respond to these tragic events.

One of my most memorable meetings with Chris Stevens was last April in Benghazi. As U.S. Envoy to the Libyan opposition, Chris had traveled to Benghazi at great personal risk to represent the country he loved so much while Libya was still gripped in a brutal fight for freedom. It was clear there was nowhere that Chris would rather have been than Libya. We spent the day together, meeting Libyan opposition leaders and many ordinary citizens, who spoke movingly about how much the opportunity to finally live in freedom meant to them, and how grateful they were for America's support. Chris Stevens embodied that support, and his passion for his mission was infectious.

I kept in touch with him often and frequently after my visit. I was very happy when President Obama nominated him to be America's Ambassador to the new Libya. The last time I saw Chris Stevens was shortly after he had taken his post, during my most recent visit to Tripoli. I especially remember the lighter moments we spent together, including when Chris insisted on personally making me a cappuccino, a task that he carried out with as much pride and proficiency as his diplomatic mission.

That was on the morning of July 7—the day Libyans voted in their first election in half a century. Chris Stevens and I spent the day together again, traveling around Tripoli, visiting polling places, and speaking with Libyan voters. We met a man whose father had been murdered by Qadhafi's henchmen. We met a woman whose brothers had recently given their lives fighting for their country's liberation. We met countless others, including many older Libyans, who were voting for the first time in their lives. And everywhere we went, we were greeted by crowds of cheering Libyans, bursting with pride and eager to shake our hands and express their gratitude for America's support. It was one of the most moving experiences of my life, and it was only made better by the fact that I got to share it with our outstanding Ambassador, Chris Stevens.

What we saw together on that day was the real Libya—the peaceful desire of millions of people to live in freedom

and democracy, the immense gratitude they felt for America's support for them, and their strong desire to build a new partnership between our nations. That is why I am not surprised that senior Libyan leaders were among the first to condemn the horrific attack that killed Chris and his colleagues. And that is why I was not surprised to learn from our Secretary of State that many Libyans fought to defend our people and our consulate in Benghazi when they came under attack, that some were wounded while doing so, and that it was Libyans who sought to get Chris and his colleagues to the hospital. And that is why we cannot afford to view the despicable acts of violence perpetrated yesterday by a small group of fanatics as in any way representative of the country and the people of Libya. That is not the real Libya, the Libya Chris Stevens knew and learned to love so well.

After such a heartbreaking loss for our Nation, I know many Americans are asking whether the United States was naive or mistaken to support the vast movement for change that is known as the Arab spring. I know many Americans may feel a temptation, especially with so many domestic and economic challenges facing us here at home, to distance ourselves from people and events in Libya and Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East. We cannot afford to go down that path.

Yesterday's attack in Benghazi was the work of a small group of violent extremists, whose goals and actions could not be more at odds with those of the people and government of Libya. The Libyan revolution began peacefully and was dedicated throughout to the ideals of freedom and justice and democratic change. When Libyans turned out by the millions to elect a new government in July, they gave the plurality of their vote not to religious fanatics but to a political party led by a moderate technocrat and committed to friendship with the United States.

Libyans arose last year to free themselves from exactly the kinds of murderers and terrorists who killed our American citizens yesterday in Benghazi. Their enemies are our enemies, and they remain as committed as ever to imposing their evil ideology through violence on people in Libya and the Middle East, and ultimately on us. They want to hijack the Arab spring for their own insidious purposes. If we turn our backs now on the millions of people in Libya and Egypt and Syria and other countries across the Middle East—people who share so many of our values and interests, people who are the true authors of the Arab spring—we will hand our common enemies—the terrorists and extremists—the very victory they seek.

We were right to take the side of the Libyan people and others in the region who share their peaceful aspirations. We would be gravely mistaken to walk away from them now. To do so would not only be a betrayal of everything

Chris Stevens and his colleagues believed in and ultimately gave their lives for, it would be a betrayal of America's highest values and our own enduring national interest in supporting people in the Middle East and the world who want to live in peace and freedom.

Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by my friend from Connecticut. I know he shares with me the sorrow that we and all Americans feel at the loss of a brave and dedicated American. But it will be a long time before we forget Chris Stevens because he will stand as a shining example of patriotism and love of country.

Chris Stevens was not unaware of the danger he faced. He was privy to intelligence information, and others. But he went forward and did his job with a smile, with love of his country, and love of the country where he was serving. I cannot be more proud of Ambassador Chris Stevens.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MERKLEY). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Arizona for his very eloquent statement. I associate myself with it.

It strikes me, as I listen, that it was no accident that these violent extremists launched this attack on the American consulate in Benghazi, Libya, on 9/11, on September 11—a day of infamy in our history, a day when people across our country and around the world were commemorating the worst terrorist attack in our history, which was September 11, 2001.

Those who perpetrated the attack on the consulate in Benghazi, which resulted in the death of our Ambassador Chris Stevens carried out an act of terrorism and barbarism that they hope will sow fear and hatred between Americans and Muslims, just as Osama bin Laden and his followers hoped that attack of 9/11, 2001, would do 11 years ago. But we did not let bin Laden succeed then, and we will not let these violent extremists who killed Chris Stevens yesterday in Benghazi succeed in dividing America and the West from Muslims and the Arab world. Good, well-intentioned people in both great communities will rise and join together to renounce these extremists and killers.

I want to speak for a moment about Ambassador Stevens.

Simply put, Chris Stevens was one of the finest, bravest, most spirited, most talented diplomats in our Nation's service.

As a volunteer in the Peace Corps, he served in Morocco, where he was inspired to pursue a lifetime of service in the Middle East. When the uprising against Muammar Qadhafi began in February of last year, Chris was the deputy chief of mission at our Embassy in Tripoli, Libya.

He was evacuated, along with other American personnel, from the country, but returned to Libya within weeks as the Special Envoy of the United States

of America to the opposition there—courageously slipping into rebel-held Benghazi onboard a cargo freighter. It was an act of bravery that typified Chris Stevens' service to our country and his devotion to our Nation's ideals and his commitment to build bridges between Americans and Arabs, Americans and Muslims.

Chris remained in Benghazi throughout the war, standing with the people of Libya during some of the darkest and most difficult hours in their struggle for freedom.

He became, in fact, the bright symbol of America, a heroic and inspiring figure to many Libyans, as Senator MCCAIN and Senator GRAHAM and I heard during our visits, and was thus the natural choice of President Obama to become our Ambassador to Tripoli after the Qadhafi regime fell. This is also why his death at the hands of violent extremists in Benghazi, which was the seat of the revolution against Qadhafi, is so tragic and infuriating. Of course, we still do not know what happened at our consulate in Benghazi yesterday, but what is clear is that these attackers have to be apprehended and must be punished.

I am encouraged but not surprised by the statements of Libya's leaders condemning this attack. I say I am not surprised because these statements of condemnation of those who killed Chris Stevens are consistent with what I know the leaders of the new Libya to be, what I know to be their profound admiration and love for Chris Stevens and their respect and gratitude for the United States of America. We look now to the Libyan Government to act swiftly and decisively and to our own government to provide the Libyans whatever support they need to find the attackers and killers.

While a specific group of individuals was responsible for this evil act and their target immediately was the Americans in that consulate—but really their target was the new order in Libya, and they were animated in this by an ideology that is now all too familiar to us that we cannot ignore or excuse. This hateful and violent ideology is a threat not just to the lives of Americans like Chris Stevens and the three others who died yesterday in Benghazi but to the future of Libya and the future of the Muslim world. It is the exact opposite of the ideals that inspired millions of Libyans to rise up last year against Qadhafi to realize their dreams of a life of dignity, democracy, and human rights. For that reason, it is imperative now for those Libyan people themselves to echo their leaders and condemn this violence and take on the extremists who have taken shelter in their midst and who threaten to hijack their revolution and imperil the future of their country, returning them to days as dark as under Qadhafi.

I know the overwhelming majority of Libyans reject this violent extremist agenda. They want a good education for their children. They want foreign

investment that will create jobs and raise their standard of living. After 42 years of despair and oppression under Qadhafi, they badly want again to be part of the world, part of the modern world. The United States should stand ready and willing to help them on that path.

The fact is that the people who killed Chris Stevens yesterday in Benghazi do not represent the people of Libya or their elected leadership. But these killings require confronting the extremist minority that imperils this future, the fanatics who want a clash of civilizations between the Muslims and the West and who will try to justify their violence in the name of Islam. They are wrong. They are mistaken. They are on the wrong side of history.

Finally, let me come back home and say—to echo what Senator MCCAIN just said—that I know there will be some here in our country who in the wake of this attack will be tempted to argue that it shows that America's support for the Libyan revolution was naive or mistaken, that the Arab spring will ultimately be defined not by a desire for democracy and freedom among the people of the Middle East and Arab world but by the dark fanaticism of al-Qaida and its associates and that the United States should give up trying to support people in this part of the world and instead retrench back here at home. That would be terribly wrong. That would misunderstand the motivations of the people who have risen in the Arab world to overthrow the totalitarian governments that dominated their lives. They do not want the fanaticism of al-Qaida. They want the bright light of a democratic future.

We cannot allow what happened yesterday to be a victory for the extremists and the terrorists because to do so would be a betrayal of everything Ambassador Chris Stevens stood for, which is to say a betrayal of America's best ideals.

I note the presence on the floor of the Senator from South Carolina. I would yield to him at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. I will be brief. There is not a whole lot to be added to the eloquent statements of my two friends other than to be here and to let the family of Chris Stevens know that we saw in their loved one what you saw—a wonderful man who did great things with a life cut way too short.

I do not think most Americans can ever appreciate the leadership Chris provided in Libya and throughout the world at a time when we needed it the most. So America has lost one of her greatest diplomats, the Libyans have lost one of their best friends, and the family has lost their dear loved one.

The one thing I can say for sure—Senator LIEBERMAN just mentioned it—do not compound this tragedy. The worst possible outcome is to take the death of this wonderful, noble man and use it as an excuse to withdraw from

Libya and the region and turn it over to the thugs who killed him. Chris would not want that, it is not in our national security interest, and Republicans and Democrats do not want that.

To the American people who are war-weary and frustrated, I totally get it. But the Arab spring—call it what you like—is a historic opportunity to change things in the Middle East. It will not come without a fight.

What we are trying to do in the Middle East and what the people in the Middle East are trying to do is have a better life for themselves. If you are a young person, you have been exposed to life outside of the corrupt country in which you live and you see it can be better and, quite frankly, you are demanding it can be better. You are demanding a better say if you are a young woman. You are demanding economic opportunity if you come from a certain class, not available to you today. And Chris Stevens risked his life because he understood that those demands were just and in our best interests. The people whom we are fighting and the people the Libyan people are fighting are the ones who have no interest in this agenda of being able to choose a better path for young women, being able to be tolerant, open, accept free markets, and to have a place where people can live their own dreams.

The world which we are fighting—your dreams are defined by the Ayatollah. Your aspirations are defined by someone else's view of where you should go and what you should be based on their interpretation of God's plan for you. That, to me, is so unacceptable that it compels people like Chris Stevens to risk their lives. That is what is at stake.

The good news is that we will beat these folks. The ace in the hole is that the people in Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, Afghanistan, and Iraq now have been exposed to a different way of life. Given the capacity, they have the will to fight back. But if we think this is going to be done without a struggle, we are kidding ourselves. Chris knew that. He knew the fight that was going on for the heart and soul of the Arab spring in Libya was a fight worth engaging in and, yes, risking one's life for. What more can you say about a fellow human being, an American, than the fact that they realized their time on Earth could be best spent in service of a cause, as Senator MCCAIN said, greater than themselves. Chris understood what was at stake. He went to a place he did not have to go. He accepted risks he could have avoided. He did it for all the right reasons.

The one thing we should all unite around is that what compelled Chris Stevens to risk his life is absolutely in our national security interest; that is, to get the Mideast right, have a second opportunity never known before in the Mideast to live in peace with people who in the past wanted to kill us all. I am convinced that if we stick with it and we learn the lessons of Chris Stevens' life, we will eventually prevail

because the ones who want to kill us all are really a minority. The ones who would live with us in peace if they could just need our help. Let it be said that Chris Stevens was there to help.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank my friend for his eloquent words. I would also like to again emphasize that there were four brave Americans—four. Sean Smith was one of them, a truly great American. There are two others—we do not even know their identity. So I hope the families who have suffered this loss appreciate that we grieve for all. We had the opportunity of knowing Chris Stevens. I did meet Sean Smith and the others. We mourn for them, and we thank them for their service to this Nation.

I ask my friend from Connecticut, wouldn't the worst legacy of Chris Stevens' service to this country be a movement of the United States to withdraw, to fortress America, to renounce our service to the world in helping these countries achieve the same democracy and freedom for which our forefathers strived? I do not mean to use his death as any kind of political agenda, but I remember him well enough to know that the worst outcome of this tragedy would be for the United States to withdraw. In fact, I am confident that if he were here, he would be urging us to get right back in, bring these extremists to justice, and press on with the democracy and freedom the people of Libya deserve and have earned at great loss of blood and treasure.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I could not agree more with my friend from Arizona. It would really dishonor the service of Chris Stevens and the other three Americans who served us in Libya if their murders by these extremists led us to retrench and pull out of Libya and stop supporting the new Libyan Government, democratically elected, pull out of other parts of the Arab world. That would be exactly the opposite of what Ambassador Stevens devoted his life to. As I mentioned, inspired by his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco, he devoted the rest of his life to service on America's behalf in the Middle East. The last thing he would want this murder to do is to lead us to pull out, leave the area.

It would also be the fondest hope of the attackers, the extremists. Why do they attack? They attack to kill individual people, but they really attack to, as I said before, push America out and create a war between the Western world, America, and Islam. It is not natural. It is not the direction in which history is going. History is going much more toward integration. In fact, the revolution in Libya, which has gone so successfully when you consider the 40 years of dictatorship under which they lived—they held a free election. They elected what I would describe as a moderate rule-of-law slate to run the coun-

try. But those uprisings in Libya, Egypt, Tunisia, and now in Syria are the most profound rejection and defeat for the extremism of al-Qaida and its allies and presumably this group who attacked the American consulate in Benghazi yesterday. I understand that the results of some of the first elections are unclear, in some sense unsettled to some people here, but the fact is they have chosen democracy. People are self-governing, and they are looking for a better life. That is exactly the opposite of what bin Laden, al-Qaida, and I would guess the people who killed Chris Stevens yesterday desire.

Senator MCCAIN is absolutely right. I can almost hear Chris Stevens saying: Come on. Get up. Stay in the fight. Do not surrender to the crazies, to the fanatics, to the violent extremists. Stand with the overwhelming majority, with the people of Libya, who want what we want—a better future for themselves and their families.

Mr. MCCAIN. I wish to say in conclusion that I thank my old and dear friend from Connecticut and the Senator from South Carolina.

Finally, I would share with my colleagues that on last July 7 I was in Tripoli with Chris Stevens and it was the first free and fair election the Libyan people ever experienced. As we went from polling place to polling place, we met people who had lost brothers, husbands, fathers, mothers, and sisters at the hands of one of the more brutal butchers who has ever been on Earth, Muammar Qadhafi.

That night we went to the square, where some 200,000 people were driving around, honking horns, celebrating, and waving Libyan flags. It was a really auspicious start. And as Senator LIEBERMAN pointed out, it was a moderate group who were elected to govern Libya by the people of Libya. Chris Stevens was recognized by all of them. They knew Chris Stevens and they knew what he represented—the United States of America.

So those are memories I will never forget, and I hope his family will appreciate the magnificent service he provided to this Nation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I would suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, before I say what I originally came down here to say, I want to join my colleagues in condemning the senseless, horrible attack at the U.S. Consulate in Libya and pay tribute to the four Americans, including our Ambassador there, Chris Stevens, who were killed. I think all of us hope the killers will be brought to justice quickly, and I suspect that will be the case.

Our country has lost four true public servants in the part of public service which is the least known and sometimes the most important. It is a high calling, public service in general, but especially in dangerous places around the world. Ambassador Stevens was a serious, dedicated, and highly experienced diplomat with a tremendous depth of expertise in Libya and the region. He and his colleagues spent their lives working on behalf of the United States of America and I hope their proud families and the entire diplomatic corps know we are deeply grateful as a people.

This cowardly attack is a setback, but it will not stop us from our mission of promoting freedom and democracy for the people of Libya, and it should not. It will not keep our diplomats from their important work overseas.

I remember when I was a student in Japan, the Ambassador there at the time, back in the early 1960s, was a fellow named Dr. Edwin Reischauer, who was probably at that time the pre-eminent Japanologist in America. He was a gentle, wonderful, marvelous person whom the Japanese loved. He was stabbed in one of those senseless things that happen. It can happen on American streets, but it can happen on the streets of other countries, even with security. Some mad person got in and stabbed him in a traditional Japanese manner with a Japanese sword. It was a horrible event, but he survived and it enlarged his legend. There was no bitterness from his family or his wife, and it didn't set anything back. The person was brought to justice.

Now I wish to speak also about other ways we must join together to help those who serve our country, and that is in creating job opportunities for our unemployed veterans. We have many veterans, and too many of them are unemployed or homeless. I am now talking about the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. This is a responsible investment and we should do it promptly.

Standing for our veterans has been one of my top priorities since I began public service. You can't help but be that way if you live in West Virginia. I suspect it is true in Oregon and lots of places all over the country. By definition it is true, but it is always personal, and in the Senate it has never waned.

Before I was a Senator, the person who held my seat for a long time was Senator Jennings Randolph. I took his place on the Veterans Committee and I have been on it now for 28 years. It is a glorious committee, brilliantly led now by Senator PATTY MURRAY. I was chairman once myself, perhaps not quite so brilliantly.

So many brave servicemembers, men and women, have fought to defend our way of life. People say that, and it is true, and they protect us each and every day. After such courageous and selfless actions, the least we can do is make sure when they return home they get good jobs, because they deserve those good jobs.

Military experience builds leadership, dedication, bravery, and teamwork, and these traits are learned from working on the frontlines. Not everything in the military happens on the frontlines, but I just happen to be talking about that particular aspect in my short remarks. No experience could prepare these workers better for the jobs they hope to do after they leave their military service.

I have a nephew who has just come back from Afghanistan. He may be 23, maybe 25, but he is almost unreachable in his strength, his patriotism, and what has happened to him as a human being internally, intellectually, and in broad vision. He has grown so large and so great. He has a job, so I am not talking about him, but with so many brave servicemembers—men and women—we need to pay attention to them when they come home.

Political rhetoric and partisanship have no business delaying efforts to help our veterans. Everybody likes to talk about veterans—actually, a lot of bills do pass but not as many bills as should. Veterans did not delay or decline when we called them for deployment, so we should not delay now.

It is tragic that the unemployment rate for younger returning veterans is so much higher than the national unemployment rate. In 2011, the unemployment rate for young male veterans was over 29 percent, more than 11 percent higher than nonveterans of precisely the same age. It is heartbreaking that those who bravely served face unemployment or homelessness. This bill will not solve all problems, but it will solve many of them.

West Virginians understand the importance of military service. With nearly 170,000 West Virginian veterans, we need to be sure they have our full support: getting a job, getting health care, and getting their pensions. These words come out of one's mouth easily; getting the job done is harder.

The Veterans Job Corps Act invests in our veterans and in our communities. Veterans would have a new opportunity to serve and protect America by gaining priority placement in first responder positions, such as police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians. That makes sense, doesn't it? Our veterans have the experience and the instinct to do these jobs—they did it while they served—and our communities need their help.

I don't know what is going to happen to the budget, but it is not going to be rosy and happy, and we need to have those jobs which help protect us and keep us safe in play, for our veterans and for others too. It would create conservation and resource management jobs for veterans, enlisting them in efforts to rebuild America through restoration of our forests, parks, coasts, and public lands. I think the Presiding Officer would agree that is important.

The Veterans Job Corps Act would establish a pilot program to provide veterans with access to the Internet

and computers to assist in job searches and would offer the military's Transition Assistance Program to eligible veterans—and their spouses—at sites outside military installations in order to make it easier to relocate and pursue job opportunities.

The legislation would also provide veterans in rural areas, such as West Virginia and Oregon, with greater access to career specialists to help them write resumes and prepare for interviews and therefore to find jobs. The programs in the Veterans Job Corps Act are supported by a fully paid-for \$1 billion investment in our veterans' futures. It is a responsible effort to support our veterans and provide help for communities across America.

In closing, I would like to especially thank Leader REID and Chairman MURRAY for working with me to protect West Virginian jobs as part of this bill. The Veterans Job Corps Act is an important investment in our Nation's veterans and our economy, and I hope we can quickly move this bill through the Congress.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I want to first join with the many Senators today who have strongly condemned the violent attacks against the men and women serving bravely in our diplomatic corps. The senseless murders in Libya are a reminder of the dangers these public servants take on every day and the courage they show in furthering our diplomatic goals all across the globe. We are all so grateful to them. My thoughts and prayers go out to Ambassador Chris Stevens and the other victims of the attack, and I stand with the President, as we all do, in supporting efforts to secure those who continue to serve us abroad.

I have come to the floor today to respond to the statements that were made here earlier, that are completely inaccurate, about the bill we are currently considering on the floor, the Veterans Job Corps bill. In particular, I want to respond to the baseless and frankly offensive charges the Senator from Oklahoma made, insinuating that supporters of this bill don't "really care about veterans" and that this bill "isn't about veterans."

I have been working on veterans issues in the Senate for nearly two decades and in all of that time, under Democratic and Republican-controlled Senates, under administrations of both parties and in times of war and peace, if there was one issue I have seen that rises above the day-to-day bomb throwing that often characterizes the debate here, it has been the care and benefits for our veterans.

We can certainly disagree about policy, of course. We can fight with all of our hearts for what we think is right. But never—never—have I seen accusations that one party or one group was not fighting for what they believed to be right for our veterans. In fact, the accusations leveled on the floor here earlier today were one of the biggest departures from the spirit of cooperation around veterans issues I have seen in my time in the Senate. So I am here today to set the record straight about the steps this bill takes to put our veterans back to work.

In doing so, I will not question the motives or the degree to which those who may oppose this legislation care for our veterans because, as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee myself, I see Republicans' commitment every single day. I will not level allegations designed to make our veterans political pawns and I certainly will not mislead anyone about what we have set out to do. I will not because honestly I believe our veterans deserve far better. What they and the American people deserve is the truth.

The truth is that caring for our veterans and helping to provide them with the training they need to find jobs when they return home is a cost of the wars we have fought for the last decade. The truth is that less than 1 percent of U.S. citizens serve and sacrifice for the well-being of the other 99 percent. The truth is that what the Senator from Oklahoma calls a charade is an effort to give those veterans as many avenues as possible to find work. It is an effort to give them the economic security and self-esteem that only a job can provide and that is so essential to their return home.

I understand it has taken some in the Senate a long time to come to grips with the fact that our fiscal commitment we owe to those who wear the uniform does not end the day they are discharged. The truth is, it is not enough to give our veterans a pat on the back for their military service. We also have to give them a helping hand in the job market today. As the jobs report that was released last month reminds us, we have over 720,000 unemployed veterans across the Nation, including over 225,000 veterans who served since September 11. Despite what the Senator from Oklahoma may have said, this bill makes the resources available to all of them. In fact, that is exactly why we brought this bill forward.

What we need right now is an "all hands on deck," "all of the above" strategy. That is why in fact this bill includes both Democratic and Republican ideas. This is a bill that will increase training and hiring opportunities for all veterans, using proven job training programs from across the country. For instance, it increases grants under the COPS and SAFER Programs that we have seen work to train and hire qualified veterans to work as police officers, firefighters,

and other first responders. This is at a time when 85 percent of law enforcement agencies were forced to reduce their budgets last year. It comes at a time when we face a \$10 billion maintenance backlog for our public lands. This bill will help training and hire veterans to restore and protect our national, State, and tribal forests, our parks, and our other public lands.

Because training and hiring veterans has never been and should never be an effort that divides us, we have included a host of Republican ideas into this bill. We included a bill from Senator TOOMEY that gives veterans increased access to computers and Internet tools to help them find jobs in in-demand areas in their own communities. We included a bill sponsored by Senator BOOZMAN that will increase transition assistance programs for eligible veterans and their spouses. And we included a very important provision from Senators on both sides of the aisle that will help force our States to consider the military experience of our veterans when they issue licenses and certifications—something we have all heard when we go home.

We figured this comprehensive bipartisan approach would certainly be enough to gain Republican support, even if it did come as we are, of course, inching closer to an election. But over the course of the last 48 hours or so we have heard that Republicans, including Senator BURR, who is the ranking member of my committee, had an alternative version of the bill that Republicans wanted to push forward. The bill of Senator BURR includes a system to have States certify military experience for jobs skills and helps veterans get hired into the Federal workforce, among a number of other provisions. It appeared to all of us that this late alternative might derail what I believe can be and ought to be a bipartisan effort. But again, we are committed to making this a bipartisan effort. So, instead of showing our veterans that we are just about gridlock and partisanship, here is what we have done.

Because, as I said before, this has to be an “all of the above” approach, we have, therefore, added every one of the provisions in the alternative offered by Senator BURR to our bill. Now I believe we have an even more bipartisan, more inclusive bill on the floor right now awaiting action. This is a bill that is paid for with offsets that both Republicans and Democrats have supported. It is a bill unquestionably that represents ideas from both sides of the aisle, including now from the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee.

There is no reason now that Republicans should not join us in passing this bill and passing it quickly, because this does not have to be an either/or situation. Neither party has the magic bullet to solve these problems, so we have to open as many proven opportunities to employment as we can.

You know, veterans are out there watching and waiting. They are tired

of excuses and they certainly have no stomach for the kind of political posturing they saw earlier today, that comes only at their expense.

I know some Republicans have pointed to the calendar as the reason for their opposition to this bill. Honestly, I wish it were not September and we did not have to deal with the silly season here in Washington, DC. But who could care less about what month it is or how many days out from an election we are? Here is the issue: Nearly 1 million unemployed veterans are looking for work today. They are concerned about what jobs are available in their communities. Their concern is what training program they can take advantage of and what is being done to honor their two or three tours overseas.

This is a bill now that offers them new resources to answer those questions. It is a bill that will help them serve their community and help them provide honorably for their families. I truly hope now, with the change we have added to the alternative bill offered by Senator BURR, we will have overcome our last hurdle before passage.

I come to the floor today to urge Republicans to join us now in rising above politics as we have done time and time again for our veterans. Ignore the calendar and the never-ending chatter about who is up and who is down. That is not what this is about. This is about making sure our veterans come first this and every week and that we intend to keep our commitment to them for their services.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I am here to talk about the important Veterans Job Corps Act of 2012 that is on the floor of the Senate. But I did wish to first express my thoughts, as so many of my colleagues have done on both sides of the aisle, that I strongly condemn the attacks in Egypt and Libya. I have been deeply saddened by the death of our Ambassador there as well as several other American citizens, and I join all Americans in not only condemning these attacks but also in sending my prayers and thoughts to the families of those killed by those senseless and horrific acts of violence.

On to the Veterans Corps Job Act. As we all know, as we have seen by this horrific violence and by what we have seen overseas and in the Mideast, our troops face that every single day when they are there, as do our diplomats. They face that kind of threat. When they come home to this country, we

must treat them with great dignity and respect.

I have always believed that when we ask our young men and women to fight in defense of our Nation, we make a promise that we will give them the resources they need to complete their mission. We also promise to take care of them when they come home to this country. When they signed up to serve, there was no waiting line, and when they come home to the United States of America and they need a job or they need health care or need an education, there should never be a waiting line.

As a Senator from Minnesota, fighting for our veterans has been a major focus. While we do not have an Active-Duty base, we have the fifth largest National Guard in the country. Given that our population is only 22nd in the country, we can see we have a lot of people who want to serve our country and sign up to serve on the frontline. We have worked to cut through the redtape and streamline credentialing to help servicemembers transition their military skills into good-paying jobs at home. To give just one example, right now returning paramedics are too often unable to count the medical training they receive in the military toward receiving a license to become a civilian emergency medical technician.

That is why I introduced the Veterans to Paramedics Act to fix that problem by encouraging States to give paramedics credit for the medical training they have already received in the military. Not only does this help our veterans, it also helps relieve the shortage of emergency medical personnel, especially in our rural areas, where we have seen those shortages.

With commonsense solutions such as these, we cannot only fulfill our commitment to our veterans but we can also help lift our economy and make sure people who have the skills fill the jobs we have available. This is what the Veterans Job Corps Act is all about, fulfilling our promise to our veterans, ensuring training and the opportunities they need to find good-paying jobs and strengthening our Nation in the process.

To list just a few of the important provisions in this bill, first, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act gives veterans a new opportunity to serve and protect America by granting them prioritized placement in first responder positions such as police, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.

Second, this bill would create conservation and resource management jobs for veterans, enlisting their help in building a stronger and more beautiful America through the restoration of our forests, parks, coasts, and public lands.

Third, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act would establish a pilot program to provide veterans with access to the Internet and computers to assist in job searches, a key bipartisan provision first introduced by my colleagues across the aisle.

Fourth, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act would especially help rural veterans find employment by granting them greater access to career specialists who can help them write résumés, prepare for interviews, and find jobs. We know all too often the amazing experience and leadership experience they have had overseas fighting for our country does not always translate the terms and the words and the ways described by the résumé into truly explaining what it is to a potential employer. That is why this skill training is so important.

This would also allow eligible veterans and spouses to enroll in the military's innovative Transition Assistance Program at sites outside military installations so they can relocate or return home in pursuit of job opportunities. This is a key benefit in my State of Minnesota, as I noted, which is very rural and also has no military bases.

The fact is, our returning veterans have battle-tested skills that are available to employers in all kinds of fields. This is something companies in my State have recognized. In fact, our business community, small and large, is already leading the way in reaching out to servicemembers before they have even begun the process of transitioning home. In April of this year, when Minnesota's 34th Infantry Division, known as the Red Bulls, was still deployed in Kuwait, representatives from several major companies in Minnesota actually flew into Kuwait to help the soldiers spruce up their résumés and prepare them for job interviews. All across Minnesota, large and small companies are targeting their recruitment efforts on returning servicemembers. This is the type of initiative we need.

In recent months, the unemployment rate for Minnesota veterans who have served since 9/11 has hit nearly 23 percent, almost double the national average for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan war. An unemployment rate that high among the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our Nation is unacceptable, especially when our State's unemployment rate is, in fact, at 5.8 percent.

I truly believe that with initiatives such as those launched by private sector companies in our State, with training programs such as those created by this critical legislation, we are going to turn this situation around. That is why I am calling on all my colleagues to support the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. This important bill, which is fully paid for, goes a long way in providing our returning veterans the leg up they need in transitioning to the civilian workforce.

Minnesota has always been a State that understands the debt we owe to men and women who have served and sacrificed for us. I call on all my colleagues to vote for this bill and to take a step toward fulfilling that debt. This is the least we can do for the people who have fought and died to protect

our values, freedoms, democracy, and human rights.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the Veterans Jobs Corps bill, properly written, could be a positive piece of legislation. And I am not speaking about the intent of the bill, whether it can be done effectively, but as ranking Republican on the Budget Committee, I have to point out that this bill violates the budget. It violates the principles of common sense and good management, and it is the typical reason this government is on an unsustainable financial path. It is the typical reason of why we are going broke.

This bill will cost \$1 billion over 5 years in spending on a new program. It claims to be offset by new taxes and new revenue sources, but my staff has worked on it and has confirmed there is a 302(f) Budget Act point of order against this Veterans Jobs Corps Act and the managers' amendment, and I am confident that if and when it is raised, the Parliamentarian will agree. There is a budget point of order against this bill because it violates the Veterans Affairs Committee's allocation for budget authority and outlays for what was agreed to in the Budget Control Act.

There was a limit to how much we would spend on the Veterans Affairs Committee. They had a limit on the number of dollars they got. It was part of the August agreement—the Budget Control Act—of a little over a year ago this past August. This is serious. We told the American people we would raise the debt ceiling by about \$2.1 trillion but we were going to cut spending. We would immediately raise the debt ceiling and allow \$2.1 trillion more in spending, but we promised we would reduce spending over the next 10 years by that same amount. That was the agreement. The President signed it, our Democratic colleagues supported it, and it passed. The debt ceiling was raised, so the government continued to go forward. We were borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spent in the U.S. Government. If we had not raised the amount of money we could borrow in this country, the entirety of government expenditures would have been reduced immediately by 40 percent. So that is how big a hole we are in.

What this new bill does, with good purpose, is it spends \$1 billion more than we agreed to spend. So then what occurs? What occurs is, if a person objects to that and raises the budget point of order, the Senate has to waive it openly, publicly, before the American people. We have to say we can't

find money within our budget to spend \$1 billion more, but we are going to spend it anyway, and every penny of it either has to be borrowed or will be paid for by increased revenues somewhere. So that's what we are going to vote on. I intend to raise the Budget Point of Order.

But it is even worse than that. Some say, "Well, over 10 years we promise to raise enough money to pay for this, that over the 10-year period we will raise the \$1 billion. Don't worry about it. These tax increases and revenue enhancements will pay for it. Count on us."

I hate to say it, but it is not so. We have in this bill at least one-third the amount of money that would be spent by the jobs corps bill coming from a well-known gimmick, a manipulation of an accounting system around here that allows us to spend more money than we have, and it scores not as an expenditure but as being a proper, valid pay-for. And it is as bogus as a three-dollar bill. I say without danger of contradiction that this is a gimmick. If a private company were to do this and utilize this method to manipulate and mislead stockholders, they would have a lawsuit against the officers of the corporation. They would. It is totally bogus.

Let me explain how this is done. This has been done before. I have offered a bill called the Honest Budget Act. Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE joined me in that, and that would have eliminated a number of misleading gimmicks and fraudulent activities, including this one. Now, to explain, there is a certain corporate tax revenue we get from corporations, and the drafters of this bill cleverly got the idea that they could just accelerate the amount of money from fiscal year 2014 into fiscal year 2013. They would bring that money back into 2013 and collect it just a little bit earlier, and they could then say: We have another \$135 million in revenue in 2013, so we can spend that money, and it doesn't cost anything because we have this new money and it is paid for.

So this new Veterans Jobs Corps bill will be partially paid for. About one-third of its total cost will be paid for by collecting corporate revenue taxes sooner. But think about that, if the corporation pays its taxes a few months earlier—it pays it in fiscal year 2013—then it won't owe them in 2014, will it? If they were planning on paying them in 2014, now, they don't have to pay them in 2014. So the hole has moved from 2013 to 2014. We moved the money over here, but we won't have the revenue the next year that we would normally have had. And that is to be done over 5 years.

In the fifth year—which is where our colleagues wanted the number to fall—it shows as if we had a \$392 million total increase in revenue. The money, added up each year over 5 years, plus increases, totals \$392 million. Isn't that great? We didn't raise taxes. All we did

is call in a little money a little earlier, and we have netted \$392 million, right? Wrong. Year 6 is where the revenue doesn't come in, and in year 6 it shows that we will bring into the U.S. Treasury \$392 million less because that money was collected early in the previous year—\$392 million less in year 6. It never is a net increase to the U.S. Treasury, although it might appear to be, according to the conventions of accounting the CBO uses around here. And CBO knows this is true. They would tell anyone the same thing if they were to ask about this. They know exactly what this system is. But they follow their rules, and in the fifth year it suggests we have a \$392 million surplus from this advance collection of corporate taxes, and that is not so.

So, my colleagues, this is a problem for us. We do not need to continue down this pathway. We need to be honest with the American people. The President of the United States should be objecting to this kind of stuff. He should say: No, you can't play that game. The majority leader, Senator REID, should be saying: No, that is a manipulation. The budget chairman, Senator CONRAD, ought to say: No, it violates the Budget Act. This isn't the way to do it.

Now, the alternative bill authored by Senator BURR is an honest piece of legislation and would do much of the same thing; however, it does not violate the Budget Act and is therefore not subject to a budget point of order.

This legislation could have been crafted that way, too. But being as greedy as I guess we are, rather than having to face up to a little bit of the difficulty of finding a couple of hundred million dollars, out of \$3.7 trillion we will spend next year, we would rather manipulate it this way.

So what did we mean in August a year ago when we said we were going to cut spending by \$2.1 trillion over 10 years? Was that just a joke? Is this the kind of thing we are going to do every time a bill comes along that has some appeal to it and we wish to support? Are we not willing to stand up and pay for the legislation? Is there no waste, fraud, and abuse in this government that we couldn't work on? There certainly is.

This government is mismanaged, it is out of control, and the Chief Executive spends his days getting on an airplane going somewhere to make a speech. What we need is somebody in the shop managing the taxpayers' money. And when Congress tries to play these gimmicks, we need a President that says, No. That is what this country needs. Until we get that, we are never going to bring spending under control.

What do my President and my Democratic colleagues in the Senate say? Send more money. We can't cut anything. We have no ability to find savings. We need more money, American people. Send more to Washington, private sector. It doesn't make a whole lot of difference in an economic sense

where it comes from. It is all a further drain out of the private sector, so the public sector can spread the money around and maybe solicit some votes in the process.

This is how we got into this fix. I am concerned about it. I do not think we should go forward with the legislation as drafted. Perhaps some compromise can be reached. Senator BURR has worked hard on it. Maybe our Democratic colleagues can get together and put up a veterans jobs bill that is honestly paid for. I know they could. And if it is worth it and we can find ways to make the tough choices that we are paid to do and set priorities, and help veterans find jobs through some sort of mechanism such as this, then let's do it. But let's pay for it, and let's don't use these gimmicks. Let's don't go about it in a way that misleads the American people about how much the legislation is truly costing.

I feel strongly about it. I am getting frustrated about it. It is always: Well, it is just a few hundred million here and a few hundred million there, and the bill needs to pass, and don't raise these problems now, we are slowing down the machine, we have a lot of things to do. It doesn't look as if we are so busy right now, but people think we have things to do and they don't want to have to wrestle with the minutiae of a few hundred million dollars a year. But we should do that. If we do that every day and if we stay within the budget amount we agreed to last August, we will have made some improvement in the overall debt course of America.

To make clear, the Budget Control Act agreement called for a reduction of \$2.1 trillion in spending over 10 years. During that time, we were projected to spend \$47 trillion. So the net reduction would be from \$47 trillion to \$45 trillion. Surely the Republic is not going to sink into the ocean if we reduce our spending from \$47 trillion to \$45 trillion. Surely we can find that. It is not enough. We need to do about three times that much at a minimum, and we can do that, too. This is still a substantial increase in spending. This is not a cut in spending over 10 years. At the current rate of spending, we spend about \$37 trillion. So we are going from \$47 trillion to \$45 trillion over 10 years instead of \$37 trillion over 10 years. It is still a major increase in spending over 10 years, but we are told that is impossible; all we can possibly do is \$2.1 trillion in reductions.

The President was claiming credit for reaching this agreement, but the budget he submitted this year wiped out the entire \$2.1 trillion. It wiped out the entire sequester and raised taxes by \$1.5 trillion in increased spending and about \$1.8 trillion in increased taxes; no cuts at all under his budget; actually a spending increase over the trajectory we were already on, which is an unsustainable trajectory.

I know I am being frank about this. Some can say this is a political argu-

ment. Well, we are in a political season, and I believe what I have said is accurate. I believe what I have said is true. I believe a budget point of order lies against this bill because it spends more than the Veterans' Affairs is allocated to spend, and we need to vote on it. It is this kind of breaking the budget and spending more than we agreed that has helped put us in this fix, and we need somebody to help bring order out of chaos.

We are on an unsustainable path. This Nation is on the wrong track. We are on the track to decline and debt and financial crisis, not the road to prosperity. We cannot continue in this path.

Erskine Bowles and Senator Simpson before the Budget Committee told us that we have never faced in this country a more predictable debt crisis. That was their joint statement, "never faced a more predictable financial crisis." What they told us was: We are on an unsustainable path. If we stay on this path, we will have some sort of debt crisis, another 2008 or 2007 recession caused by a financial bubble. And for the U.S. Government, what a disaster that would be if, as we are struggling to get people back to work and get the economy on the rise, we have a financial crisis again putting us back into recession. We need to avoid that. We have got to be mature and honest about our money. We have got to get our debt under control.

This bill violates the deemed allocations included in the Budget Control Act. It violates sound principles of financial policy. It contains a major gimmick, really a bogus allocation of over \$300 million that claims to exist that does not exist at all. We need to fix that.

Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to share these remarks.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECESS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:54 p.m., recessed until 8:46 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MERKLEY).

VETERANS JOBS CORPS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having expired, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted “yea.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 192 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Akaka	Feinstein	Moran
Alexander	Franken	Murkowski
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murray
Barrasso	Graham	Nelson (NE)
Baucus	Grassley	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hagan	Portman
Bennet	Harkin	Pryor
Bingaman	Hatch	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Boxer	Hutchison	Roberts
Brown (MA)	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Kerry	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Kohl	Shaheen
Cardin	Kyl	Shelby
Carper	Lautenberg	Snowe
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Chambliss	Levin	Tester
Coats	Lieberman	Thune
Cochran	Lugar	Toomey
Collins	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Conrad	McCain	Udall (NM)
Coons	McCaskill	Vitter
Corker	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wicker
Enzi	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—8

Blunt	Inhofe	Paul
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
DeMint	Lee	

NOT VOTING—8

Cornyn	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Inouye	Kirk	Webb
Johannes	Landrieu	

The motion was agreed to.

VETERANS JOBS CORPS ACT OF 2012

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3457) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 2789

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator MURRAY, I call up the substitute amendment, No. 2789.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for Mrs. MURRAY, proposes an amendment numbered 2789.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of Tuesday, September 11, 2012, under “Text of Amendments.”)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2808 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2789

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a first-degree perfecting amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2808 to amendment No. 2789.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section: Sec. _____.

This Act shall become effective 7 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2809 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2808

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2809 to amendment No. 2808.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike “7 days” and insert “6 days”.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion on the substitute amendment which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the substitute amendment No. 2789 to S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Bill Nelson, Carl Levin, Tom Harkin, Jeff Bingaman, Christopher A. Coons, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Daniel K. Inouye, Benjamin L. Cardin, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Ron Wyden, Robert Menendez, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Barbara Mikulski.

AMENDMENT NO. 2810

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk to the language proposed to be stricken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2810 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2789.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section: Sec. _____.

This Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2811 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2810

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2811 to amendment No. 2810.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike “5 days” and insert “4 days”.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2812

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit the bill with instructions which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill, S. 3457, to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 2812.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following new section: Sec. _____.

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2813

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2813 to the instructions (Amendment No. 2812) to commit S. 3457.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike “3 days” and insert “2 days”.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2814 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2813

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2814 to amendment No. 2813.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "2 days" and insert "1 day".

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion to the bill, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Bill Nelson, Carl Levin, Tom Harkin, Jeff Bingaman, Christopher A. Coons, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Daniel K. Inouye, Benjamin L. Cardin, Al Franken, Barbara Boxer, Ron Wyden, Robert Menendez, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Barbara Mikulski.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived on the cloture motion just filed.

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

FAMILY AND BUSINESS TAX CUT CERTAINTY ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 3521.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 3521, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, now that the Senate has finally adopted the motion to proceed to the veterans jobs bill, we have brought to a close the 380th filibuster during my time as majority leader—less than 6 years. And just now, to start to bring debate to close on the veterans jobs bill itself, I have had to file the 381st cloture motion during my 5½ years as leader. That is 381 cloture motions filed in just 6 years. Actually, it is less than that.

For comparison, in the 6 years that Lyndon Johnson was majority leader, he had to file one cloture motion. This has become outrageous. The peoples' time is being wasted. We just finished 30 hours of nothing. We are now starting our next 30 hours of nothing, just standing around looking at each other.

Filibusters have increased in recent years, but this is really unbelievable what has happened. The level of Republican obstruction has increased dramatically. It has increased dramatically just in the last few years.

We do not have to fight over everything. A veterans jobs bill, does that deserve a fight? When we were in recess subject to the call of the Chair, an Afghan veteran was brought out here. He is missing one leg. He is 25 years old. He is an Army veteran. He is trying to hang on to his other leg. The pages who are in here, I called them up and introduced them to this young man. I wanted them to see what all of this talk is about, of people who sacrifice for our country. Hopefully this man will be well enough after some more rehabilitation time that he can go out and look for a job. He will have at least one artificial limb.

This is a veterans jobs bill that is being held up for what reason? I do not know—or do I know? The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports there are about 200,000 unemployed post-9/11 veterans, approaching a quarter of a million. And as our Nation appropriately winds down our military commitments abroad, we can expect increased numbers of newly separated veterans to enter the workforce.

The veterans jobs bill is a \$1 billion investment in our veterans. This bill would increase training and hiring opportunities for veterans. It would help to create jobs for veterans.

I commend Senator NELSON of Florida and the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator MURRAY, for their hard work on this bill. Unfortunately, I have already received word that the Republican Senators are simply unwilling to pass this measure. One Republican Senator, for example, is insisting on a vote on something related to Pakistan.

Another Senator has filed a right-to-work amendment. Yet another Republican Senator has filed the Department of Defense authorization bill as an amendment to this bill. As important as Pakistan and many other issues are, the Senate ought to be able to focus on this young man who was here in the well this evening. We ought to be focusing on creating jobs for veterans.

Now, we all know what is happening over here. The Republican leader, you have to admire him, he stuck to it. His No. 1 goal is to defeat President Obama, and that is why we have not been able to legislate. Everything has been stopped. Everything. We have been able to push through a few things but not many.

As always, I will do everything I can to work with Senators to get consent agreements to provide for consideration of this legislation. Hopefully we can reach such agreement. I do not have much hope, but I am always, I guess, hopeful. But in the meantime, I will do what I need to do to ensure that the Senate can vote on this important measure. I will do what I can to help create jobs for America's veterans. We need to do it for everyone, but could we just not agree on veterans?

I know we are now 30 hours postcloture. We all know the drill. Scores and scores of times—the Pre-

siding Officer is a new Member of this Senate, relatively new. He has served going on two Congresses. But he is an expert at watching this. The Senator from Oregon has watched this, and he understands what is going on, and it is not very good.

So the time will run out on this 30 hours from whenever the vote was turned in. First of all, we just—it is easy to get—especially when I am used to the Ryan math mixed up on numbers a little bit. So let's go back where we were.

We just completed and wasted 30 hours. I had to file cloture now on the underlying bill. I have done that. Now we have to wait 2 days for this to ripen. The 2 days is going to expire on Friday.

Now, we are going to vote on Friday, but it is not going to be at a time convenient to everybody. We are going to come in shortly after midnight tomorrow night, and we are going to vote on this. Then the 30 hours can start running, and then we will vote Saturday generally.

If people cannot work together to help veterans, then we are going to make sure the American public knows what is going on here. So we will not vote tomorrow night, but we will vote—it has to be anytime 2 days from now. We can do that tomorrow night or actually Friday morning early, a little after midnight.

I am sorry I got a little mixed up on 30 hours, 2 days for something to ripen. Then, as I said, I have been very confused because of the Ryan math. It has been difficult for me to accept all of that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3457

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, where to start? I mean, what a charade and what a farce. The majority filibusters their own bills. They fill up the amendment tree. They do not even pretend like they are going to work with the other side. How do they expect to pass legislation if they will not allow any input from the other party? A charade and a farce.

As far as helping that young veteran, our soldiers went to war in Afghanistan to get bin Laden. We finally got bin Laden, and we got him with the help of Dr. Shakil Afridi. I do not hear one peep from the other side, I do not see one bit of concern for the man who helped get bin Laden.

Our soldiers went to Afghanistan. That young man lost a limb. A young man in my town also lost three limbs. They did it to get this horrible mass murderer bin Laden. This happened, and this is why we went to war. We are going to do nothing to support the man who helped us get bin Laden?

We send good money after bad. Billions of dollars have been squandered in Pakistan. Pakistan then tortures the man who helped America get bin Laden. And we do nothing. I have asked for 15 minutes to vote on this

issue—15 minutes. No one is obstructing this for any sort of personal vendetta. I am more than happy to work with the majority. I care deeply about the veterans. I care deeply about housing and helping the veterans who have fought for their country. But this is about whether we as a country and the American taxpayers will be asked to send good money after bad to allies that are not acting like allies.

Today we are reminded that our enemies are relentless, but we are also reminded that our so-called allies are not acting like allies at all. We are saddened by the assassination of Ambassador Stevens and his fellow workers, and we are appalled by the lack of protection for our embassies by our supposed allies. We send billions of taxpayer dollars abroad. And what do we get in return? Disrespect, disdain, and now ultimately violence.

I have two amendments I wish to call up. First, not one penny should be sent to Libya until the assassins are delivered to justice. Not one penny should go to Egypt until they guarantee the safety and protection of our embassies.

Second, not one more penny should go to Pakistan until the doctor who helped us get bin Laden is freed. Is it too much to ask of the Senate? I am more than willing to cooperate. I am more than willing to let those go home who want to go home and campaign. I know it is going to be a tough election for the other side. But the thing is, I am more than willing to let them go home anytime.

I do this because it is important that our allies act like allies. It is important that we have a vote, that this Senate go on record and say: Do you support the American taxpayer? Do you want to help the man who helped us get bin Laden?

I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendments and call up amendment No. 2783 and also another amendment that is at the desk and yet to be numbered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senator from Kentucky says there is no input from the minority, but, in fact, the substitute amendment we are going to vote on in the next day or two which is now pending before us has numerous provisions authored by Senate Republicans.

I respect the interest of the Senator from Kentucky in relation to Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, but every now and then the Senate should be able to focus on a small good thing. To veterans this is a big thing. I like helping them. So I understand my friend's tenacity. But I also understand how the Senate operates.

I just think my friend from Kentucky maybe should have run for Secretary of State rather than the Senate.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO JULIE HASQUET

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Julie Hasquet, my longtime press secretary and dedicated staff members, whose way with words, quick wit, and sharp pen has served me and the people of Alaska very well for over 9 years. Julie had a tall task working for my then new mayoral administration for the Municipality of Anchorage as we brought down blighted buildings, drove out drug dealers, and culled out the "cat lady" in an effort to clean up the city. Julie staged press events all over town with backdrops that included bulldozers, jackhammers, demolition crews and even a wrecking ball painted as a pumpkin to take down a dilapidated gas station one cold Halloween afternoon.

A former television news reporter, Julie expertly guest hosted talk radio shows where she would interview and cajole her own guests, including me, to discuss politics, policy, police, and issues of the day with the ease of a well-seasoned pundit. She used those skills in the mayor's office and in the U.S. Senate to write more than 4,500 press releases, thousands of tweets and texts, and to bring our office into the Facebook age with quips, quotes, and photos to tell the whole story as it was unfolding.

Over the years I have watched with pride as Julie has balanced family life with civic duty, raising two smart, talented, daughters, Shelby and Savannah, participating in many charitable organizations, and volunteering at events while spending time with her many friends.

Julie spends her spare time pursuing every kind of Alaskan activity from triathlons to target practice and scrapbooking to snow-machining. Julie's love of Alaska shines through everything she does and her ability to tell Alaskans their own story, in as few words as possible, is a rare talent indeed.

While Julie may be leaving the wild world of politics now, or so she thinks, I commend her and thank her for each and every one of her well said words and a job extraordinarily well done.

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I wish to express support for women across America who are battling ovarian cancer and their families and friends who stand with them in their fight. It is estimated 22,280 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer this year. Of these women, 15,500 of them will lose the battle against this disease—1,040 of the women who will lose the battle this year live in Florida. To put those numbers in perspective, this year, across America, 3 percent of new cancer diagnoses in women will be ovarian cancer, but ovarian cancer will account for 6 percent of female cancer deaths this year.

September marks National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, which is why I chose now to bring attention to this disease. Ovarian cancer is the ninth most common cancer in women and the fifth leading cause of cancer-related deaths because ovarian cancer is a unique cancer—there are no screening tests or early detection tests available. However, if ovarian cancer is treated before it has spread past the ovary, the 5-year survival rate is 93 percent. Sadly, only 15 percent of ovarian cancer diagnoses happen in this early stage, making the overall 5-year survival a mere 46 percent.

Until a screening test is developed, the best we can do to protect our wives, daughters, sisters, nieces, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends is to bring awareness to the risk factors, signs, and symptoms of ovarian cancer. I urge my colleagues to help educate women about the potential warning signs to help with early diagnosis, which is the best method to save lives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOYE KELLEY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the career of Joye Kelley who is retiring as the president of the Rogers Board of Education after a lifetime of service and dedication to education.

Joye Kelley has been a fixture of the Rogers School Board for more than 29 years serving 20 of those years as president. During her decades of service, Joye has been a visionary for expansion and growth of a school system challenged to meet the needs of the growing population. During her years on the board, Joye ushered in many improvements to schools including the construction of 14 new schools to accommodate the tremendous growth.

Joye has led the Rogers School District to be one of the best districts in Arkansas establishing the mission that welcomes all students and works to help each student succeed. The result of her vision and leadership is the creation of an award-winning education system that is recognized nationally. Both Rogers High School and Heritage

High School have been named among the top 1,000 high schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report. Both are ranked in the top five schools in Arkansas, and the school district is home to a National Blue Ribbon School.

Joye sets a great example of being a hands-on leader, insisting that the board members tour all 23 school campuses at the beginning of the school year to make sure students are provided with a quality learning environment. Joye's husband, Gene, estimates that she spends up to 1,000 hours each year in service to schools.

Perhaps one of Joye's greatest achievements was her influence on education funding in Arkansas and encouraging the State to make it a priority. Her courage to lead the Rogers School Board to challenge education funding helped pave the path for a better education system in Arkansas for students no matter what school district they are enrolled in or where they live.

I had the privilege of serving with Joye as a member of the school board. Her expertise and vision made a lasting mark that will be enjoyed by the community and students for generations after she no longer presides over school board meetings.

Joye has displayed dedication, perseverance and commitment to education. I appreciate her friendship and am grateful for her years of service and efforts devoted to improving the education of Arkansas students.●

IDAHO HOMETOWN HERO MEDAL

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the second year of the presentation of the Idaho Hometown Hero Medal and congratulate the 2012 recipients of this esteemed honor.

This award was established by Drs. Fahim and Naeem Rahim, who, in addition to their professional and medical service, have a belief in community service and a desire to give back to the community and our country. After receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, they decided to return to Idaho and start the Idaho Hometown Hero award to recognize and celebrate individuals who embody the spirit of philanthropy while showing remarkable commitment in both their personal and professional lives. Their efforts to recognize those working for the betterment of our communities play an important role in inspiring all of us.

I am honored to be among the 2011 recipients of this medal, and I congratulate the 2012 award recipients and recognize the efforts of the Rahim brothers, the award's committee members, the cosponsors, volunteers, and other organizations supporting this honor. Ten extraordinary individuals are 2012 Hometown Hero award recipients: Don Aslett, a businessman, author, and builder of Pocatello's Museum of Clean; Cpl Phillip Baldwin, a marine veteran of Afghanistan now training for the Paralympics; Jonathan Cree,

M.D., a physician and medical educator; Patti Farrell, a women's advocate and founder of the Drive for the Cure; Warren E. Nyer, a nuclear energy expert and last survivor of the Manhattan Project; Jody Olsen, a lifelong athlete and promoter of the Southeastern Idaho Senior Games; Rudolfo M. Pena, a teacher, coach, and advocate for Latino education projects; and Bonnie Stoddard, newspaper writer and expert in the history of Clark County. In addition to these awards, there were two honorary medals awarded posthumously to Steve Appleton, the past chief executive officer of Micron Technology and founder of the Micron Foundation, who is survived by his wife and four children, and SGT Ryan Sharp, an Army veteran of Afghanistan, who passed away in December 2011 from injuries received in Kandahar Province.

Those honored through the 2012 Hometown Hero Medal have demonstrated a commitment to hard work, self-improvement, and community service. It is a great privilege to help recognize their outstanding talent and dedication to fellow Idahoans and Americans. I congratulate and thank all of the award recipients for your efforts to strengthen our communities and commend Fahim and Naeem and all those involved with this effort on the second anniversary of the award.●

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER JOY PINNIGER

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jennifer Joy Pinniger upon her retirement as president and CEO of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association, NSSGA. Joy joined the National Stone Association in December 1996, and she has been "Romancing the Stone" ever since. To her that means helping decisionmakers, the aggregates workforce, and the public understand the purpose and value of the aggregates, or the stone, sand and gravel industry. She has focused NSSGA's advocacy on those issues with the most potential impact on the industry, always aware that the most effective advocates are those members of NSSGA who work every day to produce the construction materials essential to the built environment.

Joy has reminded me on several occasions that her father's roots are in Oklahoma, although as a Navy officer he moved his family around the world. Prior to joining NSSGA, Joy served very ably as chief of staff to former Senator John Warner and as an aide to Virginia Governor John Dalton before that.

Joy has championed the industry in meetings with administration regulatory agencies, always intent on finding solutions that will not only be positive for the aggregates industry but that are right for America. The Rocks Gallery in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History is an example of an

NSSGA-member endowed opportunity for the aggregates story to be told from the vantage point of a world-renowned educational institution—an example of teamwork between innovative members and the NSSGA team quarter-backed by Joy Pinniger.

I have had the pleasure of working with Joy as she led the NSSGA's advocacy for passage of the last two surface transportation authorization bills. Joy realized early on that involvement of the public—those affected by the need to get to and from jobs on a daily basis, to take parents to the doctor, to attend children's soccer games; in reality all of us—was critical to success in moving surface transportation legislation forward. She worked tirelessly facilitating NSSGA member contacts with community leaders and lawmakers to build momentum for this often overlooked national priority. Success came in the form of passage of SAFETEA-LU in 2005 and MAP-21 in 2012.

Joy's advocacy leadership extended well beyond transportation to those regulatory issues affecting the aggregates industry. She continually emphasized the industry's ethics and credibility through NSSGA member company commitments to safety and health resulting in 11 years of record-breaking achievements.

With diplomatic leadership, Joy's policy, management, and motivational strength has helped NSSGA members reinforce message and guide relation bridges to fend off unjustified regulations like tightened standards for "farm dust," and legislation that does not accurately distinguish aggregates operations from others.

Joy Pinniger has led the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association with distinction and integrity. I will miss her steadfast leadership, but congratulate her on her retirement and extend best wishes for whatever she chooses to do next.●

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and congratulate Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for its 100th anniversary.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, founded in 1912 as the City Vocational Schools in Green Bay and Marinette, has grown exponentially in size and impact over the past century. From its earliest offerings of courses in machine shop, woodworking, bookkeeping, and shorthand to today's workforce development in business management, engineering technologies and web development, it has maintained a commitment to providing students with exceptional hands-on training in traditional, new and emerging sectors.

I am proud to have supported NWTC throughout my time in the Senate, working to secure funding for various educational programs and the N.E.W. Clinic, where patients have access to

much needed, quality medical care while the next generation of health care workers receives exceptional, hands-on training. The N.E.W. Clinic, like NWTC, has become a tremendous asset to the residents of Wisconsin.

Today, NWTC graduates more students than all other Green Bay area colleges combined, preparing tens of thousands of students for careers through its 180 programs of study. For the last 2 years, NWTC has rated in the top 10 percent of community colleges nationally as ranked by the Aspen Institute.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College has built a strong reputation and steadfast foundation that helps support and grow the regional economy. With statistics showing that 95 percent of its 2011 graduates continue to work in Wisconsin and 73 percent remain in the region, NWTC also shapes the local economy. Students, thousands of area businesses, their employees, and the entire region all benefit from NWTC's commitment to building partnerships and alliances that help everyone succeed.

On behalf of our entire Nation, I join the people of Wisconsin in recognizing and commending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College for providing 100 years of outstanding service and quality education to its students. Today, we honor the leaders who founded the college, and all of the faculty, staff, and students who enrich Wisconsin's long, proud tradition of excellence in education.●

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor an outstanding nonprofit in Columbia, MD, Enterprise Community Partners, on the occasion of its 30th Anniversary.

In 1982, Jim Rouse and his wife Patty founded Enterprise Community Partners as a neighborhood-based partnership to revitalize communities. They founded Enterprise with the ambitious goal of making sure every American lives in a decent, affordable home. Over the years, this organization has grown to be a leading provider of capital and expertise for affordable housing in thriving communities. Today, Terri Ludwig leads the organization as it continues on the important work of its founders.

Enterprise Community Partners has invested more than \$11.5 billion to build and preserve nearly 300,000 affordable rental and for-sale homes and create more than 410,000 jobs nationwide. This includes almost \$1.2 billion invested directly in Maryland—building and preserving thousands of homes in the State. Because of Enterprise, over 14,000 individuals and families have a place to call home in Maryland.

As a member of the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, I put money in the federal checkbook to build and protect our communities. Providing safe, affordable and adequate

housing has always been one of my top priorities. Safe, sustainable, and affordable housing is essential for community growth and stability. Kids in quality housing do better in schools, neighborhoods have much less crime, and communities are stronger.

In 1992, I worked with Senator Kit Bond to create the HOPE VI program which revolutionized public housing by leveraging public and private resources to replace dangerous and run-down public housing projects with mixed-income communities that integrated schools, businesses and community services alongside public, affordable and market rate housing.

HOPE VI has been successful in transforming communities and transforming the lives of people living in public housing. Enterprise has been an important partner in stabilizing Baltimore's stressed communities and encouraging investment by residents and businesses so that neighborhoods in Baltimore remain places to live, work, shop and worship.

Enterprise stories include families who, due to a reduction in hours at work and layoffs, are at risk of foreclosure; young adults who age out of foster care and face homelessness; and homeless individuals with disabilities. Enterprise develops and preserves affordable housing in communities linking people to opportunities for success.

The Enterprise Green Communities Initiative is the first national framework for green affordable housing. The 5-year, \$555 million initiative plans to build more than 8,500 environmentally healthy homes for low-income families. It provides grants, financing, tax credit equity and technical assistance to developers who meet Green Communities Criteria for affordable housing that promotes health, conserves energy and natural resources, and provides easy access to jobs, schools, and services.

Four years ago, Enterprise announced the formation of the Save America's Neighborhoods Campaign, a coalition of national and local organizations concerned about the foreclosure crisis' impacts on communities. The coalition's efforts were important contributors to establishing the Neighborhood Stabilization Program at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which offers grants to help families and communities at risk of foreclosure.

Enterprise should be recognized for its work to sustain and restore thriving communities nationwide. Enterprise tackles some of the toughest problems in our communities and continues to transform both communities and families throughout the country. They invest in neighborhoods that are working together to solve their own problems for the collective good of the community.

I thank the volunteers, staff, board members and foundations supporting Enterprise Community Partners for all of their work, for their commitment to each other, for their commitment to

community, and for their commitment to Maryland. And I congratulate you on this milestone.●

RECOGNIZING LACASSE BAT COMPANY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as you are aware, baseball is considered our national pastime. Every spring millions of Americans eagerly await the crack of a wooden bat as baseball and softball season begin. With this in mind, today I rise to recognize and commend the success of LaCasse Bat Company, located in Skowhegan, ME and its owner, Jesse LaCasse.

Mr. LaCasse is a former local baseball standout, playing at Saint Joseph's College of Maine, where he earned a degree in Sports Management. While in college, he was inducted into the Saint Joseph's Athletic Hall of Fame. As a hitting fanatic who was driven by his love of the game, he began manufacturing wooden bats for his personal use in 2006. The custom bats caught on with his summer league teammates, and soon he was making bats for individual players, adding a logo and the player's name to the design.

LaCasse Bat Company, a one-person operation, was founded in 2008 using local Maine materials in production. From cutting the trees to the final product, each step of the development of these bats is meticulously crafted. LaCasse Bat Company uses premium quality wood and makes bats from solid ash, birch, beech, and maple. Mr. LaCasse turns each bat by hand on a wood lathe, a process which takes roughly 15 to 20 minutes, and brands it with his logo. Through this careful method, Mr. LaCasse is able to fine-tune the balance of the bat and make each bat distinctive to the individual player. This personal touch and dedication to craftsmanship contributes to the truly unique nature of each hand-made bat.

In 2010, LaCasse Bat Company teamed with Subway Restaurants to handcraft four custom-colored bats to be donated at the 2010 Senior League World Series held in Bangor, ME. These were the first colored bats made by LaCasse Bats and each features the green, yellow, and white colors of the Subway franchises.

Since the exposure of the 2010 Senior League World Series, LaCasse has seen a high demand for tailor-made and colored bats. LaCasse Bats takes every aspect of personalization into account, offering customization of handle, barrel, and logo colors and sizes, as well as the specific bat weight and type of wood. LaCasse Bats currently supplies teams from Little League through college in the United States and Europe, with most of its sales coming from Maine. As sales continue to grow, Mr. LaCasse hopes someday one of his bats will make it to the plate in Major League Baseball.

As a small business, LaCasse Bat Company's success in just a few short

years has been exceptional. It is inspiring to know that entrepreneurs such as Mr. LaCasse continue to draw upon their passion, ingenuity, and energy to develop new businesses. I extend my congratulations to Jesse LaCasse for his tremendous effort and offer my best wishes for the continued growth and success for LaCasse Bat Company.●

SERVICES CENTER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the Services Center Federal Credit Union, SCFCU, a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative located in Yankton, Springfield, and Parkston, SD.

Chartered on April 2, 1962, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the SCFCU. As a community charter, membership is open to all who live or work in Bon Homme or Yankton Counties. Building upon their mission of being responsive to their members' needs by providing competitive financial services, their membership has grown to nearly 6,500 Bon Homme and Yankton County residents.

As a credit union member myself, I understand firsthand the benefit of a credit union membership. Credit unions are a part of the community and they are well aware of the specific needs of their members. Their commitment to providing the best possible service is commendable, especially in the financial environment we are faced with today.

The SCFCU commemorated their 50th anniversary during their annual meeting held in Yankton, SD, on June 23, 2012. I would like to offer my congratulations to the leaders and membership of the SCFCU on this milestone anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LARRY MIZEL

● Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Coloradan—Larry A. Mizel—on the occasion of his 70th birthday on September 14.

There are few Coloradans who embody the spirit of the Centennial State as well as my friend Larry, and it is a privilege today for me to be able to share my thoughts about him with my Senate colleagues.

Larry is many things to many people, but at root, I think of Larry as an independent thinker; a savvy businessman; a man who cares about the world, his community and his family; and a man whose philanthropic reach is as wide as the Rocky Mountains are tall.

I ask my colleagues to indulge me while I talk a bit about Larry and recount some of his most notable accomplishments. The list is long, but his work stands as a model for others.

Larry always has believed in the value of a good education, and his own educational history is impressive. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in

business administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1964, and 3 years later, Larry received his law degree from the esteemed University of Denver College of Law.

From there, Larry took off at warp speed.

In 1972, Larry founded the company that became M.D.C. Holdings, Inc., which is one of the Nation's top homebuilders. MDC is the parent corporation to Richmond American Homes and is a New York Stock Exchange-listed company.

Forty years after founding M.D.C., Larry still serves as chairman and chief executive officer of the company. That is an amazing run, with a lot more to come, I hope and predict.

Under Larry's visionary leadership, M.D.C. consistently has maintained one of the strongest financial positions in the industry.

But it is not just profits that distinguish M.D.C. M.D.C. also is known for its high-quality work. For example, M.D.C. has the distinction of being one of the few homebuilding-based companies to receive an investment-grade rating from all three rating agencies.

Larry has never been one to rest on his laurels. In addition to M.D.C., he has pursued other business ventures. Larry was a founder and, until 1996 chairman of the board of Asset Investors Corporation, a New York Stock Exchange-listed real estate investment trust, as well as of Commercial Assets Inc., a real estate investment trust that traded on the American Stock Exchange. In addition, Larry served as chairman of the board of directors of Omnibank, a multi-bank holding company, until its sale to KeyCorp in 1995.

Yet, Larry is known in Colorado for more than these business-world accomplishments, as impressive as they are. Larry stands as a shining example to Coloradans about how to enrich the communities in which we live and to give voice to those who sometimes cannot speak loudly enough for themselves.

Larry has been actively involved in numerous charitable, religious, and community causes, some that reach beyond our borders.

For example, there are few leaders in Colorado who care as deeply as Larry does about issues related to Israel and to Jews around the world. Larry is a member of the national board of directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee better known as AIPAC which works to ensure a strong United States-Israel relationship.

Larry also is one of the founders of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international human rights organization, based in Los Angeles, CA. He has served as the International Chairman of the board of trustees of the Wiesenthal Center since 2003. As most of us know, the Wiesenthal Center helps to accomplish goals that Larry holds dear—namely, promoting tolerance and combating racism and anti-Semitism around the world.

It bears noting that the educational arm of the Wiesenthal Center—the Museum of Tolerance—is a recipient of the 2004 Tolerance Award given at the United Nations. It is a world-class human rights laboratory and learning center dedicated to challenging visitors to confront important contemporary issues.

Closer to home, Larry also founded the Mizel Arts and Culture Center—known as the MACC—located in Denver at the Jewish Community Center. The MACC aims to illuminate the human experience through performing, visual, and literary arts for the Jewish community and the community at large.

Larry's interests and expertise in international affairs extend far. For example, he is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent organization dedicated to finding solutions to the challenging foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries choices made all the more challenging after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

Thankfully, Larry has brought his business acumen into the public policy arena. For example, in 1986 Larry founded and served as the inaugural chairman of Colorado Concern, an organization committed to promoting sustainable business growth and advancing the economic well-being of Colorado. I am privileged to work closely with Colorado Concern, especially in these tough economic times, when we are all searching for innovative ways to get our Nation back on sounder economic footing.

Larry also is a founding member of the Denver Rustlers, a group that has given him the opportunity to work with other Colorado business leaders to support community youth. As with Colorado Concern, I have been fortunate to participate in events with the Denver Rustlers. From raising scholarship money, to supporting participants at the Junior Livestock Sale at the annual Colorado State Fair in Pueblo, to opening the Denver Rustlers Kids Cafe in 1994 to combat childhood hunger, Larry has been instrumental in the Denver Rustlers' positive effect on children's lives.

I also want to take a moment to underline another great love of Larry's—another pursuit that fills Coloradans with pride. Larry is the founder of the Mizel Museum in Denver. The Mizel Museum provides regular artistic and educational programs that promote community understanding and tolerance for residents of the Rocky Mountain region. It is a stunning facility that makes a big difference in our state.

As part of the Mizel Museum and its related Mizel Institute, in 2004 Larry founded another crown jewel: the Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab, better known as the CELL. The CELL is a nonprofit institution dedicated to the prevention of terrorism through education. Located in Denver, the

CELL's exhibit was developed in consultation with world-renowned thought leaders and award-winning artists.

As Larry points out, it is the only exhibit of its kind in the world and has evolved into a greater institute for terrorism prevention and preparedness training. Through its acclaimed exhibits, distinguished speakers series, and training programs, the CELL has impacted thousands of individuals and has helped to enhance our public safety. Many Members of this Chamber have visited the CELL and have witnessed firsthand the power of its dynamic programs and interactive exhibits.

In early 2012, I was proud to colead, with Larry and the CELL, a public event that examined our Nation's foreign policy challenges 10 years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It is a testament to Larry that the event was able to attract a broad range of top national security experts, Members of Congress, policymakers, the media, and members of the public.

Over the years, many acclaimed organizations have recognized Larry's work and his philanthropy. I want to name some of the honors that he has received.

In 1987, Larry received the National Humanitarian Award from National Jewish Health, a global leader in the research and treatment of respiratory, immune and related diseases.

In 1996, Larry was named honorary dean of the University of Denver's Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management.

In 2001, he was one of the recipients of the distinguished Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which gives tribute to the immigrant experience and individual achievement.

In 2002, Larry was awarded the title Honorary Irishman by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a Catholic-Irish-American Fraternal Organization founded in 1836, for his work supporting the Heroes of 9/11.

In 2005, Larry received the Defenders of Freedom Award from the National Homeland Defense Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to securing freedom in the fields of homeland defense and security.

In 2010, he was awarded the Ben S. Wendelken Special Trustees' Award by Colorado's El Pomar Foundation, for embodying the spirit of service and giving through his life's work.

And in 2011, Larry received the Steve Ross Lifetime Achievement Award from the Milken Institute and was named a Colorado State Patrol Honorary Colonel.

I could go on and on, but I think these examples help illustrate the scope of Larry's work and his life passions and the way that he is valued in our community.

I would be remiss if I did not also recognize the people closest to Larry his family. He cares deeply for them. Larry and his wife Carol have two grown children and five grandchildren.

Mr. President, I want to close with this observation. There are very few leaders who have brought our community together since September 11, 2001, like Larry has. Larry has rallied Coloradans together literally to remember the heroes and victims of 9/11 and to rise up against the evils of terrorism. It is what he does best: He assembles diverse groups of people, finds their commonality, and marshals them toward a noble purpose. Larry cares greatly about the security of the United States, as well as our allies worldwide. And he will stop at nothing to try to create a world where people do not live under the constant threat of attack, whether by persecutors, terrorists, or other enemies.

Today Colorado thanks a great American—Larry A. Mizel—for a lifetime of good work—and many more years to come. Happy 70th birthday, Larry.●

HONORING FRANK WILLETO

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, in the annals of our Nation's military history, the Navajo Code Talkers will always be remembered. They were a small group of marines, but their impact was far beyond their numbers. Their skills were crucial to American victory in the Pacific during World War II. They turned their Native language into an unbreakable code, and wielded that power as a great force in securing Allied victory.

Today, we mourn the loss of one of those heroic men. On June 23, Mr. Frank Chee Willetto died at his home in Pueblo Pintado, NM. Mr. Willetto was 87 years old. His life was a remarkable story of valor, of dedication, and of service.

Mr. Willetto was born and raised in Crownpoint, NM. In January 1944 he enlisted with the U.S. Marines, 6th Division. He trained for 8 weeks as a Navajo Code Talker. He served in the Pacific Theater in the Saipan and Okinawa campaigns.

Frank Willetto and his fellow Navajo Code Talkers joined a fight for freedom in a world that did not always accord freedom to them. They knew firsthand the ugly face of discrimination, of intolerance. U.S. law had recognized Native Americans as citizens for only 17 years when our country entered World War II.

And yet, many Native Americans bravely served during World War II, served at a higher percentage rate than the general population. And among them were Frank Willetto and the legendary Navajo Code Talkers.

Mr. Willetto was awarded the Congressional Silver Medal. Our Nation is forever in debt to him and his fellow Navajo Code Talkers. But that is only part of his story. When he came home from war, he devoted his life to his community. He worked for many years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and then with the Department of Education.

In 1974, he was elected as a Navajo tribal councilman. He was later elected

president of Pueblo Pintado Chapter. He also served as a judge on the Navajo Supreme Judicial Council and as vice president of the Navajo Nation.

Last November, Mr. Willetto testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He shared his experiences in the military, and he reminded us all how important it is that our veterans receive the benefits they were promised. He was a tireless advocate for housing and health benefits for veterans. Frank Willetto lived a long and productive life, and to the end he was steadfast in his efforts to help others.

His was a life of service, of defending others in time of war, and serving others in times of peace. A life that is inspiring to all who knew him, and who mourn him now. We remember Frank Willetto, and we honor his legacy when we hold true to the ideals that he lived: honor, courage, commitment. I extend my sincere sympathies to Mr. Willetto's family, to his many friends, and to his community.●

RECOGNIZING RICK BARTOW

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today a part of the Pacific Northwest is coming to Washington, DC. Thanks to the immensely creative and dedicated work of artist Rick Bartow and his team, two wooden pole sculptures will be placed in the garden of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian. Atop one pole sits a bear and the other pole a raven, representing the healer and the rascal, respectively. The Bear pole is 27 feet tall, and the Raven pole, 23 feet tall. The poles—collectively titled “We Were Always Here”—will face the Washington Monument and overlook the National Mall.

The artist behind this project, Rick Bartow, is a Native American of Wiyot and Yurok heritage who was born in Newport, OR. His previous work has been shown throughout the world, including his Cedar Mill Pole, which was displayed at the White House in 1997. When you hear Mr. Bartow discuss his art, his process, and the world around him, you realize that you are listening to one of the country's foremost artistic minds.

That talent is clearly showcased in “We Were Always Here.” The level of detail, history, and meaning in each pole is truly amazing. The poles are based on Native beliefs, but the message and meaning behind them are universal. For example, Mr. Bartow explains that the repeated horizontal patterns on each pole, “symbolize successive waves, generations following generations, an accumulation of wisdom and knowledge.” This idea that we can learn from our ancestors and from history is critical to the progress of our Nation and is one that is beautifully captured through these sculpture poles.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Mr. Bartow and his team, folks visiting the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian or walking the National Mall will now be able to look

upon these sculptures and gain an understanding of the important role the Native American community has in Oregon and throughout our country.

It is important to note that it is not only Oregon that is represented in these poles, but rather the Pacific Northwest. The two trees from which they are carved—a 1200 and 500 year old cedar—are from our northern neighbors, Washington State, and artists from around the area contributed in the creation of these sculptures. This sense of community is a staple of the Pacific Northwest and one that is represented in “We Were Always Here”.

I want to commend Mr. Bartow and his team for their great work, and I encourage everyone to get out and experience “We Were Always Here” by visiting the American Indian Museum or The National Mall.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:58 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 538. An act to require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies.

H.R. 1410. An act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

H.R. 1464. An act to develop a strategy for assisting stateless children from North Korea, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2800. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program.

H.R. 4057. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4264. An act to help ensure the fiscal solvency of the FHA mortgage insurance programs of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4305. An act to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing individuals.

H.R. 4631. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to institute spending limits and transparency requirements for Federal conference and travel expenditures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6028. An act to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6080. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code.

H.R. 6131. An act to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6185. An act to improve security at the State and local courthouses.

H.R. 6189. An act to eliminate unnecessary reporting requirements for unfunded programs under the Office of Justice Programs.

H.R. 6215. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to correct an error in the provisions relating to remedies for dilution.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 17. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation—Organization (ICAO).

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 710. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a hazardous waste electronic manifest system.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 538. An act to require the establishment of customer service standards for Federal agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1410. An act to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1464. An act to develop a strategy for assisting stateless children from North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2800. An act to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4057. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive policy to improve outreach and transparency to veterans and members of the Armed Forces through the provision of information on institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4264. An act to help ensure the fiscal solvency of the FHA mortgage insurance programs of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 4305. An act to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing individuals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4631. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to institute spending limits and transparency requirements for Federal conference and travel expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6028. An act to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to modify screening requirements for checked baggage arriving from preclearance airports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6080. An act to make improvements in the enactment of title 41, United States Code, into a positive law title and to improve the Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6185. An act to improve security at State and local courthouses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6189. An act to eliminate unnecessary reporting requirements for unfunded programs under the Office of Justice Programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6215. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to correct an error in the provi-

sions relating to remedies for dilution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 6131. An act to extend the Undertaking Spam, Spyware, And Fraud Enforcement With Enforcers beyond Borders Act of 2006, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7344. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to eliminating barriers to firms that are not traditional suppliers to the Department of Defense that wish to contract with the Department; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7345. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Defense's Biennial Report to Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7346. A communication from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7347. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Flood Elevation Determinations” ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7348. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Flood Elevation Determinations” ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7349. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Flood Elevation Determinations” ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7350. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Flood Elevation Determinations” ((44 CFR Part 67) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7351. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Ireland; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7352. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7353. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7354. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to the Federative Republic of Brazil (Brazil); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7355. A communication from the Under Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7356. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7357. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe declared in Executive Order 13288; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7358. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Management and Budget's report of the estimated cost of assets purchased under the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7359. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Housing Administration (FHA): Strengthening Risk Management Through Responsible FHA-Approved Lenders" (RIN2502-AJ13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7360. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, (3) reports relative to vacancies within the Department, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7361. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7362. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 65) (Docket No. FEMA-2012-0003)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7363. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Risk-Based Capital Guidelines: Market Risk" (RIN3064-AD70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7364. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Payments by Resource Extraction Issuers" (RIN3235-AK85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7365. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conflict Minerals" (RIN3235-AK84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7366. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Risk-Based Capital Guidelines: Market Risk" (RIN1557-AC99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7367. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9359-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7368. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Polyoxin D zinc salt; Amendment to an Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9360-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7369. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Swap Dealer and Intermediary Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Confirmation, Portfolio Reconciliation, Portfolio Compression, and Swap Trading Relationship Documentation Requirements for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants" (RIN3038-AC96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7370. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Energy Information Ad-

ministration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Energy Outlook 2012"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7371. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the progress made in licensing and constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7372. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Impact of the Compacts of Free Association on Guam: Fiscal Year 2004 through Fiscal Year 2011"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7373. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Availability and Price of Petroleum and Petroleum Products Produced in Countries Other Than Iran"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7374. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf—Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf" (RIN1014-AA02) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 22, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7375. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Memorandum of Justification relative to Pakistan (OSS-2012-1292); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7376. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Memorandum of Justification relative to Pakistan (OSS-2012-1293); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7377. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-064, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7378. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-123, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7379. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-116, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7380. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-107, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7381. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-103, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7382. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-118, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7383. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-095, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7384. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-111, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7385. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-127, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible effects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7386. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1, 2012 through May 31, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7387. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-091); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7388. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-069); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7389. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-047); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7390. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-122); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7391. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, certification of proposed issuance of an export license pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (Transmittal No. DDTC 12-111); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7392. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of an item not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7393. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2012-0112—2012-0118); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7394. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six months ending December 31, 2011"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7395. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Jacksonville Harbor Mile Point Navigation Study, Duval County, Florida project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7396. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Ohio River Shoreline, Paducah, Kentucky Reconstruction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7397. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the San Clemente Shoreline in Orange County, California; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7398. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NRC Staff Position on Applying Surveillance Requirements 3.0.2 and 3.0.3 to Administrative Controls Program Tests" (RIS 2012-10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7399. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of New Reactors, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for Maintenance of Inspections, Tests, Analyses, and

Acceptance Criteria" (RIN3150-AI77) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 30, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7400. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compliance with Order EA-12-050, Reliable Hardened Containment Vents" (JLD-ISG-2012-02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7401. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compliance with Order EA-12-049, Order Modifying Licenses with Regard to Requirements for Mitigation Strategies for Beyond-Design-Basis External Events" (JLD-ISG-2012-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7402. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Endangered Status for the Chupadera Springsnail and Designation of Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-AV86) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7403. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Ipomopsis polyantha* (Pagosa skyrocket), *Penstemon debilis* (Parachute beardtongue), and *Phacelia submutica* (DeBeque phacelia)" (RIN1018-AX75) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7404. A communication from the Chief of the Listing Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for 23 Species on Oahu and Designation of Critical Habitat for 124 Species" (RIN1018-AV49) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7405. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Wildlife Refuge System, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2012-2013 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations" (RIN1018-AY37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 10, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7406. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Attainment Plan for the Philadelphia-Wilmington, Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Delaware 1997 Fine Particulate Matter Non-attainment Area" (FRL No. 9719-4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August

23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7407. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Volatile Organic Compounds; Architectural and Industrial Maintenance Coatings" (FRL No. 9720-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7408. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Tennessee; Bristol; Determination of Attaining Data for the 2008 Lead Standards" (FRL No. 9720-8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7409. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Diego County, Antelope Valley and Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Agencies" (FRL No. 9718-1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7410. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9714-1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7411. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2012 Technical Corrections, Clarifying and Other Amendments to the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, and Confidentiality Determinations for Certain Data Elements of the Fluorinated Gas Source Category" (FRL No. 9714-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7412. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Preconstruction Requirements—Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Nonattainment New Source Review; Correction" (FRL No. 9723-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7413. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Washington; Determination of Clean Data for the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Standard for the Tacoma, Pierce County Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9723-4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the Presi-

dent of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7414. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)" (FRL No. 9711-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7415. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions of Five California Clean Air Act Title V Operating Permits Programs" (FRL No. 9724-2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7416. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards of Performance for Petroleum Refineries; Standards of Performance for Petroleum Refineries for Which Construction, Reconstruction, or Modification Commenced After May 14, 2007" (FRL No. 9672-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7417. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Revisions to Manifesting Regulations" (FRL No. 9703-1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7418. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nonconformance Penalties for On-highway Heavy-Duty Diesel Engines" (FRL No. 9716-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7419. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Section 110(a) (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9725-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7420. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Section 110(a) (2) Infrastructure Requirements for the 2008 Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9725-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7421. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ocean Dumping; Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites Off-

shore of Yaquina Bay, Oregon" (FRL No. 9724-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7422. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California; Determinations of Attainment for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9726-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7423. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Virginia; Revisions to the State Implementation Plan Approved by EPA through Letter Notice Actions" (FRL No. 9724-8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7424. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Maximum Allowable Emission of Particulate Matter from Fuel Burning Equipment Used for Indirect Heating" (FRL No. 9726-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7425. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendments to West Virginia's Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9725-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7426. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; PSD and NSR Regulations" (FRL No. 9725-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7427. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from the Pulp and Paper Industry" (FRL No. 9684-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7428. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "25-Year Average Segment Rates and Adjusted 24-Month Average Segment Rates Used for Pension Funding" (Notice 2012-55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7429. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates" (Notice 2012-24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the

President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7430. A communication from the Program Manager, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Information Technology: Standards, Implementation Specifications, and Certification Criteria for Electronic Health Record Technology, 2014 Edition; Revisions to the Permanent Certification Program for Health Information Technology" (RIN0991-AB82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 27, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7431. A communication from the Program Manager, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act, Exempt Record System" (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0252) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7432. A communication from the Program Manager, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act; Implementation" (Docket No. NIH-2011-0001) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 28, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7433. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Simplification: Adoption of a Standard for a Unique Health Plan Identifier; Addition to the National Provider Identifier Requirements; and a Change to the Compliance Date for the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS) Medical Data Code Sets" (RIN0938-AQ13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 11, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7434. A communication from the Deputy Director for Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7435. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priority; Technical Assistance on State Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting-National IDEA Technical Assistance Center on Early Childhood Longitudinal Data Systems" (CFDA No. 84.373Z) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7436. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities and Definitions; State Personnel Development Grants" (CFDA No. 84.323A) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the Presi-

dent of the Senate on August 23, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7437. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding Between the Food and Drug Administration and Other Departments, Agencies, and Organizations" (Docket No. FDA-2012-N-0205) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7438. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Animal Drugs, Feeds, and Related Products; Regulation of Carcinogenic Compounds in Food-Producing Animals" (Docket No. FDA-2010-N-0612) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7439. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D2 Bakers Yeast" (Docket No. FDA-2009-F-0570) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2012; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7440. A communication from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office of Inspector General's budget request for the fiscal year 2014; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 46. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 112-210).

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. HELLER:

S. 3530. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process to determine whether individuals claiming certain service in the Philippines during World War II are eligible for certain benefits despite not being on the Missouri List, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3531. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase, expand, and extend the credit for hydrogen-related alternative fuel vehicle refueling property and to increase the investment credit for more efficient fuel cells; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 3533. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds by increasing the normal and early retirement ages under the Social Security program and modifying the cost-of-living adjustments in benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 3534. A bill to amend the statute of limitations for civil actions regarding terrorist acts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 3535. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit organizations for the purpose of retrofitting nonprofit buildings with energy-efficiency improvements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HELLER, Mr. WEBB, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3536. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit for hiring veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 551. A resolution commending the 4 American public servants who died in Benghazi, Libya, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the American people and condemning the violent attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. Res. 552. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2012 as "National Principals Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 553. A resolution designating September 22, 2012, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 202

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 202, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States before the end of 2012, and for other purposes.

S. 426

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 426, a bill to strengthen student achievement and graduation rates and prepare young people for college, careers, and citizenship through innovative partnerships that meet the comprehensive needs of children and youth.

S. 563

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 563, a bill to provide for equal access to COBRA continuation coverage.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to ensure that the courts of the United States may provide an impartial forum for claims brought by United States citizens and others against any railroad organized as a separate legal entity, arising from the deportation of United States citizens and others to Nazi concentration camps on trains owned or operated by such railroad, and by the heirs and survivors of such persons.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to allow a State to combine certain funds and enter into a performance agreement with the Secretary of Education to improve the academic achievement of students.

S. 1438

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, a bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1910

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1910, a bill to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees.

S. 2283

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2283, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include procedures for requests from Indian tribes for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and for other purposes.

S. 2371

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2371, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

S. 2885

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2885, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the award of the Purple Heart to members of the Armed Forces who are killed or wounded in a terrorist attack perpetrated within the United States.

S. 3049

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3049, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3269

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3269, a bill to provide that no United States assistance may be provided to Pakistan until Dr. Shakil Afridi is freed.

S. 3391

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to amend section 353 of the Public Health Service Act

with respect to suspension, revocation, and limitation of laboratory certification.

S. 3397

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3397, a bill to prohibit waivers relating to compliance with the work requirements for the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, and for other purposes.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3405, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to treat small businesses bequeathed to spouses and dependents by members of the Armed Forces killed in line of duty as small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences, and for other purposes.

S. 3459

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3459, a bill to amend the Department of Energy High-End Computing Revitalization Act of 2004 to improve the high-end computing research and development program of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

S. 3520

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3520, a bill to require a portion of closing costs to be paid by the enterprises with respect to certain refinanced mortgage loans, and for other purposes.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3522, a bill to provide for the expansion of affordable refinancing of mortgages held by the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.

S. 3525

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3525, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the names of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 44, a joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the State and Province Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

S.J. RES. 48

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 48, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to the health insurance premium tax credit.

S.J. RES. 50

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 50, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Family Assistance of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to waiver and expenditure authority under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315) with respect to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program.

S. RES. 401

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 401, a resolution expressing appreciation for Foreign Service and Civil Service professionals who represent the United States around the globe.

S. RES. 448

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 448, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

AMENDMENT NO. 2785

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2785 intended to be proposed to S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2786

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2786 intended to be proposed to S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2789

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2789 proposed to S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of church pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this statement be included in the RECORD upon introduction of my legislation, the Church Plan Clarification Act of 2012, with Senator CARDIN.

Today, my colleague Senator CARDIN and I are reintroducing this legislation, which refines the language included in our previous bill, S. 143.

Our goal is to resolve an unfortunate application of our current pension rules on church pension beneficiaries, and protect the retirement security of ministers and church lay workers.

Church pensions are critically important compensation plans that help support over one million clergy members across the country in their retirement—particularly those who dedicated their careers to serving in economically disadvantaged congregations.

Some of these plans date back to the 18th Century, and they are designed to ensure that our pastors and lay staff, who are often paid lower salaries, have adequate resources during their retirement years.

Today, denominational church plans provide benefits to an estimated one million-plus ministers, church workers, and their dependents, most of them working for small churches throughout the nation.

Church plans developed structures and mechanisms that reflect the differing church polities they serve and their unique status has been recognized in law.

However, recent IRS regulations governing 403(b) pension programs and legislative changes have resulted in uncertainty and compliance issues for church pension plans. In response, Senator CARDIN and I sent a letter to the Internal Revenue Service informing them of our legislation, nothing that the unintended consequences of their regulations may negatively affect church ministers and church lay workers.

I hope we can work to provide clarity for these distinctive plans and resolve this issue before the end of the year.

This unequal treatment is simply unfair, and it is time we correct it.

I ask my colleagues to join Senator CARDIN and me today in establishing parity for the beneficiaries of church pensions by supporting this necessary,

long overdue fix to the Internal Revenue Code.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3532

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 "Church Plan Clarification Act of 2012".

SEC. 2. CHURCH PLAN CLARIFICATION.

(a) APPLICATION OF CONTROLLED GROUP RULES TO CHURCH PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 414(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking "For purposes" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes", and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) CHURCH PLANS.—

"(A) GENERAL RULE.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), for purposes of this subsection and subsection (m), an organization that is otherwise eligible to participate in a church plan as defined in subsection (e) shall not be aggregated with another such organization and treated as a single employer with such other organization unless—

"(i) one such organization provides directly or indirectly at least 80 percent of the operating funds for the other organization during the preceding tax year of the recipient organization, and

"(ii) there is a degree of common management or supervision between the organizations.

For purposes of this subparagraph, a degree of common management or supervision exists only if the organization providing the operating funds is directly involved in the day-to-day operations of the other organization.

"(B) NONQUALIFIED CHURCH-CONTROLLED ORGANIZATIONS.—Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (A), for purposes of this subsection and subsection (m), an organization that is a nonqualified church-controlled organization shall be aggregated with one or more other nonqualified church-controlled organizations, or with an organization that is not exempt from tax under section 501, and treated as a single employer with such other organizations, if at least 80 percent of the directors or trustees of such organizations are either representatives of, or directly or indirectly controlled by, the first organization. For purposes of this subparagraph, a 'nonqualified church controlled organization' shall mean a church-controlled organization described in section 501(c)(3) that is not a qualified church-controlled organization described in section 3121(w)(3)(B).

"(C) PERMISSIVE AGGREGATION AMONG CHURCH-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS.—Organizations described in subparagraph (A) may elect to be treated as under common control for purposes of this subsection. Such election shall be made by the church or convention or association of churches with which such organizations are associated within the meaning of subsection (e)(3)(D), or by an organization determined by such church or convention or association of churches to be the appropriate organization for making such election.

"(D) PERMISSIVE DISAGGREGATION OF CHURCH-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), in the case of a church plan (as defined in subsection (e)),

any employer may permissively disaggregate those entities that are not churches (as defined in section 403(b)(12)(B)) separately from those entities that are churches, even if such entities maintain separate church plans.

“(E) ANTI-ABUSE RULE.—For purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), the anti-abuse rule in Treasury Regulation section 1.414(c)-5(f) shall apply.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years beginning before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICATION OF CONTRIBUTION AND FUNDING LIMITATIONS TO 403(b) GRAND-FATHERED DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(e)(5) of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-248), is amended—

(A) by striking “403(b)(2)” and inserting “403(b)”, and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and shall be subject to the applicable limitations of section 415(b) of such Code as if it were a defined benefit plan under section 401(a) of such Code and not the limitations of section 415(c) of such Code (relating to limitation for defined contribution plans).”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply as if included in the enactment of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982.

(c) AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT BY CHURCH PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall supersede any law of a State which would directly or indirectly prohibit or restrict the inclusion in any church plan (as defined in this subsection) of an automatic contribution arrangement.

(2) DEFINITION OF AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTION ARRANGEMENT.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “automatic contribution arrangement” means an arrangement—

(A) under which a participant may elect to have the plan sponsor make payments as contributions under the plan on behalf of the participant, or to the participant directly in cash, and

(B) under which a participant is treated as having elected to have the plan sponsor make such contributions in an amount equal to a uniform percentage of compensation provided under the plan until the participant specifically elects not to have such contributions made (or specifically elects to have such contributions made at a different percentage).

(3) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The plan administrator of an automatic contribution arrangement shall, within a reasonable period before such plan year, provide to each participant to whom the arrangement applies for such plan year notice of the participant’s rights and obligations under the arrangement which—

(i) is sufficiently accurate and comprehensive to apprise the participant of such rights and obligations, and

(ii) is written in a manner calculated to be understood by the average participant to whom the arrangement applies.

(B) ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—A notice shall not be treated as meeting the requirements of subparagraph (A) with respect to a participant unless—

(i) the notice includes an explanation of the participant’s right under the arrangement not to have elective contributions made on the participant’s behalf (or to elect to have such contributions made at a different percentage),

(ii) the participant has a reasonable period of time, after receipt of the notice described in clause (i) and before the first elective contribution is made, to make such election, and

(iii) the notice explains how contributions made under the arrangement will be invested in the absence of any investment election by the participant.

(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) ALLOW CERTAIN PLAN TRANSFERS AND MERGERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 414 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(Z) CERTAIN PLAN TRANSFERS AND MERGERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Under rules prescribed by the Secretary, except as provided in paragraph (2), no amount shall be includible in gross income by reason of—

“(A) a transfer of all or a portion of the account balance of a participant or beneficiary, whether or not vested, from a plan described in section 401(a) or an annuity contract described in section 403(b), which is a church plan described in subsection (e) to an annuity contract described in section 403(b), if such plan and annuity contract are both maintained by the same church or convention or association of churches,

“(B) a transfer of all or a portion of the account balance of a participant or beneficiary, whether or not vested, from an annuity contract described in section 403(b) to a plan described in section 401(a) or an annuity contract described in section 403(b), which is a church plan described in subsection (e), if such plan and annuity contract are both maintained by the same church or convention or association of churches, or

“(C) a merger of a plan described in section 401(a), or an annuity contract described in section 403(b), which is a church plan described in subsection (e) with an annuity contract described in section 403(b), if such plan and annuity contract are both maintained by the same church or convention or association of churches.

“(2) LIMITATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a transfer or merger unless the participant’s or beneficiary’s benefit immediately after the transfer or merger is equal to or greater than the participant’s or beneficiary’s benefit immediately before the transfer or merger.

“(3) QUALIFICATION.—A plan or annuity contract shall not fail to be considered to be described in sections 401(a) or 403(b) merely because such plan or account engages in a transfer or merger described in this subsection.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) CHURCH.—The term ‘church’ includes an organization described in subparagraph (A) or (B)(ii) of subsection (e)(3).

“(B) ANNUITY CONTRACT.—The term ‘annuity contract’ includes a custodial account described in section 403(b)(7) and a retirement income account described in section 403(b)(9).”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to transfers or mergers occurring after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) INVESTMENTS BY CHURCH PLANS IN COLLECTIVE TRUSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of—

(A) a church plan (as defined in section 414(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), including a plan described in section 401(a) of such Code and a retirement income account described in section 403(b)(9) of such Code, and

(B) an organization described in section 414(e)(3)(A) of such Code the principal purpose or function of which is the administration of such a plan or account,

the assets of such plan, account, or organization (including any assets otherwise per-

mitted to be commingled for investment purposes with the assets of such a plan, account, or organization) may be invested in a group trust otherwise described in Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 81-100 (as modified by Internal Revenue Service Revenue Rulings 2004-67 and 2011-1), or any subsequent revenue ruling that supersedes or modifies such revenue ruling, without adversely affecting the tax status of the group trust, such plan, account, or organization, or any other plan or trust that invests in the group trust.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply to investments made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 551—COM-MENDING THE 4 AMERICAN PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO DIED IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR J. CHRISTOPHER STEVENS, FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CON-DEMNING THE VIOLENT ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES CON-SULATE IN BENGHAZI

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitting the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 551

Whereas on September 11, 2012, 4 American public servants, including United States Ambassador to Libya, John Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, were killed in a reprehensible and vicious attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens—

(1) was a courageous and exemplary representative of the United States;

(2) had spent 21 years in the Foreign Service;

(3) was deeply passionate about representing the United States through his diplomatic service; and

(4) was an ardent friend of the Libyan people;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens served as Special Envoy to the Libyan Transitional National Council in Benghazi during the 2011 Libyan revolution;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens was a dear friend of the Senate, having served on the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in 2006 and 2007 as a distinguished Pearson Fellow;

Whereas Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith—

(1) was a husband and a father of 2 children;

(2) joined the Department of State 10 years ago; and

(3) had served in the Foreign Service, before arriving in Benghazi, in Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal, and The Hague;

Whereas the 2 other individuals from Ambassador Stevens' team who perished in the attack made great sacrifices and showed bravery in taking on a difficult post in Libya;

Whereas the violence in Benghazi coincided with an attack on the United States Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, which was also swarmed by an angry mob of protesters on September 11, 2012;

Whereas on a daily basis, United States diplomats, military personnel, and other public servants risk their lives to serve the American people; and

Whereas throughout this Nation's history, thousands of Americans have sacrificed their lives for the ideals of freedom, democracy, and partnership with nations and people around the globe.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the dedicated service and deep commitment of the 4 American public servants, including Ambassador John Christopher Stevens and Sean Smith, in assisting the Libyan people as they navigate the complex currents of democratic transition marked in this case by profound instability;

(2) praises Ambassador Stevens, who represented the highest tradition of American public service, for his extraordinary record of dedication to the United States' interests in some of the most difficult and dangerous posts around the globe;

(3) sends its deepest condolences to the families of those American public servants killed in Benghazi;

(4) commends the bravery of Foreign Service Officers, United States Armed Forces, and public servants serving in harm's way around the globe and recognizes the deep sacrifices made by their families; and

(5) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the despicable attacks on American diplomats and public servants in Benghazi and calls for the perpetrators of such attacks to be brought to justice.

SENATE RESOLUTION 552—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2012 AS “NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH”

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 552

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2012 to be “National Principals Month”;

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2012 as “National Principals Month”; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 553—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 22, 2012, AS “NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 553

Whereas older adults, 65 years of age and older, are the fastest-growing segment of the population in the United States, and the number of older adults in the United States will increase from 35,000,000 in 2000 to 72,100,000 in 2030;

Whereas 1 out of 3 older adults in the United States falls each year;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of injury, death, and hospital admissions for traumatic injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2010, approximately 2,300,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 650,000 were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2008, more than 20,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the total cost of fall-related injuries for older adults is \$80,900,000,000, including more than \$28,300,000,000 in direct medical costs;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost under the Medicare program will reach \$59,600,000,000 by 2020; and

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as com-

prehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2012, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

(2) commends the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls among older adults;

(3) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to promote the awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(4) urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue developing and evaluating strategies to prevent falls among older adults that will translate into effective fall prevention interventions, including community-based programs;

(5) encourages State health departments, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and injury-related health care costs by collaborating with colleagues and a variety of organizations and individuals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

(6) recognizes proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies and encourages experts in the field to share their best practices so that their success can be replicated by others.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2790. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2791. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2792. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2793. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2794. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2795. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2796. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2797. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2798. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2799. Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2800. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2801. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2802. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2803. Mr. BROWN, of Ohio submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2804. Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2805. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2806. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2807. Mr. BROWN, of Ohio (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2808. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2789 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2809. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2808 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2789 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2810. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2811. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2810 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2812. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2813. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2812 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2814. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2813 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2812 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, supra.

SA 2815. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2816. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2790. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . VICTORY FOR VETERANS STAMP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 414 the following:

“§ 414a. Victory for Veterans stamp

“(a) In order to provide members of the public an opportunity to honor their vet-

erans by supporting veterans’ employment programs, to reduce the deficit, and to preserve the vital role of the United States Postal Service, the Postal Service shall issue a special stamp (referred to in this section as the ‘Victory for Veterans Stamp’) in accordance with the provisions of this section.

“(b) The Victory for Veterans Stamp—

“(1) shall not be valid for purposes of postage; and

“(2) shall be offered at a cost equal to 25 cents.

“(c)(1) The amounts becoming available from the sale of the Victory for Veterans Stamp shall be used as follows:

“(A) One-third of such amounts shall be transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of funding vocational rehabilitation programs for veterans under chapter 31 of title 38.

“(B) One-third of such amounts shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury for purposes of deficit reduction.

“(C) One-third of such amounts shall be used by the Postal Service to satisfy obligations incurred under section 2005.

“(2) Amounts transferred under this subsection to an agency under paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(B) shall be made under such arrangements as the Postal Service shall by mutual agreement with such agency establish in order to carry out the purposes of this section.

“(3) For purposes of this section, the term ‘amounts becoming available from the sale of the Victory for Veterans Stamp’ means—

“(A) the total amounts received by the Postal Service that it would not have received but for the enactment of this section, reduced by

“(B) an amount sufficient to cover reasonable costs incurred by the Postal Service in carrying out this section, including those attributable to the printing, sale, and distribution of the Victory for Veterans Stamp under this section, as determined by the Postal Service under regulations that it shall prescribe.

“(d) Amounts transferred under subsection (c)(1)(A) to the Department of Veterans Affairs shall not be taken into account in any decision relating to the level of appropriations or other Federal funding to be furnished in any year to the Department.

“(e) The Victory for Veterans Stamp shall be made available to the public beginning on such date as the Postal Service shall by regulation prescribe, but in no event later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(f) The Postmaster General shall include in each report rendered under section 2402 information concerning the operation of this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for title 39, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 414 the following:

“414a. Victory for Veterans stamp.”.

SA 2791. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . VETERANS EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of subchapter II the following new section:

“§ 3697B. Veterans education outreach program

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide funding for offices of veterans affairs at

institutions of higher learning, as defined in section 3452(f), in accordance with this section.

“(b) PAYMENTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.—(1)(A) The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, make payments to any institution of higher learning, under and in accordance with this section, during any fiscal year if the number of persons eligible for services from offices assisted under this section at the institution is at least 50, determined in the same manner as the number of eligible veterans or eligible persons is determined under section 3684(c) of this title.

“(B) The persons who are eligible for services from the offices assisted under this section are persons receiving educational assistance administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including assistance provided under chapter 1606 of title 10.

“(2) To be eligible for a payment under this section, an institution of higher learning or a consortium of institutions of higher learning, as described in paragraph (3), shall submit an application to the Secretary. The application shall—

“(A) set forth such policies, assurances, and procedures that will ensure that—

“(i) the funds received by the institution, or each institution in a consortium of institutions described in paragraph (3), under this section will be used solely to carry out this section;

“(ii) for enhancing the functions of its veterans education outreach program, the applicant will expend, during the academic year for which a payment is sought, an amount equal to at least the amount of the award under this section from sources other than this or any other Federal program; and

“(iii) the applicant will submit to the Secretary such reports as the Secretary may require or as are required by this section;

“(B) contain such other statement of policies, assurances, and procedures as the Secretary may require in order to protect the financial interests of the United States;

“(C) set forth such plans, policies, assurances, and procedures as will ensure that the applicant will maintain an office of veterans’ affairs which has responsibility for—

“(i) veterans’ certification, outreach, recruitment, and special education programs, including the provision of or referral to educational, vocational, and personal counseling for veterans; and

“(ii) providing information regarding other services provided veterans by the Department, including the readjustment counseling program authorized under section 1712A of this title and the programs carried out under chapters 41 and 42 of this title; and

“(D) be submitted at such time or times, in such manner, in such form, and contain such information as the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the functions of the Secretary under this section.

“(3) An institution of higher learning which is eligible for funding under this section and which the Secretary determines cannot feasibly carry out, by itself, any or all of the activities set forth in paragraph (2)(C), may carry out such program or programs through a consortium agreement with one or more other institutions of higher learning in the same community.

“(4) The Secretary shall not approve an application under this subsection unless the Secretary determines that the applicant will implement the requirements of paragraph (2)(C) within the first academic year during which it receives a payment under this section.

“(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—(1)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the amount of the payment which any institution shall receive under this section for any fiscal year shall be

\$100 for each person who is described in subsection (b)(1)(B).

“(B) The maximum amount of payments to any institution of higher learning, or any branch thereof which is located in a community which is different from that in which the parent institution thereof is located, in any fiscal year is \$150,000.

“(2)(A) The Secretary shall pay to each institution of higher learning which has had an application approved under subsection (b) the amount which it is to receive under this section. If the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is not sufficient to pay the amounts which all such institutions are to receive, the Secretary shall ratably reduce such payments. If any amount becomes available to carry out this section for a fiscal year after such reductions have been imposed, such reduced payments shall be increased on the same basis as they were reduced.

“(B) In making payments under this section for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall apportion the appropriation for making such payments, from funds which become available as a result of the limitation on payments set forth in paragraph (1)(B), in an equitable manner.

“(d) COORDINATION AND PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL CONSULTATION, AND INFORMATION.—The Secretary, in carrying out the provisions of this section, shall seek to assure the coordination of programs assisted under this section with other programs carried out by the Department pursuant to this title, and the Secretary shall provide all assistance, technical consultation, and information otherwise authorized by law as necessary to promote the maximum effectiveness of the activities and programs assisted under this section.

“(e) BEST PRACTICES AND ADMINISTRATION.—(1) From the amounts made available for any fiscal year under subsection (f), the Secretary shall retain one percent or \$20,000, whichever is less, for the purpose of collecting information about exemplary veterans educational outreach programs and disseminating that information to other institutions of higher learning having such programs on their campuses. Such collection and dissemination shall be done on an annual basis.

“(2) From the amounts made available under subsection (f), the Secretary may retain not more than two percent for the purpose of administering this section.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2012 and each fiscal year thereafter.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3697A the following new item:

“3697B. Veterans education outreach program.”.

SA 2792. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PROGRAM TO SECURE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED VETERAN.—In this subsection, the term “covered veteran” means a veteran with traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy.

(3) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” means a veteran, as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall carry out a program through which the Secretary shall—

(1) provide technical assistance to prospective employers and employers of covered veterans, to enable the prospective employers and employers to employ and retain covered veterans;

(2) provide technical assistance for entities in the workforce development system, to enable the entities to help covered veterans obtain employment and succeed in that employment;

(3) receive referrals for technical assistance described in paragraphs (1) and (2) from reserve components described in section 101 of title 10, United States Code, business organizations, and Federal agencies; and

(4) conduct outreach concerning such technical assistance through regional offices of the Department of Labor.

(c) INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall disseminate information on best practices related to assisting covered veterans in obtaining employment and developing strategies to succeed in that employment. The Secretary shall disseminate the information to business organizations and employers (including veteran-owned businesses), human resource organizations, government agencies, and Federal contractors.

(d) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP.—The Secretary shall establish a working group, consisting of representatives of Federal agencies with programs that assist covered veterans in obtaining or maintaining employment.

(2) DUTIES OF WORKING GROUP.—The working group shall share information on best practices, share resources, and develop a plan, for providing such assistance to the covered veterans. The working group shall submit the plan to the heads of the Federal agencies.

(3) FUNCTIONS OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each head of a Federal agency receiving the plan shall consider the plan and make appropriate changes to carry out functions that assist covered veterans in obtaining and maintaining employment.

SA 2793. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . IMPROVEMENTS TO PLANS FOR VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FOR REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY.

Section 1710C(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (5) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraphs:

“(3) With respect to individuals who are veterans described in subsection (b) of section 3120 of this title, participation in programs of independent living services provided under subsection (a) of such section.

“(4) Employment support services provided under section 1718(d)(2) of this title.”.

SA 2794. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DISPOSAL OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

The Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs establishing procedures under which a veteran may deliver a controlled substance to an employee of the Veterans Health Administration to be disposed of in accordance with section 302(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(g)).

SA 2795. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT.—

(1) RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES.—Section 7 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 157) is amended by striking “except to” and all that follows through “authorized in section 8(a)(3)”.

(2) UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES.—Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “; *Provided, That*” and all that follows through “retaining membership”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “or to discriminate” and all that follows through “retaining membership”; and

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “covered by an agreement authorized under subsection (a)(3) of this section”; and

(C) in subsection (f), by striking clause (2) and redesignating clauses (3) and (4) as clauses (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) AMENDMENT TO THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT.—Section 2 of the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 152) is amended by striking paragraph Eleven.

SA 2796. Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . EXCLUSION OF MEDICAL DEVICES SOLD UNDER THE TRICARE FOR LIFE PROGRAM OR VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FROM TAX ON SUCH DEVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 4191 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) EXCLUSION OF MEDICAL DEVICES SOLD UNDER THE TRICARE FOR LIFE PROGRAM OR VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS.—Such term shall not include any device which is sold to individuals covered under the TRICARE for Life program or the veteran's health care program under chapter 17 of title

38, United States Code, any portion of the cost of which is paid or reimbursed under either such program.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to sales after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2797. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ____ DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ACTIONS ON INELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN PROPRIETARY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3681 the following new section:

“§ 3681A. Ineligibility of certain proprietary institutions of higher education for participation in Department of Veterans Affairs programs of educational assistance

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a notice from the Secretary of Education under clause (iii) of section 487(d)(2)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(d)(2)(A)) that a proprietary institution of higher education is ineligible for participation in or receipt of funds under any program of Federal educational assistance by reason of such section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that no educational assistance under the provisions of law specified in subsection (b) is available or used for education at the institution for the period of institutional fiscal years covered by such notice.

“(b) COVERED ASSISTANCE.—The provisions of law specified in this subsection are the provisions of law on educational assistance through the Department under chapters 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 of this title.

“(c) NOTICE ON INELIGIBILITY.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take appropriate actions to notify persons receiving or eligible for educational assistance under the provisions of law specified in subsection (b) of the application of the limitations in section 487(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to particular proprietary institutions of higher education.

“(2) The actions taken under this subsection with respect to a proprietary institution shall include publication, on the Internet website of the Department that provides information to persons described in paragraph (1), of the following:

“(A) The name of the institution.

“(B) The extent to which the institution failed to meet the requirements of section 487(a)(24) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(C) The length of time the institution will be ineligible for participation in or receipt of funds under any program of Federal educational assistance by reason of section 487(d)(2)(A) of that Act.

“(D) The nonavailability of educational assistance through the Department for enrollment, attendance, or pursuit of a program of education at the institution by reason of such ineligibility.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 36 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3681 the following new item:

“3681A. Ineligibility of certain proprietary institutions of higher education for participation in Department of Veterans Affairs programs of educational assistance.”.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 101 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2008 the following new section:

“§ 2008a. Ineligibility of certain proprietary institutions of higher education for participation in Department of Defense programs of educational assistance

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a notice from the Secretary of Education under clause (iii) of section 487(d)(2)(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(d)(2)(A)) that a proprietary institution of higher education is ineligible for participation in or receipt of funds under any program of Federal educational assistance by reason of such section, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that no educational assistance under the provisions of law specified in subsection (b) is available or used for education at the institution for the period of institutional fiscal years covered by such notice.

“(b) COVERED ASSISTANCE.—The provisions of law specified in this subsection are the provisions of law on educational assistance through the Department of Defense as follows:

“(1) This chapter.

“(2) Chapters 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, and 1608 of this title.

“(3) Section 1784a of this title.

“(c) NOTICE ON INELIGIBILITY.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to notify persons receiving or eligible for educational assistance under the provisions of law specified in subsection (b) of the application of the limitations in section 487(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to particular proprietary institutions of higher education.

“(2) The actions taken under this subsection with respect to a proprietary institution shall include publication, on the Internet website of the Department of Defense that provides information to persons described in paragraph (1), of the following:

“(A) The name of the institution.

“(B) The extent to which the institution failed to meet the requirements of section 487(a)(24) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(C) The length of time the institution will be ineligible for participation in or receipt of funds under any program of Federal educational assistance by reason of section 487(d)(2)(A) of that Act.

“(D) The nonavailability of educational assistance through the Department for enrollment, attendance, or pursuit of a program of education at the institution by reason of such ineligibility.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 101 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2008 the following new item:

“2008a. Ineligibility of certain proprietary institutions of higher education for participation in Department of Defense programs of educational assistance.”.

SEC. ____ PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS FOR PROPRIETARY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(24)—

(A) by inserting “that receives funds provided under this title” before “, such institution”; and

(B) by striking “other than funds provided under this title, as calculated in accordance

with subsection (d)(1)” and inserting “other than Federal educational assistance, as defined in subsection (d)(5) and calculated in accordance with subsection (d)(1)”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “NON-TITLE IV” and inserting “NON-FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “that receives funds provided under this title” before “shall”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking “assistance under this title” and inserting “Federal educational assistance”; and

(II) in clause (ii)(I), by inserting “, or on a military base if the administering Secretary for a program of Federal educational assistance under clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of paragraph (5)(B) has authorized such location” before the semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “program under this title” and inserting “program of Federal educational assistance”;

(iv) in subparagraph (E), by striking “funds received under this title” and inserting “Federal educational assistance”; and

(v) in subparagraph (F)—

(I) in clause (iii), by striking “under this title” and inserting “of Federal educational assistance”; and

(II) in clause (iv), by striking “under this title” and inserting “of Federal educational assistance”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) INELIGIBILITY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a proprietary institution of higher education receiving funds provided under this title that fails to meet a requirement of subsection (a)(24) for two consecutive institutional fiscal years shall be ineligible to participate in or receive funds under any program of Federal educational assistance for a period of not less than two institutional fiscal years.

“(ii) REGAINING ELIGIBILITY.—To regain eligibility to participate in or receive funds under any program of Federal educational assistance after being ineligible pursuant to clause (i), a proprietary institution of higher education shall demonstrate compliance with all eligibility and certification requirements for the program for a minimum of two institutional fiscal years after the institutional fiscal year in which the institution became ineligible. In order to regain eligibility to participate in any program of Federal educational assistance under this title, such compliance shall include meeting the requirements of section 498 for such 2-year period.

“(iii) NOTIFICATION OF INELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of Education shall determine when a proprietary institution of higher education that receives funds under this title is ineligible under clause (i) and shall notify all other administering Secretaries of the determination.

“(iv) ENFORCEMENT.—Each administering Secretary for a program of Federal educational assistance shall enforce the requirements of this subparagraph for the program concerned upon receiving notification under clause (iii) of a proprietary institution of higher education’s ineligibility.”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “In addition” and all that follows through “education fails” and inserting “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in addition to such other means of enforcing the requirements of a program of Federal educational assistance as may be available to the administering Secretary, if

a proprietary institution of higher education that receives funds provided under this title fails"; and

(bb) by striking "the programs authorized by this title" and inserting "all programs of Federal educational assistance"; and

(II) in clause (i), by inserting "with respect to a program of Federal educational assistance under this title," before "on the expiration date";

(D) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking "sources under this title" and inserting "Federal educational assistance"; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) ADMINISTERING SECRETARY.—The term 'administering Secretary' means the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of a military department responsible for administering the Federal educational assistance concerned.

"(B) FEDERAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The term 'Federal educational assistance' means funds provided under any of the following provisions of law:

"(i) This title.

"(ii) Chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, or 35 of title 38, United States Code.

"(iii) Chapter 101, 105, 106A, 1606, 1607, or 1608 of title 10, United States Code.

"(iv) Section 1784a of title 10, United States Code."

SA 2798. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . GRANTS FOR TRAINING OF VETERANS WHO OWN SMALL BUSINESSES ON APPLYING FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may award a grant to a non-profit organization to assist such organization in providing training to a veteran who is an owner of a small business concern on how to apply for and win a contract with the Federal Government.

(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The total amount of grants awarded under subsection (a) may not exceed \$1,000,000.

(2) INDIVIDUAL GRANT AMOUNTS.—A grant awarded under subsection (a) may not exceed \$200,000.

(c) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may award a grant under subsection (a) to a non-profit organization to conduct training only if the organization agrees to make contributions toward the cost of conducting such training, from non-Federal sources, in an amount equal to not less than the amount of the grant.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "small business concern" has the meaning given such term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SA 2799. Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by striking section 33 (15 U.S.C. 657c).

(b) CORPORATION.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Veterans Business Development Corporation and any successor thereto may not represent that the corporation is federally chartered or in any other manner authorized by the Federal Government.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) SMALL BUSINESS ACT.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.), as amended by this section, is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 34 through 45 as sections 33 through 44, respectively;

(B) in section 9(k)(1)(D) (15 U.S.C. 638(k)(1)(D)), by striking "section 34(d)" and inserting "section 33(d)";

(C) in section 33 (15 U.S.C. 657d), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking "section 35" each place it appears and inserting "section 34";

(ii) in subsection (a)—

(I) in paragraph (2), by striking "section 35(c)(2)(B)" and inserting "section 34(c)(2)(B)";

(II) in paragraph (4), by striking "section 35(c)(2)" and inserting "section 34(c)(2)"; and

(III) in paragraph (5), by striking "section 35(c)" and inserting "section 34(c)"; and

(iii) in subsection (h)(2), by striking "section 35(d)" and inserting "section 34(d)";

(D) in section 34 (15 U.S.C. 657e), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking "section 34" each place it appears and inserting "section 33"; and

(ii) in subsection (c)(1), by striking section "34(c)(1)(E)(ii)" and inserting section "33(c)(1)(E)(ii)";

(E) in section 36(d) (15 U.S.C. 657i(d)), as so redesignated, by striking "section 43" and inserting "section 42";

(F) in section 39(d) (15 U.S.C. 657l(d)), as so redesignated, by striking "section 43" and inserting "section 42"; and

(G) in section 40(b) (15 U.S.C. 657m(b)), as so redesignated, by striking "section 43" and inserting "section 42".

(2) TITLE 10.—Section 1142(b)(13) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "and the National Veterans Business Development Corporation".

(3) TITLE 38.—Section 3452(h) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "any of the" and all that follows and inserting "any small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648), insofar as such center offers, sponsors, or cosponsors an entrepreneurship course, as that term is defined in section 3675(c)(2)".

(4) FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008.—Section 12072(c)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 636g(c)(2)) is amended by striking "section 43 of the Small Business Act, as added by this Act" and inserting "section 42 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657o)".

(5) VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999.—Section 203(c)(5) of the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 657b note) is amended by striking "In cooperation with the National Veterans Business Development Corporation, develop" and inserting "Develop".

SA 2800. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 18, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 7. IDENTIFICATION OF UNCLAIMED OR ABANDONED HUMAN REMAINS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress recognizes the tireless work and dedication of the

members of the Missing in America Project, in conjunction with numerous veterans service organizations, in identifying the unclaimed remains of veterans.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF UNCLAIMED OR ABANDONED HUMAN REMAINS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall cooperate with veterans service organizations to assist entities in possession of unclaimed or abandoned human remains in determining if any such remains are the remains of veterans or other individuals eligible for burial in a national cemetery.

(c) BURIAL OF UNCLAIMED OR ABANDONED HUMAN REMAINS.—

(1) FUNERAL EXPENSES.—Section 2302(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "who was a veteran of any war or was discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service for a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty, whose body is held by a State (or a political subdivision of a State), and".

(2) TRANSPORTATION COSTS.—Section 2308 of such title is amended—

(A) by striking "Where a veteran" and all that follows through "compensation, the" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—The";

(B) in subsection (a), as designated by subparagraph (A), by inserting "described in subsection (b)" after "of the deceased veteran"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) DECEASED VETERAN DESCRIBED.—A deceased veteran described in this subsection is any of the following veterans:

"(1) A veteran who dies as the result of a service-connected disability.

"(2) A veteran who dies while in receipt of disability compensation (or who but for the receipt of retirement pay or pension under this title, would have been entitled to compensation).

"(3) A veteran whom the Secretary determines is eligible for funeral expenses under section 2302 of this title by virtue of the Secretary determining that the veteran has no next of kin or other person claiming the body of such veteran pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A) of such section."

SA 2801. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 10. DOMICILE REQUIREMENT FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE.

Section 3131(a)(12) of title 49, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(12)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the State may issue a commercial driver's license only to an individual who operates or will operate a commercial motor vehicle and is domiciled in the State.

"(B) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, the State may issue a commercial driver's license to an individual who—

"(i) operates or will operate a commercial motor vehicle; and

"(ii) is not domiciled in a State that issues commercial driver's licenses.

"(C) The State may issue a commercial driver's license to an individual who—

"(i) operates or will operate a commercial motor vehicle;

"(ii) is a member of the active duty military, military reserves, National Guard, active duty United States Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary; and

"(iii) is not domiciled in the State, but whose temporary or permanent duty station is located in the State."

SA 2802. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . SPECTRUM INCENTIVE AUCTION BIDDING CREDIT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall establish a program to promote the hiring of veterans by providing an eligible bidder in an incentive auction conducted under section 309(j)(8)(G) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)(G)) a bidding credit if the workforce of the eligible bidder is comprised of not less than a minimum percentage of veterans to be determined by the Federal Communications Commission in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SA 2803. Mr. BROWN of Ohio submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS PURSUING A DEGREE IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, OR MATH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3316 the following new section:

“§ 3316A. Additional educational assistance for veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay to each individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is pursuing a program of education described in subsection (b) an amount equal to \$2,000 per academic year, or fraction thereof for enrollment lasting less than one academic year. Amounts payable to an individual under this section are in addition to any other amounts payable to such individual under this chapter.

“(b) COVERED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION.—A program of education described in this subsection is a program of education with a focus (as determined in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary for purposes of this section) on science, technology, engineering, or math.

“(c) FREQUENCY OF PAYMENT.—Payment of the amount payable under subsection (a) shall be made in a lump-sum amount for the entire quarter, semester, or term, as applicable, of the program of education at the start of the commencement of such quarter, semester, or term.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 30 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3020 the following new item:

“3316A. Additional educational assistance for veterans pursuing a degree in science, technology, engineering, or math.”

SA 2804. Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require

the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 18, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 7. PROVISION OF STATUS UNDER LAW BY HONORING CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES AS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 107 the following new section:

“§ 107A. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components

“Any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of title 10 to retired pay for nonregular service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chapter to retired pay for nonregular service shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled to any benefit by reason of this section.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 107 the following new item:

“107A. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components.”

SA 2805. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . UNENFORCEABILITY OF AGREEMENTS TO ARBITRATE DISPUTES ARISING UNDER USERRA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 4328. Unenforceability of agreements to arbitrate disputes

“(a) PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEE RIGHTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any clause of any agreement between an employer and an employee that requires arbitration of a dispute arising under this chapter shall not be enforceable.

“(b) EXCEPTIONS.—(1) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any dispute if, after such dispute arises, the parties involved knowingly and voluntarily agree to submit such dispute to arbitration.

“(2) Subsection (a) shall not preclude the enforcement of any of the rights or terms of a valid collective bargaining agreement.

“(c) VALIDITY AND ENFORCEMENT.—Any issue as to whether this section applies to an arbitration clause shall be determined by Federal law. Except as otherwise provided in chapter 1 of title 9, the validity or enforceability of an agreement to arbitrate referred to in subsection (a) or (b)(1) shall be determined by a court, rather than the arbitrator, regardless of whether the party resisting arbitration challenges the agreement to arbitrate specifically or in conjunction with other terms of the agreement.

“(d) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply with respect to all contracts and agreements between an employer and an employee in force before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this section.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4327 the following new item:

“4328. Unenforceability of agreements to arbitrate disputes.”

(c) APPLICATION.—The provisions of section 4328 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply to—

(1) any failure to comply with a provision of or any violation of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, that occurs before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) to all actions or complaints filed under such chapter 43 that are pending on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. ____ . EXPANSION OF EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES TO INCLUDE PROTECTION FOR ABSENCES FROM EMPLOYMENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT RELATING TO SERVICE-CONNECTED INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4303(13) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “a period for which a person is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of medical or dental treatment for an injury or illness incurred or aggravated in line of duty during a period of service in the uniformed services,” after “for any such duty.”

(b) FMLA.—

(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of that section 4303(13) and each covered provision—

(A) the reference in that section 4303(13) to a period for which a person is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of medical or dental treatment shall not be considered to be a reference to a period of leave under a covered provision; and

(B) the person’s employer shall not designate the period of absence as such a period of leave,

unless the person requests and obtains the leave under the corresponding covered provision.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “covered provision” means—

(A) title I of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), including the application of that title under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) and chapter 5 of title 3, United States Code; and

(B) subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. ____ . SUSPENSION, TERMINATION, OR DEBARMENT OF CONTRACTORS FOR REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OR REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 4329. Suspension, termination, or debarment of contractors

“(a) GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION, TERMINATION, OR DEBARMENT.—Payment under a contract awarded by a Federal executive agency may be suspended and the contract may be terminated, and the contractor who made the contract with the agency may be suspended or debarred in accordance with the requirements of this section, if the head of the agency determines that the contractor as an employer has repeatedly failed or refused to comply with a provision of this chapter.

“(b) CONDUCT OF SUSPENSION, TERMINATION, AND DEBARMENT PROCEEDINGS.—A contracting officer who determines in writing that cause for suspension of payments, termination, or suspension or debarment exists shall initiate an appropriate action, to be

conducted by the agency concerned in accordance with applicable law, including Executive Order 12549 or any superseding executive order, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and any other regulations prescribed to implement the law or executive order.

“(c) EFFECT OF DEBARMENT.—A contractor debarred by a final decision under this section is ineligible for award of a contract by a Federal executive agency, and for participation in a future procurement by a Federal executive agency, for a period specified in the decision, not to exceed 5 years.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 43 of such title, as amended by section 2, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4328, as added by such section, the following new item:

“4329. Suspension, termination, or debarment of contractor.”

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council shall amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation to carry out section 4329 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 4329 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to failures and refusals to comply with provisions of chapter 43 of such title occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2806. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMIT ON AWARDS AND BONUSES TO EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

For each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not pay more than \$357,613,229 in awards or bonuses under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code, or any other awards or bonuses authorized under such title.

TITLE II—TRANSFER OF CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

SEC. 201. TRANSFER OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR VETERANS PROGRAMS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Effective October 1, 2014, there shall be transferred to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs all functions performed under the following programs of the Department of Labor, and all personnel, assets, and liabilities pertaining to such programs, immediately before such transfer occurs:

(A) Job counseling, training, and placement services for veterans under chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) Federal Government employment services by the Secretary of Labor under section 4214 of such title.

(C) Administration of employment and re-employment rights of members of the uniformed services under chapter 43 of such title.

(D) Homeless veterans reintegration programs under chapter 20 of such title.

(E) Employment and veterans benefits training under the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into memorandums of agreement with the Secretary of Labor and with States (as defined in section 4101(6) of title 38, United

States Code), as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines necessary, to implement the transition of the programs specified under paragraph (1).

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title may be construed to affect the role and responsibility of the Secretary of Labor with respect to programs not administered by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training Service as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act that are specified under paragraph (1).

(b) BUDGET REQUEST.—Under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the President shall include in the President's budget request for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015, and for each subsequent fiscal year, funding requested for the functions referred to in subsection (a)(1).

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of or pertaining to a department or office from which a function is transferred by this title—

(1) to the head of such department or office is deemed to refer to the head of the department or office to which such function is transferred; or

(2) to such department or office is deemed to refer to the department or office to which such function is transferred.

(d) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.—Except as otherwise provided by law, a Federal official to whom a function is transferred by this title may, for purposes of performing the function, exercise all authorities under any other provision of law that were available with respect to the performance of that function to the official responsible for the performance of the function immediately before the effective date of the transfer of the function under this title.

(e) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

(1) LEGAL DOCUMENTS.—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, licenses, and privileges—

(A) that have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the President, the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, any officer or employee of any office transferred by this title, or any other Government official, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of any function that is transferred by this title, and

(B) that are in effect on the effective date of such transfer (or become effective after such date pursuant to their terms as in effect on such effective date), shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the President, any other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction, or operation of law.

(2) PROCEEDINGS.—This title shall not affect any proceedings or any application for any benefits, service, license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending on the date of the enactment of this Act before an office transferred by this title, but such proceedings and applications shall be continued. Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this title had not been enacted, and orders issued in any such proceeding shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, or revoked by a duly authorized official, by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law. Nothing in this subsection shall be considered to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any such proceeding under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such pro-

ceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this title had not been enacted.

(3) SUITS.—This title shall not affect suits commenced before the date of the enactment of this Act, and in all such suits, proceedings shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this title had not been enacted.

(4) NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.—No suit, action, or other proceeding commenced by or against the Department of Labor or the Secretary of Labor, or by or against any individual in the official capacity of such individual as an officer or employee of an office transferred by this title, shall abate by reason of the enactment of this Act.

(5) CONTINUANCE OF SUITS.—If any Government officer in the official capacity of such officer is party to a suit with respect to a function of the officer, and under this title such function is transferred to any other officer or office, then such suit shall be continued with the other officer or the head of such other office, as applicable, substituted or added as a party.

(6) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Except as otherwise provided by this title, any statutory requirements relating to notice, hearings, action upon the record, or administrative or judicial review that apply to any function transferred by this title shall apply to the exercise of such function by the head of the Federal agency, and other officers of the agency, to which such function is transferred by this title.

(f) TRANSFER OF ASSETS.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, so much of the personnel, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds employed, used, held, available, or to be made available in connection with a function transferred to an official or agency by this title shall be available to the official or the head of that agency, respectively, at such time or times as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget directs for use in connection with the functions transferred.

(g) DELEGATION AND ASSIGNMENT.—Except as otherwise expressly prohibited by law or otherwise provided in this title, an official to whom functions are transferred under this title (including the head of any office to which functions are transferred under this title) may delegate any of the functions so transferred to such officers and employees of the office of the official as the official may designate, and may authorize successive re-delegations of such functions as may be necessary or appropriate. No delegation of functions under this section or under any other provision of this title shall relieve the official to whom a function is transferred under this title of responsibility for the administration of the function.

(h) AUTHORITY OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WITH RESPECT TO FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED.—

(1) DETERMINATIONS.—If necessary, the Director of Management and Budget shall make any determination of the functions that are transferred under this title.

(2) INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.—The Director, at such time or times as the Director shall provide, may make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the functions transferred by this title, and to make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel, assets, liabilities, grants, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with such functions, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title. The Director shall provide for the termination of the affairs of all entities

terminated by this title and for such further measures and dispositions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this title.

(i) CERTAIN VESTING OF FUNCTIONS CONSIDERED TRANSFERS.—For purposes of this title, the vesting of a function in a department or office pursuant to reestablishment of an office shall be considered to be the transfer of the function.

(j) AVAILABILITY OF EXISTING FUNDS.—Existing appropriations and funds available for the performance of functions, programs, and activities terminated pursuant to this title shall remain available, for the duration of their period of availability, for necessary expenses in connection with the termination and resolution of such functions, programs, and activities.

(k) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this title—

(1) the term “function” includes any duty, obligation, power, authority, responsibility, right, privilege, activity, or program; and

(2) the term “office” includes any office, administration, agency, bureau, institute, council, unit, organizational entity, or component thereof.

SEC. 202. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 4102A of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—There is established within the Department a Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training, who shall formulate and implement all departmental policies and procedures to carry out the purposes of this chapter, chapter 20, and chapter 43 of this title and the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) The section heading of section 4102A of such title is amended to read as follows:

“§ 4102A. Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training; program functions; Regional Administrators”.

(2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended to read as follows:

“4102A. Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training; program functions; Regional Administrators.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 203. CONSOLIDATION OF DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM AND LOCAL VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) CONSOLIDATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 4104. Veteran employment specialists

“(a) REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT BY STATES.—(1) Subject to approval by the Secretary, a State shall employ and assign such full- or part-time veteran employment specialists in an agency of the State as the State determines appropriate and efficient to carry out the following:

“(A) Employment, training, and placement services under this chapter.

“(B) Intensive services under this chapter to meet the employment needs of eligible veterans with the following priority in the provision of services:

“(i) Special disabled veterans.

“(ii) Other disabled veterans.

“(iii) Other eligible veterans in accordance with priorities determined by the Secretary taking into account applicable rates of unemployment and the employment emphases set forth in chapter 42 of this title.

“(2) In the provision of services in accordance with this subsection, maximum emphasis in meeting the employment and training needs of veterans shall be placed on assisting economically or educationally disadvantaged veterans.

“(b) PRINCIPAL DUTIES.—As principal duties, veteran employment specialists shall—

“(1) conduct outreach to employers in the area to assist veterans and disabled veterans in gaining employment, including conducting seminars for employers and, in conjunction with employers, conducting job search workshops and establishing job search groups; and

“(2) facilitate employment, training, and placement services furnished to veterans and disabled veterans in a State under the applicable State employment service delivery systems.

“(c) REQUIREMENT FOR QUALIFIED VETERANS.—(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), a State shall, to the maximum extent practicable, employ qualified veterans to carry out the services referred to in subsection (a). Preference shall be given in the appointment of such specialists to qualified disabled veterans. Preference shall be accorded in the following order:

“(A) To qualified service-connected disabled veterans.

“(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to qualified eligible veterans.

“(C) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) or (B) is available, then to qualified eligible persons.

“(2) During any period in which more than 10 percent of the individuals employed to carry out the services referred to in subsection (a) are non-veterans, the preference accorded under paragraph (1) shall be as follows:

“(A) To qualified service-connected disabled veterans.

“(B) If no veteran described in subparagraph (A) is available, to qualified eligible veterans.

“(3)(A) Each State that employs a veteran employment specialist under this section shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the qualifications used by the State in making hiring determinations for such specialists and the salary structure under which such specialists are compensated.

“(B) The Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives an annual report summarizing the reports submitted under subparagraph (A).

“(C) The first report submitted by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) shall include an evaluation of whether the pay for veteran employment specialists should be scheduled on a standard basis for each State and include locality pay.

“(d) PART-TIME EMPLOYEES.—A part-time veteran employment specialist shall perform the functions of a veteran employment specialist under this section on a halftime basis.

“(e) REPORTING.—Each veteran employment specialist shall be administratively responsible to the manager of the employment service delivery system and shall provide reports, not less frequently than quarterly, to the manager of such office and to the Director for Veterans’ Employment and Training for the State regarding compliance with Federal law and regulations with respect to special services and priorities for eligible veterans and eligible persons.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is

amended by striking the item relating to section 4104 and inserting the following new item:

“4104. Veteran employment specialists.”.

(3) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that an individual who is a veteran employment specialist under section 4104 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is properly trained to carry out the duties of such position.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such title is further amended—

(1) by striking section 4103A and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 41 of such title;

(2) in section 4102A—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (5)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (B) and redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (B);

(II) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) veteran employment specialists appointed under section 4104(a) of this title; and”;

(III) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking “such specialists and representatives described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)” and inserting “such representatives described in subparagraph (A)”;

(ii) in paragraph (7), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and through local veterans’ employment representatives” and inserting “veteran employment specialists”;

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “sections 4103A(a) and” and inserting “section”; and

(II) by striking “section 4103A or”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(I) in clause (i)(I)—

(aa) by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives” and inserting “veteran employment specialists”; and

(bb) by striking “sections 4103A and 4104” and inserting “section 4104”;

(II) in clause (iii), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist or a local veterans’ employment representative” and inserting “veteran employment specialist”;

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking “4103A or”;

(iv) in paragraph (5), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist and local veterans’ employment representative” and inserting “veteran employment specialist”;

(v) in paragraph (7), by striking “4103A or”;

(vi) in paragraph (8)(A)—

(I) by striking “4103A or”;

(II) by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist or a local veterans’ employment representative” and inserting “veteran employment specialist”;

(C) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists and local veterans’ employment representatives” and inserting “veteran employment specialists”;

(3) in section 4109(a), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists, local veterans’ employment representatives” and inserting “veteran employment specialists”;

(4) in section 4112(d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialist” and inserting “veteran employment specialist”;

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(5) in section 3672(d)(1), by striking “disabled veterans’ outreach program specialists under section 4103A” and inserting “veteran employment specialists appointed under section 4104(a)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 204. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) CHAPTER 41.—Chapter 41 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by this title, is further amended as follows:

(1) By striking “Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training” each place it appears and inserting “Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training”.

(2) By striking “Department of Labor” each place it appears and inserting “Department”.

(3) By striking “Secretary of Labor” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary”.

(4) In section 4101, by striking paragraph (8).

(5) In section 4102A(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “such Assistant Secretary” and inserting “such Deputy Under Secretary”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “and consulting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs”.

(6) In section 4105(b), by striking “and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs” both places it appears.

(7) In section 4106(a), by striking “chapters 42 and” and inserting “chapter”.

(8) By striking section 4108.

(9) In the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, by striking the item relating to section 4108.

(10) In section 4110(d), by striking paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (1) through (5), respectively.

(11) In section 4110A(b), by striking “Congress” and inserting “the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives”.

(12) In subsections (b) through (h) of section 4114, by striking “Assistant Secretary” each place it appears and inserting “Deputy Under Secretary”.

(b) CHAPTER 42.—Chapter 42 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 4212(c), by striking “include as part” and inserting “shall transmit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for inclusion as part”.

(2) In section 4215(d)(1)—

(A) by striking “In the” and inserting “For inclusion as part of the”; and

(B) by striking “shall evaluate” and inserting “shall transmit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs an evaluation of”.

(c) CHAPTER 43.—Chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 4303, by striking paragraph (11).

(2) By striking “Secretary of Veterans Affairs” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary”.

(3) In section 4321, by striking “(through the Veterans’ Employment and Training Service)”.

(4) In section 4332(a)(1), by striking “of Labor”.

(5) In section 4333, by striking “, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs” and inserting “and the Secretary of Defense”.

(d) CHAPTER 20.—Chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) In section 2003(a)(4), by striking “of the Department of Labor”.

(2) In section 2011(g)(2), by striking “the Department of Labor”.

(3) In section 2021—

(A) by striking “Secretary of Labor” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary”;

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following:

“(c) ADMINISTRATION THROUGH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—”; and

(ii) by striking “Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training” and inserting “Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training”.

(4) In section 2021A—

(A) by striking “Secretary of Labor” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary”;

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) by striking the subsection heading and inserting the following:

“(d) ADMINISTRATION THROUGH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS’ EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—”; and

(ii) by striking “Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training” and inserting “Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training”.

(5) In Section 2023—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “and the Secretary of Labor (hereinafter in this section referred to as the ‘Secretaries’)”; and

(B) by striking “Secretaries” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary”.

(6) In section 2065(b)(5), by striking subparagraph (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (F) through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (G), respectively.

(7) In section 2066(a)(3), by striking subparagraph (A) and redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (G) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively.

(e) OTHER PROVISIONS OF TITLE 38.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended as follows:

(1) In section 542(a)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

(2) In section 544(a)(2)(B), by striking clause (i) and redesignating clauses (ii) through (vi) as clauses (i) through (v), respectively.

(3) In section 3118(b), by striking “and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans’ Employment in the Department of Labor”.

(4) In section 3119(c), by striking “Education, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans’ Employment in the Department of Labor”.

(5) In section 3121(a)(3)—

(A) by striking “, (B)” and inserting “and (B)”;

(B) by striking “, and (C) one representative of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training of the Department of Labor. (b) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, consult with and seek the advice of the Committee with respect to the administration of veterans’ rehabilitation programs under this title”.

(6) In section 3692(a), by striking “and the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training shall be ex officio members” and inserting “an ex officio member”.

(7) In section 6306—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “shall arrange with the Secretary of Labor for the State employment service to match” and inserting “shall ensure that the State employment service matches”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor”.

(f) TITLE 10.—

(1) TAP PROGRAM.—Section 1144 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “Secretary of Labor” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of Veterans Affairs”;

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Sec-

retary of Veterans Affairs” and inserting “and the Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall cooperate with the Secretary of Labor” and inserting “and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall cooperate with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs”;

(C) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “Department of Labor to” and inserting “Department of Veterans Affairs to”; and

(D) in the heading, by striking “: Department of Labor”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 58 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 1144 and inserting the following new item:

“1144. Employment assistance, job training assistance, and other transitional services.”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

SEC. 205. STUDY AND REPORT ON TRANSFER OF PROGRAMS.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly conduct a study on implementing—

(1) the transfer of functions under section 201; and

(2) the amendments made by this title.

(b) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A comprehensive discussion of the improvements to services for veterans made by the transfer of functions under section 201.

(2) An analysis of the personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs that would be involved in such transfer.

(3) An analysis of the Deputy Under Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training established under section 4102A(a) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by this title, including—

(A) an explanation of where such position would exist within the organization chart of the Department;

(B) to whom such position would report to; and

(C) the functions that would be carried out by such a position.

(4) A detailed estimate of the cost to the Federal Government to implement such transfer, including any costs or savings resulting from—

(A) carrying out such implementation; and

(B) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs carrying out the functions so transferred.

(5) A plan to implement such transfer, including—

(A) a detailed time line of such implementation;

(B) a list of the rules, regulations, and laws in effect on the date of the study that would need to be revised for such implementation;

(C) a list of the memorandums of agreement entered into with Federal or State departments or agencies that would need to be revised for such implementation;

(D) a detailed description of how to effectively enforce the administration of employment and employment rights of members of the uniformed services under chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, during such implementation; and

(E) how the transfer of employees will be implemented, including—

(i) options available to employees who do not want to be transferred;

(ii) the locations of where former Department of Labor employees will be assigned in the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(iii) any organizational changes required in the Department of Veterans Affairs to accommodate such new employees.

(6) A detailed plan to train employees who carry out activities under section 4104 of title 38, United States Code, to carry out the functions so transferred, including—

(A) how current training manuals would need to be revised;

(B) whether the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Secretary of Labor would have responsibility for any such revision; and

(C) where such employees would be located.

(7) Any other issues the Secretaries consider appropriate.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), including—

(1) the recommendation of each Secretary as to best implement the transfer of functions described in such study;

(2) the advantages and disadvantages of such transfer;

(3) a list of regulatory and statutory actions required to implement such transfer that are not included under this title;

(4) the amount of time each Secretary determines necessary to carry out such transfer;

(5) whether, to carry out such transfer, any interoperability capabilities will need to be developed to electronically exchange information between the Department of Veterans Affairs and employees who were formerly under the Department of Labor before such transfer;

(6) whether each Secretary plans to continue collaborating with the other Secretary after such transfer is completed, including an explanation of such planned collaboration;

(7) an estimate of the training required to carry out the functions so transferred, including the number of employees requiring training and for which programs; and

(8) any other matters the Secretaries consider appropriate.

SA 2807. Mr. BROWN, of Ohio (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to sit on the table; as follows:

On page 23, after line 20, add the following:
SEC. 10. ACCESS TO NATIONAL WAR MEMORIALS BY TOURS ORGANIZED BY VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the National Park Service) shall jointly—

(1) establish procedures for veterans service organizations to register for annual visitor passes to the Korean War Veterans Memorial, National World War II Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that would facilitate veterans service organizations in bringing groups of veterans and immediate family members of the veterans to visit those memorials; and

(2) provide for a reduction or waiver of the visitor fees, and a reduction in the paperwork requirements, applicable to veterans service organizations in bringing groups of veterans and immediate family members of the veterans to visit the memorials described in paragraph (1).

SA 2808. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2789 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
Sec. ____.

This Act shall become effective 7 days after enactment.

SA 2809. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2808 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2789 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “7 days” and insert “6 days”.

SA 2810. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
Sec. ____.

This Act shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

SA 2811. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2810 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “5 days” and insert “4 days”.

SA 2812. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following new section:
Sec. ____.

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

SA 2813. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2812 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “3 days” and insert “2 days”.

SA 2814. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2813 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 2812 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “2 days” and insert “1 day”.

SA 2815. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITATION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO LIBYA AND EGYPT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided under subsection (b), no amounts may be obligated or expended to provide any direct United States assistance, loan guarantee, or debt relief to the Government of Egypt or the Government of Libya.

(b) WAIVER AND CERTIFICATION.—Beginning 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) with respect to the Government of Libya or the Government of Egypt if the President certifies to Congress that—

(1) the Government is cooperating or has cooperated fully with investigations into the September 11, 2012, attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya, or the September 11, 2012, attack on the United States Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, as the case may be; and

(2) all identifiable persons associated with organizing, planning, or participating in the attack—

(A) have been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigations and

(B) are in the custody of the United States Government.

(c) REPORT ON UNSECURED WEAPONS IN LIBYA.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report to Congress examining the extent to which advanced weaponry remaining unsecured after the fall of Moammar Qaddafi was used by the individuals responsible for the September 11, 2012, attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as an authorization for the use of military force.

SA 2816. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3457, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans jobs corps, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 10. PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, THEIR DEPENDENTS, AND VETERANS.

(a) PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND DEPENDENTS.—The Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General shall jointly carry out a program (commonly referred to as a “prescription drug take-back program”) under which members of the Armed Forces and dependents of members of the Armed Forces may deliver controlled substances to military medical treatment facilities to be disposed of in accordance with section 302(g) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 822(g)).

(b) PROGRAM FOR VETERANS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General shall jointly carry out a program under which veterans may deliver controlled substances to be disposed of in accordance with section 302(g) of the Controlled Substances Act.

(c) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The programs required by this section shall provide for the following:

(1) In the case of the program required by subsection (a), the delivery of controlled substances under the program to such members of the Armed Forces, medical professionals, and other employees of the Department of Defense, and to such other acceptance mechanisms, as the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General jointly specify for purposes of the program.

(2) In the case of the program required by subsection (b), the delivery of controlled substances under the program to such employees of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to such other acceptance mechanisms, as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General jointly specify for purposes of the program.

(3) Appropriate guidelines and procedures to prevent the diversion, misuse, theft, or loss of controlled substances delivered under such programs.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing will be to hear testimony on four items:

S. 3265, a bill to amend the Federal Power Act to remove the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to collect land use fees for land that has been sold, exchanged, or otherwise transferred from Federal ownership but that is subject to a power site reservation;

H.R. 2842, Bureau of Reclamation Small Conduit Hydropower Development and Rural Jobs Act of 2012;

S. 3464, Mni Wiconi Project Act Amendments of 2012; and

S. 3483, Crooked River Collaborative Water Security Act.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to Meagan_Gins@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sara Tucker at (202) 224-6224 or Meagan Gins at (202) 224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 2 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The Committee will conduct a hearing entitled, "The Path from LEO to Mars."

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 10 a.m. in Dirksen 406 to conduct a hearing entitled, "Oversight Hearing: NRC's Implementation of Recommendations for Enhancing Nuclear Reactor Safety in the 21st Century."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled, "Update on the Crisis in Syria and Iran".

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 2:45 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 12, 2012, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Moving from Scandal to Strategy: The Future of the General Services Administration."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on September 12, 2012, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Citizens United Court and the Continuing Importance of the Voting Rights Act."

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session on September 12, 2012, in room 418 of the

Senate Russell Office Building beginning at 10 a.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Andrea Chapman, Claire Green, Sarah Weaver, Sterling Laudon, Owen Haacke, James Mathis, and Joseph Steffens, staff of the Finance Committee, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the 112th Congress.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert Morus, an intern in the office of the Senator from Oregon, be granted the privilege of the floor for the balance of the day.

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

ACCEPTING AND DEPICTING FREDERICK DOUGLASS STATUE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6336.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6336) to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue depicting Frederick Douglass from the District of Columbia and to provide for the permanent display of the statue in Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the statues and busts in the U.S. Capitol depicting distinguished Americans number more than 120. However, among the collection are only two African Americans, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Sojourner Truth. This disparity fails to acknowledge the historically significant contributions of African Americans to our Nation. I am pleased that passage of H.R. 6336 today begins to address this need to display in the U.S. Capitol the statues and busts of outstanding African Americans whose contributions to the country deserve such recognition.

In my fiscal year 2013 Senate Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill reported by the committee on June 14, I included a provision to permit the District of Columbia to donate and the Joint Committee on the Library to accept a statue of Frederick Douglass for placement in the United States Capitol. All costs of the transportation and placement of the statue would be borne by the District of Columbia. Subsequently, I joined Senator SCHUMER in introducing a free-standing resolution for acquisition of the Douglass statue. The House acted on its own measure and unanimously approved it earlier this week.

Frederick Douglass was one of the most influential orators and writers of

the 19th century, an advocate for abolitionism, women's suffrage, and the equality of all people. He worked tirelessly on behalf of emancipation. As a pivotal figure in Underground Railroad activities, he was an inspiration to enslaved Americans who aspired to freedom and equal rights.

As one of our Nation's most powerful voices for justice and the equality of all people, Frederick Douglass' writings and teachings still speak to Americans today. Moving a statue of Frederick Douglass to the Emancipation Hall not only will recognize the accomplishments of one of the most important political activists in American history, it also will help correct the imbalance of influential African Americans honored in the halls of our Nation's Capitol.

It is particularly fitting that this long overdue legislation will be enacted near the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the preliminary proclamation on September 22, 1862, that paved the way for the Emancipation Proclamation to be signed on January 1, 1863.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to praise my Senate and House colleagues for passing H.R. 6336, a bill that will allow a statue of American hero and Rochester resident, Frederick Douglass, to reside permanently in the U.S. Capitol. I am proud that after a 5-year delay, Congress is acting to ensure that millions of visitors who come to Washington every year will see Frederick Douglass among the pantheon of statues of great Americans in our Capitol.

I want to thank my good friend and colleague Senator DICK DURBIN for working with me and co-sponsoring the Senate bill that would ultimately lead to the passage of H.R. 6336. I also want to thank Representatives LUNGREN and BRADY for their bipartisan support in the House that helped bring this bill to the Senate for final passage. Lastly, I want to especially thank Delegate NORTON for her tireless efforts towards bringing the statue of this great American to our Capitol.

Bringing Frederick Douglass to the U.S. Capitol is an important step toward ensuring that Americans depicted in the art of the Capitol reflect the true heritage of our Nation and the people who have helped to make it great. Currently there are only two African Americans depicted in the U.S. Capitol: Sojourner Truth in Emancipation Hall and the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Rotunda. There is little doubt that more needs to be done to make sure that a greater diversity of outstanding Americans is represented in the U.S. Capitol. There is no doubt that a statue of Frederick Douglass, a man of towering influence not only during his lifetime in the 19th century but also, through his writings and actions, to the present day, has earned a place in our Capitol.

He was born into slavery in Maryland, and at the age of 20 escaped to

freedom. After living in Massachusetts, he moved to Rochester, NY, where he spent 25 highly productive and influential years and gained prominence as a leading national voice for the causes of human freedom and equality.

During his time in Rochester, he published and edited *The North Star*, the most prominent African American newspaper in the country. Douglass was also a leader in the Underground Railroad in Rochester and Western New York. His influential best-selling autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, served as a rallying cry for the abolitionist movement and helped bring an end to that cruel institution.

During the Seneca Falls Convention, a historic gathering near Geneva, NY, to promote women's rights in 1848, Douglass participated as the only African American and one of only 37 men out of 300 attendees. Douglass' presence at the convention in Seneca Falls visibly displayed his belief that the women's rights movement and that of emancipation went hand-in-hand. Douglass' beliefs on equality helped shape our great country and inspired generations of men and women elected to serve here in the halls of Congress. The passage of H.R. 6336 rightfully guarantees that Douglass' legacy will forever be recognized in the Capitol of a grateful Nation.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 6336) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMENDING THE FOUR AMERICAN PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO DIED IN BENGHAZI, LIBYA, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR J. CHRISTOPHER STEVENS, AND CONDEMNING THE VIOLENT ATTACK OF THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN BENGHAZI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 551.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 551) commending the 4 American public servants who died in Benghazi, Libya, including Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the American people, and condemning the violent attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi.

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

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the deaths of Ambassador Stevens and his team are heartbreaking. It is easy for a lot of people to forget that our dip-

lomats are on the frontlines of the world's most dangerous places and they are there trying to make the world a safer and better place at great risk to themselves and their families.

Chris Stevens was all that and more. He was a foreign service professional down to his toes, a guy who had served on the Foreign Relations Committee and embraced tough odds and tough assignments overseas. He had the guts and grit to serve as our envoy during the rebellion, and his presence there reminded Libyans that America stood with them for freedom in the face of violence. He was continuing that noble work as Ambassador with enormous skill.

He was an important part of the work we are doing in Libya, and we will not let this deplorable violence turn back the progress he helped make possible. Let's remember that Libyans fought to protect the consulate and rescue the Americans inside, and that Libyans took Chris to a hospital in a desperate and potentially dangerous attempt to save his life. Indeed, the best way to honor his memory and that of the four American public servants who perished in Benghazi is to continue their work. The United States must continue to support the aspirations of the people of Libya for political reform based on democratic and human rights and the development of an inclusive government that ensures freedom, opportunity, and justice for the people of Libya. This is what Chris Stevens would have wanted.

The violence in Cairo and Benghazi is unacceptable and unjustifiable. The stupidity of one filmmaker, no matter how offensive, is not now, and never, a rationale for violence. A despicable act like this hurts us all—Americans and peaceful people who aspire to build their own democracy. I commend President Obama for committing to bring the perpetrators of this attack to justice, and I am confident that this is precisely what the United States Government will do.

This is one of those moments when Americans must unite as Americans. It is exactly the wrong time to throw political punches. It is a time to restore calm and proceed wisely.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was killed in service to his country, a man who hails from my State of California, Ambassador John Christopher Stevens.

I was shocked and saddened to learn of the deaths of Ambassador Stevens and the other three Americans who were killed during the horrible attack on our consulate in Benghazi, Libya. My deepest condolences go out to their families. They remain in my thoughts and prayers.

He was struck down in the consulate by an act of mob violence which should never have taken place. There is simply no justification for this type of action and I condemn it in the strongest terms.

I would like to begin by telling you a little bit about this dedicated public servant, someone with a unique and distinguished biography.

Born and raised in Piedmont CA, Ambassador Stevens graduated from Piedmont High School before receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkley in 1982 and a J.D. from the University of California's Hastings College of Law in 1989.

Before he joined the Foreign Service in 1991, he was an international trade lawyer in Washington, DC, and from 1983 to 1985 he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco.

His overseas postings were consequential and showed he was an effective Foreign Service officer. He served as the deputy principal officer and political section chief in Jerusalem, a political officer in Damascus, a consular/political officer in Cairo, and a consular/economic officer in Riyadh.

In addition to his service abroad, Ambassador Stevens was the director of the Office of Multilateral Nuclear and Security Affairs, a Pearson Fellow with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, special assistant to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Iran desk officer, and staff assistant in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

He also served twice in Libya before becoming Ambassador: as deputy chief of mission at our Embassy in Tripoli from 2007 to 2009 and special representative to the Libyan Transitional Council from March 2011 to November 2011.

In May 2012, he became the first U.S. Ambassador to Libya following the fall of Qadhafi.

As you can see, he had a long and distinguished career as one of our top diplomats, someone who learned the language and culture of a region of the world critical to U.S. national security interests.

Clearly, this was someone who was committed to helping the Libyan people achieve their goal of a free and democratic country after decades of brutal dictatorship.

As Ambassador, he immediately went to work to help Libya build a new future, engaging government officials, academics, businessmen, and civil society leaders on a daily basis.

Sadly, his term as Ambassador and his service to his country ended far too soon.

This attack and the assault on our Embassy in Cairo serve as sobering reminders that we must continue to pay attention to the events in the countries involved in the Arab Spring.

While in some countries like Egypt and Libya autocrats have fallen and the people have elected new leadership, tensions remain high and uncertainty about the future abounds.

There is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that these countries fully embrace democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

It is critical that those responsible for these acts are brought to justice. And I call on the Governments of Libya

and Egypt to work closely with the administration to ensure that this does not happen again.

Ambassador Stevens was one of our best. He will be sorely missed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, that all Senators be added as cosponsors to the resolution, and all statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 551) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 551

Whereas on September 11, 2012, 4 American public servants, including United States Ambassador to Libya, John Christopher Stevens, and Sean Smith, were killed in a reprehensible and vicious attack on the United States consulate in Benghazi, Libya;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens—

(1) was a courageous and exemplary representative of the United States;

(2) had spent 21 years in the Foreign Service;

(3) was deeply passionate about representing the United States through his diplomatic service; and

(4) was an ardent friend of the Libyan people;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens served as Special Envoy to the Libyan Transitional National Council in Benghazi during the 2011 Libyan revolution;

Whereas Ambassador Stevens was a dear friend of the Senate, having served on the staff of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in 2006 and 2007 as a distinguished Pearson Fellow;

Whereas Foreign Service Information Management Officer Sean Smith—

(1) was a husband and a father of 2 children;

(2) joined the Department of State 10 years ago; and

(3) had served in the Foreign Service, before arriving in Benghazi, in Baghdad, Pretoria, Montreal, and The Hague;

Whereas the 2 other individuals from Ambassador Stevens' team who perished in the attack made great sacrifices and showed bravery in taking on a difficult post in Libya;

Whereas the violence in Benghazi coincided with an attack on the United States Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, which was also swarmed by an angry mob of protesters on September 11, 2012;

Whereas on a daily basis, United States diplomats, military personnel, and other public servants risk their lives to serve the American people; and

Whereas throughout this Nation's history, thousands of Americans have sacrificed their lives for the ideals of freedom, democracy, and partnership with nations and people around the globe.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the dedicated service and deep commitment of the 4 American public servants, including Ambassador John Christopher Stevens and Sean Smith, in assisting the Libyan people as they navigate the complex currents of democratic transition marked in this case by profound instability;

(2) praises Ambassador Stevens, who represented the highest tradition of American public service, for his extraordinary record of dedication to the United States' interests in some of the most difficult and dangerous posts around the globe;

(3) sends its deepest condolences to the families of those American public servants killed in Benghazi;

(4) commends the bravery of Foreign Service Officers, United States Armed Forces, and public servants serving in harm's way around the globe and recognizes the deep sacrifices made by their families; and

(5) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the despicable attacks on American diplomats and public servants in Benghazi and calls for the perpetrators of such attacks to be brought to justice.

NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 552.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 552) recognizing the month of October 2012 as "National Principals Month."

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the 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 resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 552) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 552

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the month of October 2012 to be "National Principals Month";

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2012 as "National Principals Month"; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States by supporting the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION
AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to S. Res. 553, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 533) designating September 22, 2012, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day” to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 533) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 553

Whereas older adults, 65 years of age and older, are the fastest-growing segment of the population in the United States, and the number of older adults in the United States will increase from 35,000,000 in 2000 to 72,100,000 in 2030;

Whereas 1 out of 3 older adults in the United States falls each year;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of injury, death, and hospital admissions for traumatic injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2010, approximately 2,300,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries, and more than 650,000 were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2008, more than 20,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the total cost

of fall-related injuries for older adults is \$80,900,000,000, including more than \$28,300,000,000 in direct medical costs;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost under the Medicare program will reach \$59,600,000,000 by 2020; and

Whereas evidence-based programs show promise in reducing falls and facilitating cost-effective interventions, such as comprehensive clinical assessments, exercise programs to improve balance and health, management of medications, correction of vision, and reduction of home hazards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2012, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

(2) commends the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about the prevention of falls among older adults;

(3) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to promote the awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(4) urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue developing and evaluating strategies to prevent falls among older adults that will translate into effective fall prevention interventions, including community-based programs;

(5) encourages State health departments, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and injury-related health care costs by collaborating with colleagues and a variety of organizations and individuals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

(6) recognizes proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies and encourages experts in the field to share their best practices so that their success can be replicated by others.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it ad-

journal until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, September 13, 2012; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that I be recognized and the first hour be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans the final half.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this evening I filed cloture on the substitute amendment to S. 3457, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act and on the underlying bill. As a result, the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the substitute amendment and S. 3457 is 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Under the rule, the cloture votes in relation to the Veterans Jobs Corps Act will occur on Friday. I talked about it earlier this evening, and we will decide what time we are going to do that tomorrow. We hope we can reach an agreement to have the vote or votes tomorrow. If not, if all time is used, we will be voting this weekend, including tomorrow, late at night.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:38 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 13, 2012, at 10 a.m.