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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of all, Your blessings to our Nation astound us. You have given us this rich land to produce an oasis of freedom in a barren world.

Bless our lawmakers as they seek to fulfill Your purposes. Give them great wisdom to choose what is best. As they grapple with complex issues, infuse them with confidence that Your providence will prevail. Renew their strength as they trust Your guidance, so that they will run and not be weary. In due season, bring them a bountiful harvest. We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 9, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 7005, H.R. 7006, H.R. 7060

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading; is that correct?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent for their second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7005) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide alternative minimum tax relief for individuals for 2008.

A bill (H.R. 7006) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide disaster assistance relief.

A bill (H.R. 7060) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for energy production and conservation, to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide individual income tax relief, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the remarks of the two leaders, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until noon today, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Those three bills that were reported are three tax bills. I have been in touch with the distinguished Republican leader. Those are placeholders for purposes of our having the opportunity to

get to the Detroit bailout, recovery plan, whatever we wish to call it.

I talked to my staff; they were up virtually most of the night working with the Banking Committee from the House and the Senate, and there are two remaining issues that have been discussed with the White House. I am confident those matters can be resolved within the next hour or so. They are both important issues, but I think they can be resolved. That having been done, we will confer, Senator McCONNELL and I, and decide how we are going to proceed. I think it would be to everyone's advantage that we move first, but we will have to wait and see how. The House can do that if they choose to.

We would hope they can complete work on this Detroit situation tonight or tomorrow. Then we have to wait for the White House to determine what, if anything, they are going to do with requesting the other money from the TARP money; that is, the bank bailout. That decision has not been made yet.

Members, I have received calls, as I am sure my distinguished counterpart has, that people have obligations at home, there are a number of important foreign meetings people wish to be involved in that they have set on their calendars for longstanding periods of time. These are not pleasure trips, they are business trips representing the Senate. We hope to be able to complete work here as soon as possible. The problem is we have to wait and see how we move through this. The Senate, being the unique legislative body it is, and it has been, one or two people can slow things down quite a bit. We hope that is not the case. We know what we have to try to do. We need to do it as quickly as possible.

So I hope that, in fact, can be done; that is, the legislation can be put before us and a vote taken.

On the reading of bills, the second reading, I would object to any further

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



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proceedings with respect to these bills. I do it en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The measures will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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

AUTO INDUSTRY REVIVAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. The auto industry is vitally important to our Nation's economy, and it is vitally important to my home State. This is not in dispute. The question before us is how to reverse the decline of some of those automobile manufacturers after decades of complicity between management and labor.

I understand congressional Democrats sent a revised proposal to which the majority leader referred, to the White House late last night. We will reserve our judgment until we see the latest text. But the proposal we saw yesterday afternoon fails to achieve our goal of securing long-term viability of ailing auto companies.

I wish to support a bill that revives this industry. But I will not support a bill that revives the patient with taxpayer dollars, yet does not secure a commitment that the patient will change its ways so future help is not needed. To do so would be a betrayal of the millions of hardworking taxpayers who are not at fault for the troubles in the auto industry. It would be unfair to the millions of Americans who depend on these companies.

On the management side, the draft plan released yesterday fails to require the kind of serious reform that will ensure long-term viability for struggling automobile companies. By giving the Government the option of cancelling Government assistance in the event that reforms are not achieved, rather than requiring it, we open the door to unlimited Federal subsidies in the future.

Instead, we should demand management make the tough choices that are required for long-term viability. This is the only fair approach from the standpoint of the taxpayer who is footing the bill. On the labor side, this bill proposal fails to require any serious reform of legacy costs. Indeed, it states explicitly that one of its purposes is to preserve the same retirement and health care benefits that have made these companies so uncompetitive.

It is delusional to expect a company that spends \$71 per labor hour to compete with a company in a neighboring State that spends \$49 per labor hour. In short, this proposal is deeply flawed because it fails to assure taxpayers, who rightly expect us to be good stewards of their hard-earned money, that they will not be asked to shell out billions

more in a few years or even a few months from now.

Now, there are times when help is needed. But one thing most people expect when they are asked for help is that the one asking makes a commitment to change. This proposal does not go nearly far enough. It holds neither management nor labor truly accountable.

In areas where one side is held accountable, the other side is not. One example is a provision that requires automakers to drop all legal challenges to State fuel economy standards that are inconsistent with the Federal standard. Where is the offer from our friends on the other side to call on environmental groups to drop their lawsuits?

Democrats say they want to solve this problem as much as we do. Yet they seem all too eager to tip the scales to the detriment of the manufacturers. Look, there is plenty of blame to go around for the problems that ail the auto industry, but fixing half of a problem is not a real solution.

Any successful proposal would force companies to reform, either inside of bankruptcy or outside of bankruptcy. Without that mandate, there can be no real expectation of reform. A good proposal would force automakers to get control of their benefit costs. A good proposal would make wages of struggling companies competitive with other automakers, not tomorrow but today. A good proposal would end the practice of paying workers who do not work. A good proposal would rationalize dealer networks.

Just as struggling airlines adjust their capacity to respond to market conditions, automakers must respond to market demands as well. I regret that the proposal Republicans saw yesterday afternoon does not do enough to fix the whole problem. It subsidizes it. A real solution must protect the taxpayers by forcing the changes needed to put these companies on the path to long-term success.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the lifeline we throw to Detroit has to be one that gets them to shore, not part way to shore. That is why I indicated in my opening statement that during the night there has been a lot of give-and-take between the White House and the two banking committees.

As I reported earlier, I think there are only two major issues that are still outstanding, and I am confident and hopeful they can be resolved in the next few hours.

The issue before us is, what can we do to stabilize an industry that has direct impact upon 2.5 million jobs in this country. The mere fact that we were trying to work something out yesterday caused the stock market to go up almost 300 points. The American people want us to try to resolve this issue.

But my friend is right. As strongly connected as I am to organized labor, it

cannot be a one-sided proposal that is brought before the Senate. I am confident it will not be. I have talked to the Big Three operators. Some are held in low repute. But that withstanding, I think we are in a situation now where we all have to kind of join hands, recognize that this is going to be a compromise, we are going to try to work something out. That is what legislation is all about, the art of compromise and consensus building. That is where we are now. As I indicated, I think we are very close to having something that I think we can bring before the body sometime today.

Mr. President, I suggest 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. CASEY. Mr. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FALLEN PENNSYLVANIANS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as we bring the 110th Congress to a close, our Nation confronts a daunting set of challenges. While we face the gravest crisis, perhaps, since the Great Depression, we must also remember that we are a nation at war. From Iraq to Afghanistan, from the Pacific to Europe and countless places in between, American service men and women are proudly carrying out their duties to protect our country and our way of life. Under stressful conditions and the constant threat of danger, members of our Armed Forces do what it takes to get the job done every day.

During this holiday season, I wish to take a moment to express my gratitude to our servicemembers. Their personal courage and honor should not be taken for granted but genuinely appreciated. I know that is the sentiment of the Senate on both sides of the aisle.

Today, on behalf of my family, the people of Pennsylvania, and people throughout the country, I thank the members of our armed services and their families, especially those who

gave, as Lincoln said, “the last full measure of devotion to their country.” To the families of those who have died or for those family members who are remembering those who are far away serving our country, in either instance, either by way of the loss of a loved one or because of distance, there is obviously a void in their lives. The words of the great recording artist Bruce Springsteen come to mind when I think of what these families are living through today. I remember the words from a song he wrote right after the 9/11 tragedy as he came out with a number of songs. One of them was “Missing.” Some of the lines from that song go as follows:

When I shut out the lights, you're missing.
When I close my eyes, you're missing.
When I see the sunrise, you're missing.

I believe so many families feel that today. They know that someone who was in their lives, a member of their family, a son or daughter, a husband or wife who was among them and living and then went off to serve and lost their life, they feel that sense of missing a family member or a loved one. But even if they are just away for 6 months or a couple of months or even a year, they are missing, especially at this holiday season. So we are thinking of them today, those families who are living with that loss or living with that void.

So far, 190 sons and daughters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have sacrificed their lives during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since the last time I paid tribute to those who have fallen, 21 Pennsylvania families have lost their loved ones. Today I would like to honor each of them by reading their names into the RECORD:

Aviation Boatswain Mate 3rd Class Daniel Verbeke of Exton, PA;
PFC Joshua Waltenbaugh of Ford City, PA;
LCpl Travis Stottlemeyer of Hatfield, PA;
PFC James Yohn of Highspire, PA;
SFC Shawn Suzch of Hilltown, PA;
LTC Ralph Marino of Houston, PA;
SPC Jason Kazarick of Oakmont, PA;
SSG Ryan Maseth of Pittsburgh, PA;
SGT Timothy Van Orman of Port Matilda, PA;
CPT Nathan Raudenbush of Royersford, PA;
SPC Luke Runyan of Spring Grove, PA;
Chief Petty Officer Michael Koch of State College, PA;
SSG Brian Hause of Stoytown, PA;
SPC Michael Hook of Altoona, PA;
SPC Zachary Clouser of Dover, PA;
SFC Michael Tully of Falls Creek, PA;
SSG David Wieger of North Huntingdon, PA;
SPC Camy Florexil of Philadelphia, PA;
PFC Adam Chitjian of Philadelphia, PA;
SFC David Cooper Jr. of State College, PA;
and finally
CPT Erick Foster of Wexford, PA.

To each of their families, please know our thoughts are with you today. I extend my sincere gratitude to each of these men and women for accepting the call to service. These men were courageous warriors who belonged to the finest military in the world and contributed to something larger than themselves. Later this week I will honor those who lost their lives during Operation Enduring Freedom.

I also personally thank the men and women of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The Pennsylvania Guard's motto is “civilian in peace, soldier in war.” They have certainly lived up to that motto. With two units deploying this winter and spring, the Pennsylvania National Guard is in the midst of its largest deployment since the Korean war. The 20,000 members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who give up the comforts of their civilian lives at a moment's notice, who protect Americans in the mountains of Afghanistan, the sands of Iraq, and worldwide, and who rescue Americans from devastating floods and natural disasters deserve our highest praise. Therefore, at this holiday season, I want the men and women in service to our country to know we are thinking of them, we are praying for their safety and well-being and for that of their families.

I yield the floor and suggest 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. REID. Mr. 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.

TRIBUTE TO GREG MADDUX

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as a little boy in Searchlight, as I was growing up, I used to listen every day to the “Game of the Day” baseball on the radio, and because there was no entertainment in Searchlight, I loved those games. I listened to them. Dizzy Dean was one of the announcers, and a guy named Al Helfer was one of the announcers. I thought they were very good, very entertaining. In the seventh inning stretch, Dizzy would always sing “The Wabash Cannonball.”

Now, in my youthful mind, one thing I wanted to do more than anything else was to be a baseball player. In Searchlight, we tried to play baseball. We had a little field there. We did not have enough boys for the team, so we had one girl who made up the nine players. Her name was Mary Ann Meyers. She still lives in Searchlight. She was really quite good—frankly, better than a lot of the boys. She rode a horse bareback as well as anyone could ride with a saddle.

I spent a lot of my daydreaming playing baseball. I had a little paddle of some kind, and I would throw rocks in the air and hit them with that. That was part of my entertainment. I did that for a long time.

As they had no high school in Searchlight, I went to Basic High School in Henderson, NV, which was 45 miles away. I stayed with people during the week and would come home on a lot of weekends if I could. They did not have a freshman baseball team. They had no baseball team. I guess

maybe if there had been a freshman good enough—I do not really think that was the case; I do not think they let freshmen be on the baseball team. My sophomore year, I went out for baseball. I was one of two sophomores to make that team. It was so exciting for me. That team was so good, we were so good, we won the Nevada State Championship. The first year they had a championship, we won. We beat Fallon. We had a pitcher by the name of Rey Martinez who later became my chief of staff and was a left-handed pitcher who was very good. We were so good that we beat all of the Nevada schools and all of the California schools. Even though we were from that little industrial town in southern Nevada, we were the California Interscholastic Federation champions. We beat them all.

Now, I would like to stand before everybody here and say that one reason that was the case is I was instrumental in getting hits at the right time and making stellar plays, stealing bases as I dreamed I would do as a kid. But I sat on the bench most of the time. I caught batting practice. I was a catcher. But I felt that I was part of that team and will never forget my experiences there playing baseball.

My friend Don Wilson, who was the other sophomore, was a State batting champion. He was terrific, a great athlete. He went on the play at Arizona State. But we had tremendous athletes. We had Norman Craft, who was our center fielder, who was a Big 10 football player playing at Indiana.

I went to college on a football-baseball scholarship. I was a lot bigger then than I am now. I weighed almost 190 pounds. But I got hurt early in my college athletic career—meaning football—and I came to the realization that I was not the athlete of my dreams. I was not big enough, fast enough, or good enough. So my athletic career, as a freshman in college, ended. I fought after that, but not as the baseball-football player I dreamed of being.

The reason I mention all of this today is to tell everyone within the sound of my voice how much I love baseball. I love athletics. I think it is so good and it is so wonderful that women can now participate just like men—boys and girls can participate. When I was in high school, the only thing my wife could do—she was far more athletic than I am or I was—is be a cheerleader. That was all she could do. There was not a single program for girls. So now we have programs equally for girls and boys, and that is exiting and wonderful, and I am happy that is the case.

The reason I mention all of this today is that yesterday in Las Vegas was a very big day for people who love baseball. It was an important day, but in some ways it was kind of a sentimental day because the great Greg Maddux announced his retirement.

Gregg Maddux, one of the greatest baseball players of all time, announced

his retirement yesterday after 23 seasons in the big leagues. Greg Maddux announced his retirement. He is such a fine person, unassuming. We see all of the negative things about athletes today, their taking steroids and fighting at bars and carrying guns into bars and shooting themselves in the leg and having dogs fight each other, not setting good examples for kids as to how they treat women. Greg Maddux stood for everything that they didn't—a wonderful family man, beautiful children, who prizes his family.

This is not a speech about some guy who played baseball in Las Vegas. This is a statement about one of the greatest baseball players of all time. You take the thousands of people who have pitched in the big leagues, Greg Maddux, this small man, relatively small man, who never lifted a weight in his life, is eighth on the all-time list of pitchers, Cy Young, go down the list, Warren Spahn, Greg Maddux; he is 10 games away from being in the top four or five—10 wins.

Another reason it is so important is that Greg Maddux is from Las Vegas. He never left. He went away for 23 years, spent half the year playing baseball, sometimes more than that, but he always came home. Las Vegas is home. That is where his kids go to school.

So this is a statement about a wonderful man who is a role model for anyone who participates in athletics but also someone Nevada is very proud of. He went to Valley High School, a high school that is still there. There are wonderful stories about this boy who went to that high school. A columnist from a prominent newspaper—I think that is where it was—a few years ago wrote a story, a column about Greg Maddux. He was a senior in high school. They had this skinny little sophomore who was going to pitch against him and his team. And he looked forward to batting against this skinny little sophomore who was pitching for Valley High School. And he describes in the column he wrote, he struck out every time he got up against this guy and they were, of course, beaten. Stories like that are all over Nevada about what he did in his youth.

Greg will soon be 43 years old. Yesterday he held a press conference. In effect what he said is: Thank you to everybody in baseball. He said: I still think I could play this game but not as well as I would like to, so it is time to say goodbye. And that is what he did.

His accomplishments are legendary; 355 games he won. He won more games than Roger Clemens, and he did it without taking any supplements of any kind. I repeat what he told me. He said: You know, I have never lifted a weight. He said: When I was in high school, a physical therapist said: Don't mess with your body. And Gregg may have pushed a few weights with his legs, but no way did he touch his arm, not because his arm had such great power, because he didn't throw as hard as a lot

of pitchers, but his accuracy was nearly perfect.

Of the seven men in front of him on the victory list, only Warren Spahn pitched in the second half of the last century. He is the only 300 game winner to have more than 3,000 strikeouts and less than 1,000 walks. He averaged less than 30 walks per year. That is a remarkable accomplishment; the first player in the history of baseball to win at least 15 games in 17 straight years; the only player in the history of baseball to win 13 games over 20 years.

He won four straight Cy Young awards. He won a World Series with the Atlanta Braves. He won 18 Gold Gloves. What is a Gold Glove? That means you are the best fielder in baseball at that position. He won 18 of them. No one will ever match that. That is for his fielding excellence. That is the most of any player ever, 18 Gold Gloves.

How did he do this, a man who didn't throw that hard, wasn't a monster on the mound being 6 foot 9? He was about my size, a little heavier than I am. He was able to do that because of his consistency, his control, and his mental acuity. He studied those batters. He knew their weaknesses and their strengths, and everyone marveled at how he could throw that baseball.

The stories will go on and on about Greg Maddux, but one story is not legend. It is true. For a sportswriter's entertainment, he said: Have the catcher hold up his glove and then we will make sure the catcher can't see so he can't move his hand. Let's see if you can hit that glove.

Think about that. The catcher is, in effect, blindfolded. He didn't do it once. He did it three times. Think about that. For those of us who have ever thrown a baseball, to hit that target is pretty significant. He is a man of humility. I just am so proud of Greg Maddux. I don't know what team I am going to root for now, because when he was with the Cubs, I was a Cub fan. When he was with the Atlanta Braves, I was a Braves fan. As difficult as it was playing for those losers, the Padres; they wouldn't get him any runs, I followed them because I knew Greg Maddux was on that team. And then he went with the Dodgers, and I became a Dodger fan. I don't know who I am going to cheer for. I really don't know.

His brother is a wonderful man. He was a long-time pitching coach for the Milwaukee Brewers. He has now, I understand, gone with the Texas Rangers. Whenever he came to town, I tried to visit with him. He was also a major league pitcher, 5 or 6 years older than his little brother Greg, but always looked out for him and was always so proud of him.

I want the record to reflect that America lost from baseball a great human being yesterday. But for us in Nevada, the place of his home, we still have Greg Maddux. His ties to Las Vegas make us all so very proud. Local historians will say—and rightfully so—that Greg Maddux is the greatest athlete in the history of our State.

RECESS

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:30 today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:54 p.m., recessed until 2:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CARPER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

The majority leader is recognized.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I just finished a meeting with my staff representative who has been working with the two Banking Committees and the White House on the Detroit situation that we are trying to work out. I think there has been a whole lot of progress made. I hope the White House will be meeting with Senator MCCONNELL in the near future and we can start moving forward.

We very much want to complete this as soon as possible. I have had calls from lots of different Senators, all having very important things to do and places to go dealing with their service as a Senator. I think it is going to be very difficult to get a vote today. The legislation is not drafted yet. Most of it is, but there are a couple provisions they are working on. So I think it is very unlikely there will be votes today—not impossible but unlikely. It is more likely there will be something tomorrow.

But everyone should understand, if we have a number of Senators who are objecting, who want to slow this down—they have a right to do that; I understand that—we are going to complete the process. That being the case—everyone knows the rules around here; and I do—it may be necessary, if we get some push back from some of our Senators, where we have to go through the process of moving to proceed and filing cloture and all that kind of stuff—if that is the case, everyone should understand we are going to work until we complete this.

The American people want us to make a decision. I am fairly confident that all the work that has gone into this is going to bear fruit, that we will be able to pass legislation that will be good legislation. It will help the workers. When I say “the workers,” not only those people who are directly employed by the automobile manufacturers, but the suppliers, the bondholders, and on and on down the road. A lot of people are dependent on our doing something that is appropriate, and I think that can be done.

We are going to have a vote on this sometime. We can either have it sooner or we can have it later. But everyone should understand there will be no stalling us from doing this. We are going to complete this legislation. That may mean—and people have heard me talk about this before, but

everyone knows I am serious about this—that may mean we have to work this weekend. I hope that is not the case. Today is Tuesday. But the rules are as they are and we may have to work through this. We cannot let a few people stop us from doing the people's business.

I think Senator McCONNELL and I have the same view; we discussed it this morning, that we want to move forward making sure all parties feel they have been part of the process. There is nothing we could do that would be perfect. So we can only do the best we can; that is, to work through this legislation with the art of compromise. We have had to do that on this piece of legislation.

So we will have to wait until the White House completes their meetings with the leadership on the Republican side. Hopefully, today, we can have a better direction as to when we can complete this.

I think the seriousness of what we are engaged in with Detroit and the financial bailout of the banking institutions and the financial apparatus of this country has been very hard and difficult, and we need to keep moving forward. As everyone knows, thousands of jobs have been lost, and we need to get our country back in a position where we are talking about and feel good about the jobs that are being gained, not the jobs being lost.

So having said that, Mr. President, I will be happy to answer any questions anyone has. They know how to get ahold of me.

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. 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 now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that the morning hour expire at 4:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to take the next several minutes, as we are getting together back in the Cap-

itol, to discuss the possible future assistance the Federal Government might provide to our auto industry.

Coming down on the train, several people said to me—some for and some against the proposal—that they were not comfortable with the idea of giving money to the auto industry, and I said neither am I. I am not interested in giving money to the auto industry any more than I wanted to give money to the financial services industry.

I invite the people who are following this issue to go back in time to 1979, 1980, when Chrysler was going through a difficult time, and Lee Iacocca was the CEO of the company then. He called for Federal assistance. I think at the time they were interested in a Federal loan to Chrysler. We weren't interested in doing that then, but we agreed to provide loan guarantees so that if Chrysler could find financing elsewhere, the Federal Government would provide a backstop in the form of a guarantee of the loans; otherwise, Chrysler would not have been able to obtain the needed financing. We called on Chrysler to make some difficult decisions to reduce costs and make sure that in the long haul they would be successful and viable as a company.

At the time, Lee Iacocca told us: If we could make that Chrysler K Car, that is our ticket to salvation and redemption and profitability. He said we don't have the financial wherewithal to get there. The Federal Government agreed to provide a lifeline in the form of a loan guarantee. A number of States, including my State of Delaware, agreed to provide loans—direct loans in this case—to Chrysler. We negotiated a collateralized loan to Chrysler in 1980. In return for the Federal taxpayers taking on the risk in 1980 of the loan guarantees, we asked for an ability to participate in an upside. We wanted to make sure not just the shareholders and employees would benefit but that the taxpayers would benefit. We agreed to make loan guarantees in return for getting warrants—not warrants for anybody's arrest but a warrant that is a financial instrument that can be used to turn into stock and provide the potential, at least, for the Federal taxpayer to make some positive return on this investment.

As it turned out, when the deal was closed and Jimmy Carter signed the legislation in the early part of 1980, the stock for Chrysler was about \$5 a share. Under the terms of the agreement, the Federal Government was able to purchase Chrysler stock for \$13 a share. It didn't sound like a very good deal at the time. Nonetheless, we had that option to buy Chrysler stock at a future date at \$13 a share. Later, Chrysler built the K Car and returned to profitability. They made money and the value of the shares appreciated. The time came when the Federal Government decided to go to Chrysler and say we would like to use our warrants and buy the stock at \$13 a share. Then we turned around and sold them for \$30 a

share after that. The difference between the \$13 and the \$30 we sold them for led to an appreciation or accumulation of about \$310 million for taxpayers. The loan the State of Delaware made to Chrysler—the collateralized loan I negotiated as State treasurer—was paid in full. Not only did we get the principal back, but we made interest for the taxpayers of my State. The same thing occurred to the taxpayers of other States. Meanwhile, Chrysler agreed to make a number of concessions that there be a sharing of sacrifices made by labor and management and others to help make that company viable for the longer haul. Lee Iacocca worked for \$1 a year.

The long and short of it is that it worked. That was in 1980. It worked for over a quarter century. Chrysler has gotten themselves into trouble because they began relying more and more on large inefficient vehicles—SUVs, trucks, and relatively few fuel-efficient cars or fuel-efficient light trucks or SUVs. In the end, by this time last year, roughly 70 percent of what Chrysler was building was energy-inefficient cars. During the CAFE increases last year, among the companies that pushed back initially was Chrysler. They have had to begin pivoting, if you will, to move from a product line where up to 70 percent of the vehicles were light trucks and SUVs, relatively few cars, and not many very fuel efficient, to one where not just the light trucks and vans and SUVs were energy efficient but also the cars. You cannot do that. Chrysler cannot do it, and Ford and GM cannot move within a year, or even 2 years, from a product line that is woefully inefficient in terms of fuel economy to one that is highly efficient. It has taken a period of time.

I am encouraged by the progress they are making at Chrysler. They are a couple of years out from being where they need to be, given the marketplace and what consumers are asking for.

Meanwhile, over at Ford, about 2 years ago, they largely redefined the company, including the logo, to begin a major transformation. Under the leadership of Bill Ford and Alan Mullaley, former head of Boeing, who was brought in to run Ford a couple years ago, they began a transformation not 12 months ago but more like 2 years ago to move to vehicles such as the Focus and Fusion. They are in a better position now as people are buying fewer vehicles and are looking for energy-efficient vehicles. There is some neat, nifty technology and items for the vehicles as well, with the partnership they have worked out with Microsoft.

Over at GM, meanwhile, GM is hopefully about to introduce, in a year or year and a half, what I call the most advertised car that has never been built, the Chevrolet Volt. I saw it unveiled at the Detroit Auto Show about a year and a half ago—a plug-in hybrid, flex fuel vehicle with the potential of getting not just 40 miles out from the garage in the homes in the morning,

but a potential for getting 80 to even 90 miles per gallon by using an alternative onboard fuel system, a propulsion system, not to propel the car but to recharge the battery. Unfortunately, we have not built the battery yet. Nobody has built a battery yet that can do that or designed one that will work at minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit or 110 degrees Fahrenheit. They have worked for 10 years under all kinds of conditions. Efforts are underway in many countries to win a race to build that battery. The Federal Government has provided a fair amount of financial support, investing in technology to make sure we get to the finish line ahead of our foreign competitors. It is an important race. GM, I think, stands to benefit from this, and so do the folks who work there and those who have shares with GM. So do the rest of us, frankly.

Let me come back to what I said earlier, about the conversation I had with several people on the train coming from Wilmington today. They said to me: We didn't like the fact that you gave all that money to the banks, and we don't like the idea of giving all that money to the auto industry. If you look at what we have done with the financial institutions, we have, under the legislation, created a so-called TARP. Under that legislation we authorize the Treasury to invest in the banks, to take an equity position. With the moneys we have infused or invested into most of these banks, we bought preferred stock. That preferred stock pays initially 5 percent per year, and later 9 percent if it is not bought back by the banks. In addition, we get options, much as we did with Chrysler in 1980, that could be converted into shares of stock that we can benefit from—not just we but the taxpayers can benefit from.

The idea there was to make the investment with the possibility that if there is an upside or rebound by the financial institutions that asked for this investment, the taxpayers have the opportunity to participate in the profits, as we did with respect to Chrysler all those years ago. The money that we are now talking about, or will be debating, whether to make available for working capital for the auto companies—let me add that only Chrysler and GM have indicated an interest in drawing down this money. Ford said: We think we are OK. Maybe later we will need a line of credit. For now, we think we are all right.

That is good news. So what we are working on is an approach where we, just as we invested in the financial institutions in order to get back preferred stock that pays 5 to 9 percent and also carries the possibility of warrants that we can turn into profit-making stock shares later, we want to do the same thing with our auto industry.

The Presiding Officer will recall a year or so ago when we passed CAFE legislation. In it we passed section 136, which said we want to provide as much

as \$25 billion so that the auto companies can modernize their plants for the principal purpose of building more energy-efficient vehicles. We feel that is what is needed—high quality and good productivity. But that is one of the major things needed to be competitive in the world today: energy-efficient cars, trucks, vans, and so forth.

That \$25 billion is not going to be available, apparently, right away to go into plant modernization.

The idea is to take as much as \$15 billion of that \$25 billion to make available to Chrysler and General Motors. The idea is not to give them this money; the idea is to invest this money in ways they can use it for working capital to get them through the next several months and, in the meantime, to require, under the guidance of what has been called a czar or an oversight board whose job would be to act almost as a bankruptcy judge, to make sure that further savings are realized by both Chrysler and GM but to ensure there is some further givebacks not just from labor, not just from management, not just from bondholders, not just from dealers, and not just from lenders but all the above. It is a concept that makes sense. The idea of here is \$15 billion, and we hope you can get better and repay the money down the line, is not what we are interested in doing.

We want to improve the likelihood that we will get back every dime we lend of this \$15 billion and more, if needed, later on. But we want to make sure the companies, particularly Chrysler, Ford, and GM, make the additional changes they need to increase the likelihood that they will be viable for a long period of time.

I close by saying we are seeing a real transformation in our economy. We used to be a big manufacturing country. We are less so today. Some people say that is fine, we will be a service economy, we will provide financial services and legal services, we will have insurance companies, maybe we will grow some food to feed ourselves and some of the rest of the world. But at the end of the day, we still need to make things. We still need to make things that people here and around the world want to buy.

One of the things I believe we need to make are cars, trucks, and vans. It has been that way for a long time. It needs to continue to be that way going forward.

I have had the privilege of representing and working for the people of Delaware, gosh, since 1976, when they elected me their State treasurer. We have had two auto assembly plants in my State for 50, 60 years—a Chrysler plant and a GM plant. The Chrysler plant is going to close at the end of this month. It is painful to me, and I know all the people who work there, the retirees, all who bought their vehicles and supported the plants in ways large and small over the years. But the writing is on the wall. My fear is that is going to happen.

As this happens and we see plants such as our plant in Newark, DE, the Chrysler plant, close, it is important we also remember the people who are losing their jobs there, the folks who have not enough experience, enough time to retire and be eligible for benefits. As they prepare to close the doors at the Chrysler plant in Newark, DE, I wish to make sure the folks who are losing their livelihood have the opportunity to be trained for other jobs in my State or other States that will enable them to be gainfully employed, to make a decent income for themselves and to support their families.

One of the things we can do, in addition to providing, if you will, a loan guarantee or direct loan with strong conditions to these auto companies, is remember our responsibilities to those who are left behind and those left behind without the prospect of ever working again in the auto industry.

There are some countries around the world—Finland comes to mind, Denmark, and a couple others—that do a good job. As industries grow up, mature, the nature of the job market, the industries in those countries change. Some countries around the world do a very good job of helping people whose skills for building, whether it is cars or buggies or buggy whips, are no longer appropriate—retraining people, supporting them for a period of time, giving them the social support net they need but then training them for jobs that need to be done, in this case, in the 21st century.

There you have it, some thoughts. My hope is we will come back and have a robust debate for the remainder of this week, and before this week is over we will vote not to give away \$15 billion to Chrysler or to GM but that we will vote to be willing, as we did in 1980, to make an investment that has a potential upside, not just for the people who work in the companies, not just for the people who own shares of those companies but also for the American taxpayers. If we do take on this risk, there needs to be a reward for the taxpayers whose money is at risk.

Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity. 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. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. McCASKILL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO EINAR DYHRKOPP

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this past Saturday, 1 day before the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a survivor of a different World War II kamikaze bombing died quietly at his home in Shawneetown, IL, at the age of 82.

Einar Dyhrkopp, business leader, public servant, and patriot, was a 19-year-old Navy firefighter assigned to the bowels of the USS *Aaron Ward* when the destroyer-minelayer was attacked by 25 kamikaze bombers in the battle for Okinawa.

In the years after World War II, Gen. George C. Marshall was asked if America had any secret weapons to win that conflict. General Marshall replied, yes, we do, "the best darn kids in the world." Einar was just the kind of kid General Marshall was talking about. About 365 men were assigned to the USS *Aaron Ward*; 42 of them burned to death or were lost overboard in the 52-minute battle on May 3, 1945. Einar was one of the lucky ones: he survived the attack, although his hair was burned to his scalp as he fought to douse the ship's flames.

When the war ended, Einar came home like so many World War II vets, found new ways to serve his country. He married Frances, and they had a son. He was a banker, a business leader, a livestock and grain farmer in southern Illinois, and a great politician. He was elected mayor of Shawneetown, IL, where he was born and lived his entire life. He was a self-described "dyed in the wool" Democrat. He was respected and admired by people from both political parties.

He was also a dedicated public servant. In 1993, Einar Dyhrkopp was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors and served two terms as the Chairman. During his tenure, the Postal Service experienced an unprecedented 5 straight years of positive net income. It also enhanced service and increased its ontime delivery rate for next-day delivery to 94 percent. He cared about the Postal Service's bottom line and its customers. He talked to me so many times about issues related to the Postal Service. He cared about the workers there too. He once invited picketing postal workers in for coffee and cinnamon rolls and, after talking with them, answered all of their questions. He visited countless postal facilities, asking employees what we can do to make their job better and make our services better in the Postal Service. In 2003, the post office in his beloved Shawneetown was rededicated and renamed in his honor. Einar had tears in his eyes as the tributes were read.

Mr. Dyhrkopp also served on several Illinois State commissions and was a member of the Regional Advisory Board of Southern Illinois University Public Policy Institute.

There was the one curious political chapter in his life. In 1986, Einar Dyhrkopp ran what he called a non-campaign for the U.S. Senate. He ran on the Illinois Solidarity Party slate, a roster of statewide candidates put together by Adlai Stevenson III. Mr. Stevenson, son of the two-time Democratic Presidential candidate, had won the Democratic nomination for Gov-

ernor, but that primary had been raided by the LaRouche party. He abandoned the Democratic Party ticket after two disciples of the extremist Lyndon LaRouche won slots on the Democratic slate in a disastrous primary election. Mr. Stevenson said he could not in good conscience share a ticket with people whose views he found so objectionable. State law required that the new Illinois Solidarity Party field a whole slate of statewide candidates, not just the gubernatorial candidate. So Einar stepped up and agreed to be the new party's nominee for U.S. Senate.

What a crazy campaign. Mr. Dyhrkopp did not accept a single penny in campaign contributions. He did not spend a dollar or make one speech. He did not even vote for himself, announcing he was going to cast his ballot for his friend, the incumbent, Senator Alan Dixon. As one political writer put it, his strategy was "not to leave the house until the election was over so he wouldn't draw attention or votes away from Senator . . . Dixon." Despite his best efforts to avoid the voters, Einar ended up with 15,000 votes. That is the kind of man he was—hard not to like. As my friend Paul Simon said some years ago, "Einar Dyhrkopp represents responsible citizenship at its best. He has aided his community and provided leadership on the State and national scene. He has gone out of his way to help those who need assistance."

For years after the bombing of the USS *Aaron Ward*, Einar did not talk about the attack. He told a reporter, "When you go through something like we went through together, almost everyone wants to get it out of their minds the first few years." Later in life, he changed his mind. He became active in a group of survivors of the *Aaron Ward* attack. He was interviewed by Southern Illinois University's public broadcasting stations in conjunction with the broadcast of "The War," by Ken Burns, a documentary on World War II. He told a reporter that his change of heart was simply because "[w]e do not want the experience lost. If you lose history, you're destined to repeat it."

America's history might have taken a far different and darker course had Einar Dyhrkopp and millions of others of "the best darned kids in the world" not sacrificed and served in that conflict and had they not come back home to serve their Nation in other ways for decades more.

He was a good man who gave much to his community, much to my State of Illinois, and much to America. Last Friday, at the urging of some friends who told me he was seriously ill, I called his home. Frances answered the phone, and I told her who I was. I said I thought I would say a word or two to Einar if he can take the call. Well, she said, I am not sure he can talk to you. I did not know how sick he was. And she leaned over, and I could overhear her saying: Einar, it is Senator DURBIN.

The next think I knew, Einar was on the phone. We only chatted for a minute or two. We talked about the great times we had together, about that wonderful man, Paul Simon, who inspired us all to get involved in public life.

He said: I think this is the end for me.

I said: You have had a good run at it, Einar. You have been with some great people, and you have been a great friend.

Those were our last words. He died the following day.

I offer my sympathy to Mr. Dyhrkopp's wife Frances, their family, including their three grandchildren, and so many friends in southern Illinois. Einar Dyhrkopp will be missed.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

JOHN WARNER

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Today is a day I have dreaded. Today I say farewell to my good friend and esteemed colleague, Senator JOHN WARNER.

A few years ago, in an article for a Capitol Hill publication, Senator WARNER called attention to the courage of America's war veterans. He explained that the men and women who serve in our military are "heroes [who] share the timeless virtues of patriotism and selfless devotion to duty in defending our country."

Mr. President, Senator WARNER is one of my "heroes." He is a man who has always displayed "the timeless virtues of patriotism and selfless devotion to duty in defending our country."

Indeed, Senator WARNER has spent his life in service to our country. He enlisted in the Navy at the tender age of 17 in order to serve in World War II. A few years later, he joined the Marines in order to serve in the Korean conflict. From 1969 to 1972, he served as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and from 1972 to 1974, as Secretary of the Navy.

In 1978, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, and is now the second longest-serving Senator in the history of his beloved Commonwealth of Virginia.

His entire Senate career has been marked by his dignity, style, grace, and integrity. He is one of those men with whom one can disagree without rancor. I cannot recall ever hearing anyone speak ill of JOHN WARNER.

A few years ago, on another occasion in which I paid tribute to my good friend, I referred to him as "the classiest of class acts"—and he is. We

will miss his comity, his courtesy, and his refreshing bipartisan spirit always seeking consensus solutions for the good of the country. Whether in committee or on the Senate floor, he never succumbs to the bitter, destructive partisanship which has all too often characterized this chamber in recent years.

Senator WARNER has spoken out against his own party when he felt that the wrong course was being pursued. When the horrors of Abu Ghraib came to light, JOHN WARNER did not hesitate to help write the legislation to restrict the use of torture.

Senator WARNER embodies the guiding principles set down by another of our country's brave warriors, GEN Douglas MacArthur, who proclaimed his leading lights to be, "Duty, honor, country."

Mr. President, without qualification, I can say that it has been an absolute pleasure to have served with this distinguished and esteemed Virginia gentleman, and I will miss him.

CHUCK HAGEL

Mr. President, I came to know Senator HAGEL in 1997 when we worked together on the Byrd-Hagel Resolution related to the Kyoto Protocol. We made a good team because our effort was approved unanimously, by a vote of 95-0.

In our work together, I made a new friend because I found Senator HAGEL to be a likeable and cooperative person as well as a knowledgeable and hard-working Senator.

My respect for this dynamic Senator increased as I watched him become one of the Senate's most outspoken critics of Mr. Bush's war in Iraq. Several of us were already pointing to the disastrous results of the Bush administration's flawed and failed Iraqi war policies. But Senator HAGEL's opposition to the war carried very special impact. He is a conservative, a member of the President's own political party, and a military veteran. In fact, he still carries shrapnel in his chest and remnants of burns to his face from his service as an infantryman in Vietnam. Senator HAGEL now calls Mr. Bush's war in Iraq "an absolute replay of Vietnam."

I will miss my friend and colleague. The Senate needs strong, independent voices like Senator HAGEL—lawmakers who are willing to put the best interests of our country and American people over partisan politics.

PETE DOMENICI

Mr. President, when the Senate convenes next January, it is difficult to accept that Senator DOMENICI will not be here.

This son of an Italian immigrant grocer was elected to the Senate in 1972, making him the first Republican in nearly 40 years to be elected to the Senate from the great State of New Mexico. He is now the longest serving Senator in the history of New Mexico.

In the Senate, he established himself as an expert on fiscal policies and the intricacies of the Federal budget. Hav-

ing served with Senator DOMENICI on the Appropriations and Budget Committees, I have come to know and respect him not only as a dear friend and colleague, but also as a formidable opponent. Senator DOMENICI and I have clashed swords many times on the Senate floor, and, believe me, when you clashed with him, you would have the fight of your life. He has one of the sharpest minds on Capitol Hill. He is one of the most knowledgeable people on the budget on Capitol Hill. And he is always prepared.

Oh, how I regret that he will be leaving us all too soon. But I would like to use this opportunity to thank the senior Senator from New Mexico for his wonderful service and to congratulate him on an outstanding career in the Senate.

Thank you, Senator DOMENICI, for all your work for your State, and our country. And, thank you, PETE, for being a friend.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BENJAMIN VENNING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Major Benjamin Venning, U.S. Marine Corps, for his 3 years of service to the U.S. Senate and for his continued service to our Nation and its Corps.

From December 2005 to December 2006, Major Venning served in my office as a military fellow. He came to my office soon after a tour in Fallujah, where his actions in service to the United States earned him a Bronze Star. Major Venning had experienced first-hand the rising violence in Iraq. His on-the-ground experience in Iraq gave him tremendous insight on issues affecting servicemembers and veterans.

Many who served in Iraq and Afghanistan have returned with serious physical injuries or have even paid the ultimate price. Others have returned with more invisible wounds, injuries that are not immediately apparent but that bring pain and suffering to a returning veteran and his or her family. Today, traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress syndrome are recognized as signature injuries of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. While Major Venning served on my staff he helped draw attention to these invisible wounds. With his relationships at Bethesda Naval, he helped me understand the impact of traumatic brain injuries on returning soldiers and marines. With Major Venning on my team, I was able to ask hard questions about how our government was responding to the growing number of veterans needing help for these serious injuries.

In April 2006, I sent a letter that Major Venning worked on, which was one of the first to ask the Department of Veterans Affairs to closely review its ability to provide proper mental health care to returning veterans. Another Senator from the State of Illinois signed that letter: Barack Obama. Today, as the world awaits his inau-

guration, the President-elect has promised he will continue to improve mental health treatment for troops and veterans suffering from combat-related psychological injuries.

After his service as a military fellow, Major Venning was named the Deputy Director of the Marine Corps Senate Liaison Office. It is no surprise that he was as loved in that office as he was in mine. It was my pleasure to host his promotion to major, with his friends and family in attendance, in my office in the Capitol. His commanding physical presence is matched only by his compassion and understanding of the issues facing our returning servicemembers, which was never on better display than when he helped shepherd wounded veterans as my guests at the State of the Union.

Major Ben Venning is a marine in the best tradition of the Corps. His efforts have informed the Congress and have represented the Corps' values and capabilities. His performance here will leave a lasting mark on my office, the U.S. Senate and the Marine Corps long after he has departed.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my pleasure today to congratulate and thank Major Benjamin Venning of the U.S. Marine Corps. This week, Major Venning finishes up a highly successful assignment as Deputy Director of the Marine Corps Liaison Office to the U.S. Senate, which is responsible for providing information about the Corps to this institution. He has served the Senate and the Marine Corps superbly, and he is a credit to the entire Corps.

Major Venning learned about the Senate during a fellowship in 2006 with Senator DURBIN of Illinois. He worked on timely reserve pay and budget issues, getting to know the ins-and-outs of the often arcane appropriations process. Senator DURBIN, as I am, is a member of the Senate's Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, which handles the Senate's work in writing the annual budget bill for the Department of Defense. That was an ideal perch for Major Venning to grasp the complicated but essential financing of our extensive national security operations.

In his next assignment, joining the Corps' liaison office, he brought the same sense of intelligence and integrity that he showed in that year with the senior Senator from Illinois. Major Venning was always prompt in answering questions about the Marine Corps, whether about plans for growth of the force or the minutia of a particular program. He and the entire team in the liaison office provided excellent support for Senate delegations traveling to foreign nations to meet with international leaders and to review foreign assistance programs. He ensured that extensive itineraries unfolded smoothly and productively.

Major Venning is a marine through and through, displaying great dedication to and knowledge about the force. Staffing a recent mission overseas, for example, hewing to longstanding tradition, he made sure that the Corps'

birthday was observed in a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday."

It should be little surprise to anyone who has known Major Venning over the years—in his years growing up in South Carolina and Virginia or at college at the Virginia Military Institute—that he would become such an asset to the Corps. I have no doubt that he will bring the same sterling qualities in his next assignment with Company A, 4th Amphibious Assault Vehicle Battalion at Norfolk, VA.

Major Venning will go far in his future endeavors with the Corps and beyond. I know that all Senators join in wishing him all the best and in expressing our heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

REMEMBERING RICHARD AND JEAN DEWINE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the parents of our good friend and former colleague from Ohio, Mike DeWine. Richard and Jean DeWine died just a few weeks ago, 4 days apart from each other. Dick was 85, and Jean was 83. They were together almost their entire lives, sharing a beautiful love story and 65 wonderful years of marriage.

I had the honor of meeting Mike's parents in February when I was visiting Young's Jersey Dairy in their hometown of Yellow Springs, OH. It was a privilege to talk to them. They were so gracious and kind. I could see how proud they were of their son and how proud they were of our Nation.

Mike spoke about his parents' lives and especially their love of family at their joint funeral service held on November 5, 2008. In tribute to Dick and Jean, I ask unanimous consent that the entirety of his remarks be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of mine.

There were no two finer Americans than Dick and Jean DeWine. May God bless them and their family.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Thank you all so much for coming today and for your friendship and love. Thank you to JoFranny, Patty, Jocelyn, and the choir for the music, and to our grandson Albert for playing the piano before Mass.

Thank you Father Geraci and Father Hagan for being the celebrants today, but I have to say to Father Tom that right now, Dad must be thinking: "This Mass is much, much too long!"

I once asked Dad why he kept going to Fairborn to Mass. He told me he found a great priest there, whose homilies were exactly 3 minutes long!

Fran and I thank all of you who helped care for my parents, enabling them to stay in their home the last few years, especially Patrick, Jamie, Megan, and Barbara—thank you. All of my parents' care givers have been just great.

And, thanks to all of you who stopped by to visit my parents. Cousin Jerome, we thank you for always being there to brighten my parents' day.

When I was growing up, I always thought that I had the greatest parents in the world.

I never changed my mind.

My parents both grew up in Yellow Springs and both lived on Xenia Avenue. Dad was born at home in a house, which is the present day Wind's Cafe Wine Cellar. They lived next door to the family feed store. Growing up practically in the feed store, itself, and right in the heart of Yellow Springs, Dad was surrounded by a colorful cast of characters who would make a novelist proud! He could remember watching out his bedroom window on Saturday nights, as fights would erupt between patrons of the local bars.

One time, when Dad was a young boy, my grandfather asked him if he wanted to ride with his employee, Jimmy, when he took a feed delivery to Springfield. He told Dad he could drag the bags from the back of the truck up to the front, so that Jimmy wouldn't have to get on and off the truck to get them.

Before leaving town, Jimmy and Dad each had a dime and bought a 5-cent Bluebird pie. Since they both had a nickel left over, Jimmy asked my young Dad if he wanted to play the numbers. And, he did!

Later that day, when they got back to the feed store, my grandfather, shouted, "Dick, the Sheriff's been looking for you! Were you playing the numbers? Dad ran out of the store, screaming, "The Sheriff will never find me!"

He went out and hid among the stacks of feed sacks. When my grandfather finally found him, all he said was, "Here's your \$25—you won!"

At the same time, my mother was growing up not far up the street. Mother's father was a professor of literature at Antioch College. He was an expert in Shakespeare, Chaucer, and Milton. He and my grandmother greatly influenced my mother, particularly instilling in her a great love and appreciation for words.

My grandfather had grown up on a farm in upstate New York, and every summer, he would take his family back there so he could help with the farm work. Some of Mother's fondest memories were of those idyllic summers—playing with her sisters, Judy and Dorothy, in the ice house on hot summer days, riding hay wagons, walking to get groceries at the local general store, and watching her grandmother milk cows on a one-legged stool!

As a young girl, Mother loved to ride horses. In fact, her parents kept a horse at their house on Xenia Avenue! They called the horse Cheyenne. Once when Mother was about 11 years old, she rode Cheyenne all alone from Yellow Springs to Wilberforce, some 7 miles away, using only the directions and map that my grandfather drew for her.

In the summer of 1940, one of my father's best friends was Herbert Berger. That year, Herbert went away for the summer. He had asked Dad to "look out for" his girlfriend, who happened to be 15-year-old Jean Liddle. Well, Dad did. And, my parents were inseparable from then on.

Dick DeWine and Jean Liddle married 3 years later on September 2, 1943. Dad was 20, and Mother was 18.

World War II, of course, was raging at this time. Dad went in as a replacement. He was a Private with K Company and saw combat in France, Germany, and Austria. Captain Bell was their leader. About five years ago, Dad sent an email about first seeing Captain Bell when he and his buddy, Ernie Dessecker, had arrived in Europe and were awaiting their company assignment. This is what my dad wrote:

"We were told that the next morning, we would be assigned to some infantry company. That night, we went into a bar and were bought some beer by some GI's who knew we were—for want of a better word—

very uptight. All they talked about was Captain Bell and his K Company. They told us that if we wanted to do a lot of fighting that would be the company to be assigned to. That was not really what [Ernie] and I had in mind!"

The next day, we were loaded on a truck and at each town, it would stop and some names were called to get off. When Dess and I were told to get off, the first thing we asked was, "What company is this?" When told it was Company K, we both wished we could climb back on that truck and head for the rear echelon! Of course, in a very short time, we were so very proud to be part of Captain Bell's Company K. . . ."

Dad never forgot the men with whom he served, maintaining friendships for over six decades. He also never forgot the horrific things he saw when K Company was sent to the Dachau concentration camp shortly after it was liberated in April 1945. From the time I was just a kid, Dad told me stories about Dachau and how people in the nearby town would tell the soldiers that they hadn't really known what the Nazis were doing. Dad could never quite comprehend that.

On the day before the German surrender in Europe, Dad spent the night in a fox hole near Innsbruck, Austria. He heard rumors that the War was nearing an end. But still, Dad stayed awake all night in that fox hole, fearing that the enemy would attack. He remembered thinking that he saw German troops coming at him. When he compared notes with all his buddies later, they, too, had experienced the same thing.

When the War did end that next day, they rode into Innsbruck, where people greeted him and the other soldiers with a shower of flowers. Meanwhile, Mother and Aunt Judy celebrated the German surrender by riding on a fire truck in an impromptu parade down the streets of Yellow Springs. Dad's two younger siblings, my Aunt Mickey and Uncle Jerry, watched the parade with pride.

Last week, I started reading my parents' letters to each other when Dad was fighting in Europe. They are letters of great passion and love, written by two young kids, who were only married a year when the War separated them. They write of their plans and dreams and of the child they hoped to conceive as soon as Dad got home. Dad's letter refers to that child as "Mike," while Mother's letter references Michael—a distinction they would each make throughout my life.

Dad came home in April, in time for Reds Opening Day, and I was born on January 5th, that year.

Dad taught me to fish, to hunt, and to love OSU football and Dayton Flyer basketball. But, his real passion was the Cincinnati Reds!

When Dad was 16, he and one of his buddies camped out in line for 36 hours to get tickets for the 1939 World Series, when the Reds were playing the Yankees. They ended up in two different ticket lines, but had made a deal that whoever got up to the ticket counter before the tickets ran out would buy two. Dad was able to get two tickets, but then he couldn't find his friend. It got close to game time, and Dad had to go inside the ballpark.

When he was inside, though, he went up to the top deck at Crosley Field and searched again for his friend. He looked down below, outside the ballpark, and there was his buddy, walking away in tears, empty-handed.

Dad reached into his pocket and pulled out the silver dollar that his father had given him and wrapped the other baseball ticket around it. Then, he threw it over the railing, hoping and praying that it would fall at the feet of his friend.

Amazingly, it did—and they both watched that game together.

Mother taught me about different kinds of things. She passed on to me her love of books and taught me about the power of language and the written word. She also taught me how to debate and argue.

You see, Mother loved words—and knew how to use them. When I was growing up, the conversations at our dinner table covered a whole range of topics—books and music and sports and movies and, of course, current affairs and politics. Both Mother and Dad were always interested in politics, but Mother took her positions to the public.

In the early 1960s, after seeing several of her Letters to the Editor in the Yellow Springs News, then-editor Keith Howard persuaded Mother to write a weekly column articulating a conservative viewpoint—a position that was certainly not then—and certainly not now—especially popular here in Yellow Springs. She titled her column, “A View from the Right.”

In an October 21, 1964, column, she articulated her strong support for Barry Goldwater and conservative philosophy. She opened the column with this line, “If I were to give one, and only one, reason for voting for Barry Goldwater, it would be because of his firm stand against the frightening growth of the federal government, its power-grabbing programs, and its insidious intrusion into virtually every phase of our lives.” And that was back in 1964.

Mother was such a bright, articulate, well-read, knowledgeable woman, with the most sophisticated and clever wry wit. Her amazing, light-hearted rhyming poems always made you smile. Take this one, for instance, that ran in her column at Christmastime in the early 1960s. She titled it, “Love One and All—Right, Center and Left!”:

’Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the town, ev’ry creature was stirring—both uptown and down.

The stores were all fancied with tinsel and things, and somewhere a highly-fi’d caroler sings.

While I at my battered old typewriter sit, my brain in a quandary, my brow tightly knit.

I can’t seem to think now on Cuba or Adlai, or the state of the world—either goodly or badly.

I cudgel my brain for the newsworthy fellas, the Stevensons, Goldwaters, Khans, and Ben Bellas.

Not a thought do they bring to my brain sore and lame, tho’ I whistled like crazy and called them by name:

“Now Hoffa, now Bobby, now Rocky and Barry,

On Jack and McMillan and ‘Fidel-the-Hairy.’”

To the top of my head to the top of the page The gears in my brain simply will not engage.

It’s Christmas and I am opinion-bereft, and I love one and all—Right and Center and Left.

So I’ll leave you with this thought (at least for tonight), Merry Christmas—that’s all—from “A View from the Right.”

My mother was unique and extraordinary. She had many sides to her and many interests. In her youth, she was a vibrant, strikingly beautiful woman. She and Aunt Judy were varsity cheerleaders at Bryan High School. She rode horses, and early in their marriage, Dad and Mother fished and camped, often taking Uncle Jerry and Aunt Mickey with them, and also camped with Aunt Judy and Uncle Leo. Later, Dad and Mother would stay out on their old houseboat on the Ohio River.

Mother loved music. I can remember her playing the accordion when I was a kid. Mother always had an LP record playing—

Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Jo Stafford, the Kingston Trio.

Mother could have been a professional writer. All of our kids got their ability to write from their grandmother (it skipped a generation). The kids didn’t inherit her abilities so much as they learned to write through Mother’s presence in their lives and by listening to her and how she chose her words in their conversations. She read prolifically herself, and loved to read books to our kids.

My dad could talk to anyone, and that is because he had a genuine interest in people. He was naturally curious about them. It didn’t matter whom he was talking to, he wanted to know all about the person. How did you make a living? Where did you grow up? What about your family? Many times, I marveled that Dad knew more about my own friends than I did. That is because he asked them questions and talked to them and listened.

As our son, John, wrote to his grandparents,

You taught me how to treat people. Employees, the guy at the paint shop, whoever—regardless of their social status, you treat everyone the same. And it is a good way to treat people.

And that is part of what made Dad such a brilliant negotiator, trader, and investor. Like his parents before him, he built DeWine Seeds and the Ohio Twine Company on close personal relationships—whether they were with local farmers, seed dealers, elevator operators, or international businessmen. Dad took the business his parents were so successful at and took it to a new level. These relationships, which he maintained until his death, allowed him to keenly understand the markets and to gather information to make trades and deals across the country and around the world in places as different as Uruguay, Poland, and Ireland.

Dad was a real dealmaker. Our oldest son, Patrick, put it best, “It didn’t matter if he was buying a new lawnmower or selling seed in Europe, no one was better than Dick.”

Dad was always an optimist. He told me that he just couldn’t wait to get up every morning. He loved life immensely. When my mother a few months ago expressed the hope that they would leave this Earth together, he looked at her and allowed as how he was not about to leave anytime soon.

At the end of each day, he looked forward to the next and to working on the list of things on his legal pad that he wanted to accomplish. Dad never stopped working and never stopped looking ahead. In fact, in the last month of his life, after battling cancer for over 3 years, he still had his list. He went through his files and sent out old photos and newspaper clippings to friends.

And, in those last days, Dad even bought a farm.

Mother and Dad loved their home on their 24 acres on Fairfield Pike. After they sold the seed business, my dad and mother would be found each day out in their office in the barn working. You would go out there, and there they would be—one at one desk and one at the other.

They had purchased that property—which was part of Whitehall Farm—from Martha Rankin. Along with my grandfather, they rebuilt the dam that had been blown in 1912, and created a pond, which attracted countless ducks and Canada Geese. They spent years converting a pasture field into a mosaic of grape vines; berry thickets; vegetable and flower gardens; and fruit, nut, and state trees, including sugar maples, spruce, red oak, hemlock and bald cypress. Dad grew many of the plants himself in the greenhouse he built with bricks from the old St. Brigid Church, which he, Mother, and some of the

grandchildren gathered after the 1974 Xenia tornado.

My parents were extraordinary grandparents. They gave our children the best gift of all—and that was the gift of their time.

Mama and Dick, as all my kids called them, were always involved in their lives. They put each of their eight grandchildren to work as they were growing up, teaching them how to weed; paint fences; prune trees; pick apples, cherries, and raspberries; and mow grass. My parents were both phenomenal teachers who taught their grandchildren how to enjoy hard work and appreciate a job well done.

All of our children have such fond memories of Mama and Dick, whether the kids were working in the greenhouse; fishing in the pond; or picking fruit and berries on hot summer days. They can still smell the fire burning outside when they would help Mama and Dick make bean soup and maple syrup from their own trees.

Dick would tell the kids fantastic stories about the Giant Mouse, who would fly him around the pond, and the leprechauns living under the trees. And Dick and Mama both played countless games of checkers with the kids.

And then, there were the muddy feet that Mother tried so hard to keep off her floor. As she wrote in a limerick for her grandchildren:

To all grandkids great and small
Muddy feet don’t walk in the hall
Take off your shoes and make it snappy
If Mama’s mad, nobody’s happy

Our daughter, Alice, remembers “picking berries and selling them at the Farmers Market” and “Mama’s Crustless Sandwiches” (cut into fourths) and “Mama’s Fettuccini.” Our daughter, Anna, remembers painting Mama and Dick’s fence with her brother Mark and nephew Albert and “being covered head to toe in paint!”

The kids also remember “all of the fires Dick made in the fireplace—so comforting and always done just right.” As our daughter, Jill, recalled, “We could sit for hours alternating between warming our backs and backing away for a few moments long enough to cool off enough, and then going back for more.”

There were also all the conversations that took place in the back of their car when Mama and Dick would take the kids to and from lunch on their work breaks. As our son Mark described,

“The stories that I have heard there have always stuck close to me. They can be about my seven unique siblings, the way things used to be, or maybe even a lesson learned in grammar. The tales I hear, some are the same, and some are new. The old ones never lose their luster; because every time I hear them, they take on a new meaning. No radio could ever replace the great anecdotes I have listened to [in the back of that car].”

One of our son Brian’s favorite memories was when we were visiting Mama and Dick in Florida once and, as Brian says,

“My sister, Jill, threw me in the pool with all my clothes on (she still denies it!). For some reason, I think Dick thought I deserved it. Then Mama had to take me shopping to get new shoes so we could go out and to eat.”

Our daughter, Becky, was also very close to Mama and Dick. They visited her when she was studying in Britain. They met Becky and her friend, Kim, in Cornwall. That trip always had special meaning for my parents.

When I woke up this morning, I realized that I won’t be able to go tell my mother and father about how our son Patrick was just elected Judge yesterday and how our daughter Alice passed the Bar Exam. . . .

When I look back at my parents' lives, they have left a very tangible legacy. It is visible in the land—the trees and the flowers and the plants that they grew on their 24 acres and the improvements they made to their farmland.

But their more important legacy is their grandchildren. That is the lesson of my parents' lives: There is no substitute for the time spent with family and with people.

They were an integral part of our children's lives. They worked with our kids, talked with our kids, listened to our kids. It was a wonderful relationship and a wonderful gift that dramatically influenced each of them—in ways obvious and not so obvious—and will, in turn, influence each of their children.

The last thing my father did before he died was have our son, John, order several bushels of flower bulbs. Up until the very end, Dad was planning for the future. He wanted the bulbs to be planted in his yard and in Aunt Judy's yard and in our yard. His great-grandchildren helped plant those bulbs just a week before his death.

And when those flowers bloom next spring, we will think of Mama and Dick.

For over 65 years, my parents loved each other and took care of each other. They had fun and loved their life together. They were quite a team. Mother always considered herself "Dick's straight man." And she was. They made us laugh. They made us smile.

I would like to conclude by reading from one of Mother's letters to Dad, as she waited for his return to Yellow Springs from World War II. This one was numbered 407. She wrote:

I can have patience, though, in this matter [of your return], specially since, if the news is good, and I think it will be, I know what the outcome of it all will be—it'll be exactly what I've been, and of course, my darling, you, too, [have been] waiting for, for so damned long—the perfect set-up of Jeanie and Dick, together for ever and ever.

Remember that, "As long as you both shall live?"

That's right, honey, that's us 100%—and if nothing else, I'm sure of that.

NOMINATION OF NEIL BAROFSKY

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I am pleased to have supported the nomination of Neil M. Barofsky to be the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, at the Treasury Department.

I have a great interest in the Special IG for the TARP. I raised the idea in the first place, the first weekend that we were examining the Treasury financial bailout proposal.

As many will remember, the Treasury's original proposal for the TARP was three pages long. It gave the Secretary of the Treasury unlimited power over \$700 billion. And it provided no oversight by anyone.

The House and Senate spent 2 weeks hammering out a better bill. That better bill included strong oversight, and it included the office of a Special IG for the financial rescue program, as I proposed that first weekend.

The size and complexity of this effort is unprecedented in recent memory. It is essential to have a team that focuses exclusively on the TARP program as managed by the Treasury Department, and it is essential for that team to re-

port to Congress on the status of this new program.

My proposal for a Special IG was based on the Iraqi Reconstruction Special Inspector General. That was another massive oversight challenge. As the Congress debated what to include in the rescue package, 33 Senators signed a letter to the congressional leadership endorsing the idea of a Special IG to oversee the troubled asset program.

During the negotiations, the Treasury Department resisted. But then the administration and Congress agreed that the Special IG should be part of the final legislation. Congress passed it, and the President signed it into law.

The law gives the Special IG a \$50 million budget. He will have the duties and responsibilities of inspectors general under the Inspector General Act of 1978. He will have the power to supervise and coordinate audits and investigations of TARP activities. He will have the power to appoint staff to carry out the activities of the office. And he may enter into contracts for audits and studies. We expect a report to the Finance Committee every 120 days on the activities of the TARP, and the law also directs the Special IG to report to Congress if information he requests is refused.

I support the nomination of Mr. Neil Barofsky. I congratulate him for his willingness to serve his country. It is going to be a demanding job. For some time, he is going to be playing catchup. I believe Mr. Barofsky's experience as a prosecutor with the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York will serve him well in his new role as the Special IG.

The financial rescue program is huge—\$700 billion. The number and variety of financial institutions receiving money from Treasury is extensive. Tracking the path of the bailout dollars through these institutions is going to be a difficult task.

The harsh reality is that almost half the \$700 billion is already out the door of the TARP. The new Special IG will be looking back at Treasury's use of about \$290 billion dollars in 45 days.

Anyone who has seen a number of the congressional hearings this week, including our Senate Finance Committee on November 17, knows there are a lot of questions about how the TARP is operating.

We know that the Treasury Department has named Neel Kashkari, Assistant Secretary for International Economics, to head the financial rescue program.

Treasury has decided to send \$125 billion to nine major banks, including Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase. Another \$125 billion will be allocated for thousands of small and midsize banks. The American International Group, or AIG, will receive around \$40 billion of TARP funds in return for issuing preferred shares to the Treasury Department.

Secretary Paulson has also announced a policy regarding preferred

shares and warrants for common stock. Standards for restrictions on executive compensation are being developed. Those include a clawback provision and a ban on golden parachutes during the period that Treasury holds equity issued through this program.

Several senior posts have been filled. And the law firm Simpson Thacher & Bartlett has been selected as a legal adviser.

Treasury has announced that the Bank of New York Mellon will serve as its custodian for the implementation of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and PricewaterhouseCoopers and Ernst & Young have been hired to help with accounting and internal controls services.

These decisions made by the Treasury Department are critically important to the financial rescue program. Yet the Treasury has made them all without any oversight by a Special IG.

As for the use of the funds, the bottom line, frankly, is that the Secretary of Treasury told Congress and the American people that the Bush administration needed \$700 billion to purchase troubled assets. Yet last month, the Treasury Secretary announced that, in fact, there were no plans to purchase troubled assets. To say that this was a surprise is an understatement. Congress needs to find out why the first plan was rejected and a new plan was developed. What is the theory behind the new plan for providing equity to these financial establishments? What exactly are the agreements with the financial institutions who have received TARP funds? And what conflict of interest standards were followed? Once the Special IG is in place, we can start to answer some of these questions.

Half the money is gone. And it is way past the time when we should have had a Special Inspector General on the job overseeing the program.

I am pleased that the Senate has confirmed Mr. Barofsky, and I look forward to helping him conduct aggressive oversight of the TARP program.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses,

but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

I am one of the owners of Doug Andrus Distributing in Idaho Falls. We operate nearly 270 trucks, hauling freight all over the United States. As you are probably aware, energy prices are taking quite a toll on trucking companies across the country. I have recently been made aware that nearly 1,000 trucking companies have gone out of business in the 1st quarter of this year. The combination of high fuel prices and a slow economy has made the trucking business very difficult. Because of the slow economy there is too much supply in trucking making it difficult to pass on the increased costs primarily driven by fuel.

In September of 2005, our company's fuel costs reached \$1 million. Today they exceed \$2 million on nearly the same amount of business. We are looking for every way we can find to get better fuel economy. Most recently we have slowed our truck speeds to 62 MPH. While this should result in great fuel savings for our company, it potentially will reduce the total income of our drivers as they will struggle to drive the same number of miles in the driving hours they are restricted to. Drivers are paid per mile. Therefore the paychecks for 270 Idaho drivers will likely decrease while at the same time their cost of living is increasing due to increasing costs for fuel and food.

We have got to realize in this country the serious consequences of our energy policy. The highest priority must be to increase production of petroleum within our own borders. We must open more areas to drilling and we must build more refineries. We must also renew efforts to develop nuclear energy to take some of the demand away from oil.

I appreciate your concern for this issue. I watch closely the way you handle these issues and am very supportive of the positions you have taken. I hope the high prices will encourage Americans to let their voices be heard so that Congress will make policy that will encourage activities to alleviate the pressures on energy prices.

Respectfully,

JASON, Idaho Falls.

Keep up the great work, Senator, and let us decorate our beaches before the foreigners do. Besides, windmills and derricks are beautiful!

MERLE.

I am a single mother of two with one full-time job and one part-time job. Between the two jobs, I work approximately 56 hours a week. Because of the high gas prices, I will work my part time job longer than I had originally planned. We have cut back on grocery shopping, going out to eat, entertainment. We have a large video library and use that for entertainment. It is just too expensive to drive anywhere. I am scared what will happen once the gas prices reach an amount that will not allow me to drive anywhere. I cannot afford the prices right now and keep cutting back on spending on other important things like food and utilities. I feel poor and I am not. I wish the government would do what is right and protect American consumers at the pumps.

NIKCOLE.

First of all, allow me to thank you for not only listening to your constituents when we

have contacted you in the past, but also for soliciting our opinions now when energy crises face us.

I have taught at a small school 38 miles south of where I live for the past seven years. I love where I teach and I love my students. However, this last month I have applied for a job in my home town due to the doubling of gas prices. I have tried to convince my district to go to a four-day school week, like some surrounding districts have done, but they are not interested. Thus, as a commuter, I have made the tough decision of leaving the job I love simply because I cannot afford the gas bill.

Five Priorities for Congress:

1. Free America from foreign oil dependency.
2. Stop tying America's hands: loosen EPA regulations and government restrictions for drilling, building refineries, and bringing existing refineries up to code.
3. Allow responsible drilling for oil in ANWR and off the coast. Take advantage of the shale in the Rockies.
4. Seek alternatives that do not harm Americans (i.e. corn for ethanol when we are facing food shortages across the globe).
5. Explore nuclear and clean coal options.

I personally believe the current energy crisis has been crafted and perpetrated by the far left Eco-jihadists. They will promote their "green earth" agenda to the detriment of American interests and our entire economy. When gas prices are high, people drive less, and thus Environmentalists are ecstatic. The clearly Marxist overtones in all of this carbon footprint mumbo jumbo (cap & trade = the redistribution of wealth) is frightening only because Congress has begun to listen to these anti-capitalists and sponsor/pass legislation reflecting their alliances.

APRIL, Lewiston.

In the past couple of months the gas prices have really affected me and everyone around me. My brothers took over my dad's cabinet shop about a year ago and the economy has taken such a dive that they do not have any work and had to lay off my boyfriend. My boyfriend found another cabinet shop that was still busy, but within 2 months he was laid off again due to lack of work. We went another two months with only my part-time income before he was able to find work again. We cannot afford gas to get to work so we are riding our bikes to work. We have shut off our phones and are still struggling to pay for groceries, and are paying all of our bills late. We are racking up credit cards for groceries or gas when we have to. We used to be a very active couple that would go camping, back-packing or mountain biking all over the western region, and now we only ride our bikes to work and are too tired to go on the trails after work. We only walk the dogs through the neighborhood instead of going up to the hills and letting them run and play and we are not able to go on any trips this summer. I know that there are lots of other people suffering more than we are, but not being able to live our normal lives is extremely hard and frustrating when we watch the gas companies getting richer as we are all suffering.

Gas companies are reporting their highest profits while the economy is nearing a dangerous low; someone needs to step in and stop the gas companies. If they were smart, they would lower gas prices again so that more gas would be bought. People are not going on vacations or buying anything that is not necessary. If gas was affordable, we would be traveling every weekend, buying more groceries, and splurging on date nights or clothes that I do not have to get but just want. The more the money is returned into the economy, the more jobs are provided

which, in turn, is more people with money who are able to spend more. The gas companies may be too blinded by greed to realize that this all comes full circle to them because the more products that are bought the more products are needed to be shipped across the country which takes gas to get to us either in a truck or a plane. At the rate that we are going, the lower and middle classes will end up in depression status, unable to survive, and the rich will become the middle class and eventually end up with the rest of us because the economy depends on the lower and middle class to survive. The wealthy get their money from the spending habits of the lower classes and if there is no money, there is no spending and the economy crashes.

BRANDI.

I have a different angle than most who will likely write to you with concerns about rising gas prices.

I work out of an office in my home, providing customized training to clients around the world. Since I do not commute to/from work, you might think that I am not concerned about higher prices. However, even though I do not drive my car much for work, the dramatic cost increase is affecting me and everybody else because virtually all of our day-to-day cost of living expenses are directly tied to the cost of petroleum—many of them in multiple ways causing the increases to be multiplied.

Because of the work that I do, primarily coaching technology commercialization professional, I am aware of so many energy-related technologies that are being developed in the research laboratories across the U.S. and around the world. And many other countries are taking a much more proactive stand to assist in bringing these exciting new innovations a state where they can be highly beneficial to all of us, save us a lot of money, and be helpful to the environment, etc.

Each and every U.S. citizen—democrat, republican, white, black, Jew, Christian, Muslim, male, female, young, old—stands to benefit greatly by our government taking appropriate measures to get the U.S. on a faster track to more effective energy production, distribution, and use.

JOHN, Idaho Falls.

I do not know that a single story can convey the frustration, anger, hardship and disappointment that I (and others) I talk to are experiencing as a result of the current state of the "energy economy". It affects my family, my business, my customers, my employees, my neighbors. Without being over melodramatic the effects are deadly. The most frustrating part is that many of us believe it is not only a self-inflicted wound, but that we continue to reload the weapon and offering handing it over to others to shoot us as well.

Cap and trade, gas tax holidays and wind-fall profit taxes are some of the most asinine ideas to come around the pike since James Earl Carter introduced us to malaise. There has to be someone who understands that a centralized economy does not work to alleviate market problems, but only makes them worse in the long haul.

Please do your part to pass some sensible rules to protect the natural environment, establish an economic environment that gives some certainty to the people and companies that will invest in identifying and producing market driven energy, and please, please do your part to get the Congress out of the way so Americans can do what Americans do best—solve the problem.

Sending our capital to the Middle East to pay for energy that we have in abundance on

the land and on the shelf does not speak well for our collective intelligence.

Unleash the sleeping tiger of free-enterprise.

RON.

Drilling for oil now is our only hope. It is out there; it is what we need; go get it! I am encouraged this morning that John McCain wants to drill off shore again. All of the conserving, all of the money being invested in testing new technologies is not going to cut it and it is no substitution for what we really need: OIL! Wind and electricity are not going to power my car or the many other things that need it. Depending on oil from the Middle East is shameful. Please tell Congress to allow production in full force offshore California and in the Gulf, Alaska and in the mid-west now and start repairing the old refineries and building new ones. It needs to be on the fast track; in other words do not take years writing an environmental impact statement. It can be done safely and with minimum impact to the environment.

It is very sad that I am no longer able to travel to visit my 78-year-old Mom in northern Arizona, a trip I/we used to make twice a year. This is distancing families more than ever. I may never see my other family members in California or Minnesota again unless gas prices drop. I am a 56-year-old widow struggling to make ends meet. I have had to give up driving any long distances. I only drive for local errands. It is a struggle now to pay heat, electric and food bills and it will only get worse. But heck, my family and friends are in the same boat; they cannot afford to visit me either.

I am sadly watching the elderly and disabled attempting to walk or ride bicycles to the grocery store that should not. I am seeing empty shelves at the grocery stores and other merchants because the trucks have not come in or are not coming as often. This is nuts.

My husband admired you; if he were here now, he would be the one who had a lot to say about the current situation America is in. You met him on a boat in Lake Coeur d'Alene quite awhile ago. He had much knowledge of our current situation as far back as the 1970s and predicted as did many others our current situation. He died of a brain tumor in 1999. His resume included work in Libya, Alaska, the Gulf, offshore Santa Barbara working for Baroid, and over 30 years of government service with the U.S. Geological Survey and Bureau of Land Management.

CAROL, *Moscow.*

In response to your energy prices email—the increase for gasoline has been tremendous for my husband and me. We both are senior citizens, but still have jobs and go to work every day. Bob is a realtor and spends \$100 minimum per week. My cost is \$50 plus, even though I do not use my vehicle for work. We live about 14 miles from our offices, and we do not have economy vehicles. We probably could not even sell our cars right now. I work on commission and my paycheck for last month was \$256; that barely covers the \$200 plus for gasoline. Both of these businesses are down right now.

We totally agree with your thinking on this—keep up the good work. Why cannot others get it??

CHERYL, *Coeur d'Alene.*

Feeling the pinch is an understatement. I am very eco-friendly as much that can be afforded; however, when you weigh in the costs for the current prices, it makes it close to impossible to save to afford to be more eco-friendly. Thus creating a further pinch on my way of life. We are setting back those in

our economy and simply making it more difficult to do business. From my aspect, I oversee four hotels in the area and not only is airline travel being down causing an issue to our hotels but the overall cost of operations has risen. These operational costs have been from the increase in food cost many sur-charge related to fuel, to a higher rate of pay to incentive employees to drive that car to work every day, the list can go on.

Personally, I am a single mother and all the costs of my child are that for me to provide. The smallest incremental raise in cost creates stress in our way of life. We have to wage out some other wise “affordable” fun things to do if driving is (and as I love to see Idaho) involved. My gas costs have nearly doubled, food is costing more, and there are limited options other than facing these and dealing with them at face value. I would love to see there be more alternate fuel options so that we are using only what is necessary when it comes to oil.

I support anything you are doing that will make the world a more friendly environment and reusable environment; my greatest hope would be for this evolution to also allow more of my money to stay in my home.

Shawna.

Thank you for the opp. Our small business is fairly new, started in 2005, when we changed venue from a motel. It has never been a million dollar enterprise, but we did not expect that and did not need that; just hoped it was something we could hand to our kids when we retire. Every time the gas prices went up, business went down. Then the foreclosures started. Now many of our customers are gone. Some are even going back to California! We are now contemplating bankruptcy. The energy costs are a large part of the reason why. We have a small second hand store where we also sell hand crafted furniture and our pottery. When someone comes into our store with a LIST! we know things are going down the tube. This is the kind of store people normally spend time browsing in. Very few customers can afford to just shop anymore. They are struggling to buy gas to even go to town, and to buy groceries. I suggest an investigation into hydrogen power. It was going well in 1978, then no more was heard about it. We are promoting it to anyone who will listen, and I am going to spend time investigating; not just the feasibility of it, but the how. It is now a definite option.

Thank you for listening,

NANCY, *Priest River.*

I just want to say that as a Disabled American, I feel the pain!! My wife of many years works for the City of Boise while I am disabled and we are no longer moving forward. She works hard at the Water Treatment plant everyday and I battle my conditions equally hard and yet as I fight, the more it costs, electricity for my oxygen machine, co-payments to doctors offices, procedures, medications . . . etc. Now with this INFLATION hitting, we are feeling the effects of \$4.00 gas, higher utilities cost across the board, food prices and on and on.

See the thing is, we have been preparing for this for awhile now. Back in 2004 we traded in our 1994 Ford Taurus SHO @ 16 MPG Premium Fuel for a 2004 Honda Civic Hybrid that has gotten us to a real 40 MPG regular fuel. About the same time we moved closer to Sandra's work to save on daily driving. We even went to riding trikes to the Pharmacy and the grocery store, and my wife additionally rides hers to work now a couple of times a week or so . . . and yet we are using savings and have even cut back on putting funds that is matched by the City of Boise. We will be in trouble in a few years unless

something changes. I do not know what our government is going to do, but I believe that if they gave some sort of incentive to buyers to get into hybrids as well as the new clean burning diesel ala Europe. We could improve the oil situation, we have cut our usage by more than you would believe. Drilling up north is happening next door in Canada, what is up with us? We need to be making changes that the rest of the plant sees. We could help the USD to bounce back some and that would help reduce the cost of gas.

PETE.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREDERICK NEWS-POST

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor and congratulate the Frederick News-Post on its 125th anniversary. On October 15, 1883, a printing company in Frederick, MD, published the first edition of The News, an evening newspaper that reported about local happenings. In 1916, this printing company purchased another local paper, the Frederick Post, which it continued to offer in the mornings. After almost a century of circulating these two editions, the company chose to merge the two papers in 2002 and offer just a morning paper that included not only great local news stories but also important national coverage.

The Frederick News-Post circulates over 11 million papers a year and employs over 200 people. The company also includes FNP Printing & Publishing, a commercial printing venture as well as an Internet division called FNP Interactive. The Frederick News-Post is a vital part of the Frederick community, and I am so proud that this Maryland newspaper has been successful for the past 125 years. I hope that it continues to bring the news to families around the State for 125 more.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 6859. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1501 South Slappey Boulevard in Albany, Georgia, as the "Dr. Walter Carl Gordon, Jr. Post Office Building".

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 7005. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide alternative minimum tax relief for individuals for 2008.

H.R. 7006. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide disaster assistance relief.

H.R. 7060. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for energy production and conservation, to extend certain expiring provisions, to provide individual income tax relief, and for other purposes.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. Res. 724. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the horrific terrorist attacks and siege in Mumbai, India, beginning on November 26, 2008, and concluding on November 29, 2008; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. Res. 725. A resolution acknowledging the accomplishments and goals of the Youth Impact Program; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 726. A resolution designating December 13, 2008, as "Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 727. A resolution honoring the victims of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 on the twentieth anniversary of the tragedy; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3683

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3683, a bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

S. 3697

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3697, a bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act to require approval by the Congress for certain expenditures for the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

S. 3698

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 3698, a bill to prohibit any recipient of emergency Federal economic assistance from using such funds for lobbying expenditures or political contributions, to improve transparency, enhance accountability, encourage responsible corporate governance, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 724—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE HORRIFIC TERRORIST ATTACKS AND SIEGE IN MUMBAI, INDIA, BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 26, 2008, AND CONCLUDING ON NOVEMBER 29, 2008

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. CONRAD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 724

Whereas, on the evening of November 26, 2008, evidence strongly suggests that 10 terrorists came ashore into the city of Mumbai, India, from a hijacked fishing trawler in the Arabian Sea, and conducted coordinated attacks on major hotels, restaurants, hospitals, and transportation hubs, and a religious center;

Whereas the attackers entered into a standoff with security forces of the Government of India over the next 60 hours at a number of sites, deliberately holding many hostages while trapping other innocent victims with no means of escape;

Whereas authorities of the Government of India brought the horrific three-day siege of Mumbai to a close on the morning of November 29, 2008;

Whereas the final death toll from the siege exceeded 170 victims, with hundreds more injured;

Whereas those murdered include citizens of India as well as 22 foreigners from 11 different countries, including the following six United States citizens: Aryeh Leibish Teitelbaum, Rabbi Gavriel Noah Holtzberg, Ben Zion Chroman, Sandeep Jeswani, Alan Michael Scherr, and Naomi Leila Scherr.

Whereas the terrorists who attacked Mumbai attacked a symbol of religious pluralism and outreach, a Jewish outreach center at the Nariman House, murdering six residents of the Nariman House, including Rabbi Holtzberg and his five-month pregnant wife, Rivka, orphaning their two-year old son, Moshe, who was heroically rescued by his Indian nanny, Sandra Samuel;

Whereas nine of the attackers were found dead at various sites where they were engaged in a standoff with authorities of the Government of India, with only one surviving attacker taken into custody;

Whereas evidence collected to date suggests the involvement of an Islamic militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, that has ties to al Qaeda and operates out of Pakistan;

Whereas India has endured a series of devastating terrorist attacks in recent years, suffering 3,674 deaths from terrorist attacks in a recent three-year period; and

Whereas India, the world's largest democracy, is a strategic partner of the United States, and this bilateral relationship is built on common values and unity against extremism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that the people of the United States stand in unison with the people of India in the aftermath of these horrific terrorist attacks;

(2) condemns strongly the atrocities perpetrated against the people of Mumbai, conveys its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed, and expresses its wishes for the speedy recovery of the hundreds of people injured in these senseless attacks;

(3) notes that these attacks did not only target citizens of India, but represented a collective assault against the international community, with 22 foreigners, including six Americans, among those murdered;

(4) noting that President Bush has offered United States Government assistance, encourages the Government of India to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the attacks and applauds the tone of moderation and restraint exhibited by the Government of India to date in reaction to these horrific attacks;

(5) urges the Government of Pakistan to investigate aggressively the possible connection of groups based in Pakistan, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba, to the Mumbai attacks and take definitive action to apprehend and detain suspects, and is thus encouraged by the raid on an apparent militant camp on December 7, 2008, and the arrest of key suspects;

(6) calls upon the Government of Pakistan to take all necessary steps to root out all extremist groups operating on its territory, halt attacks aimed at Pakistan and any other countries, and ensure that no elements of the Government support such groups;

(7) strongly encourages President-elect Obama to consider ways in which the United States Government can bolster counter-terrorism cooperation with the Government of India to ensure that authorities in that country possess all the requisite equipment and training needed to prevent and respond to future terrorist attacks; and

(8) urges bolstered United States efforts to develop and implement policies and projects to combat all forms of religious extremism, including anti-Semitism, in order to deter the type of targeted attacks like that waged against the Chabad Lubavitch center in Mumbai.

SENATE RESOLUTION 725—ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS OF THE YOUTH IMPACT PROGRAM

Mr. VITTER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 725

Whereas many at-risk young men in the inner cities of the United States face a challenging and uncertain future;

Whereas the future success of at-risk young men can be greatly enhanced through sustained mentorship;

Whereas effective working partnerships between and within the public and private sectors can have a lasting and positive impact on the future of at-risk young men;

Whereas participation in organized sports has provided a creative and disciplined outlet and a path to a better life for many at-risk young men;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program combines the disciplines of football, mentoring, and academics in partnerships between local National Football League franchises and universities to promote discipline, learning, and positive values;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program is a community-based program that has proven its value over the past 2 years in raising the outlook and aspirations of at-risk young men and has provided at-risk young men greater exposure to academics, core values, and life skills;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program provides year-round mentoring to its participants, a proven formula for building success;

Whereas the National Football League, the National Football League Players Association, the University of Southern California, and Tulane University have provided critical support to the Youth Impact Program;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program will be expanded to 3 additional cities in partnership with local National Football League franchises and universities;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program seeks to establish a presence in each city with a local National Football League franchise; and

Whereas under the vision and leadership of Mr. Riki Ellison, the founder of the Youth Impact Program, a 10-year veteran of the National Football League, a 3-time Super Bowl champion, and a University of Southern California alumnus, the Youth Impact Program has expanded from a regional program to a program with a growing national presence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the ongoing and significant contributions of those organizations that support the Youth Impact Program; and

(2) encourages the expansion of the Youth Impact Program to inner cities across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 726—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 13, 2008, AS “WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

MS. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 726

Whereas, more than 15 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began the tradition of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery each December;

Whereas, since that tradition began, through the hard work and generosity of the people involved in the Wreaths Across America project, hundreds of thousands of wreaths have been sent to more than 200 national cemeteries and veterans’ memorials in all 50 states;

Whereas, in December 2008, the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehicle group dedicated to patriotic events, with more than 65,000 members nationally, will continue their tradition of escorting a tractor-trailer full of donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas hundreds of volunteers participate in the escort each December; and

Whereas Wreaths Across America will continue this proud legacy on December 13, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 2008, as “Wreaths Across America Day”;

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, and all other volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices our veterans and service members and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 727—HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRAGEDY

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 727

Whereas, on December 21, 1988, 259 passengers and crew members on board Pan American Airways flight 103, and 11 people on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland, were killed by a terrorist’s bomb;

Whereas 189 people of the United States and nationals from 20 other countries were victims of this heinous attack;

Whereas the families and friends of the victims of this tragedy have suffered immeasurable losses;

Whereas people around the world actively have worked to diminish the possibility of future terrorist attacks;

Whereas, in 2003, Libya accepted responsibility for Libyan officials’ involvement in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103, denounced terrorism, and vowed to abandon its weapons program;

Whereas, on October 31, 2008, almost 20 years after the terrorist attack, Libya completed delivery of long-awaited compensation to the families of the victims of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103; and

Whereas nothing can replace the loved ones lost in the attack, and the United States must never forget the victims of this crime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 21, 2008, as “Twentieth Anniversary of Remembrance for the Victims of the Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 Day”; and

(2) conveys the most sincere condolences to the families, friends, and communities of the victims of the attack on Flight 103.

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 718 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 718) designating November 30, 2008, as “Drive Safer Sunday.”

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, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 718) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 718

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas everyone driving on the roads and highways needs to do so more safely to re-

duce deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saved 15,434 lives in 2004, 15,632 lives in 2005, and 15,383 lives in 2006;

Whereas Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters has urged all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and has encouraged motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but each time they get behind the wheel; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to drive safely;

(B) national trucking firms to alert truck drivers to focus on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and to publicize the importance of the day using Citizen’s Band (“CB”) radios and truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergy to remind members to travel safely en route to religious services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) all people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 30, 2008, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 720 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 720) supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness 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, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The resolution (S. Res. 720) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 720

Whereas approximately 37,680 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer this year in the United States;

Whereas pancreatic cancer is the 4th most common cause of cancer death in the United States;

Whereas Randolph (“Randy”) Frederick Pausch, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2006, delivered his “Last Lecture” on September 18, 2007, which gave a voice to victims of pancreatic cancer, and inspired people to live life to the fullest;

Whereas the lecture by and advocacy of Randy Pausch have brought, and will continue to bring, renewed advocacy and commitment to the field of pancreatic cancer research and treatment;

Whereas the lecture by and advocacy of Randy Pausch have touched countless people throughout the United States and the world and encouraged them to change their lives for the better;

Whereas 75 percent of pancreatic cancer patients die within the first year of their diagnosis and only 5 percent survive more than 5 years, making pancreatic cancer the deadliest of any cancer;

Whereas there has been no significant improvement in survival rates in the last 30 years and pancreatic cancer research is still in the earliest scientific stages;

Whereas there are no early detection methods and minimal treatment options for pancreatic cancer;

Whereas when symptoms of pancreatic cancer present themselves, it is generally too late for an optimistic prognosis, and the average survival rate of those diagnosed with metastasis of the disease is only 3 to 6 months;

Whereas the incidence rate of pancreatic cancer is 40 to 50 percent higher in African-Americans than in other ethnic groups; and

Whereas it would be appropriate to observe November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month to educate communities across the Nation about pancreatic cancer and the need for research funding, early detection methods, effective treatments, and treatment programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Indian Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 719 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 719) recognizing National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the United States.

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, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 719) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 719

Whereas from November 1, 2008, through November 30, 2008, the United States celebrates National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas, in 2000, the United States Census Bureau reported that there were more than 4,000,000 people in the United States of American Indian and Alaska Native descent;

Whereas, on December 2, 1989, the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate held a hearing exploring the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy, and its influence on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of freedom of speech, the separation of governmental powers, and checks and balances among the branches of government;

Whereas the Senate has reaffirmed that a major national goal of the United States is to provide the resources, processes, and structure that will enable Indian Tribes and tribal members to obtain the quantity and quality of health care services and opportunities that will eliminate the health disparities between American Indians and the general population of the United States;

Whereas Congress recently reaffirmed its trust responsibility to improve the housing conditions and socioeconomic status of American Indians and Alaska Natives by providing affordable homes in a safe and healthy environment;

Whereas, throughout its course of dealing with Indian Tribes, the United States Government has engaged in a government-to-government relationship with Tribes;

Whereas the United States Government owes a trust obligation to Tribes, acknowledged in treaties, statutes, and decisions of the Supreme Court, to protect the interests and welfare of tribal governments and their members;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have consistently served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States, some as early as the Revolutionary War, and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives speak and preserve indigenous languages and have contributed hundreds of words to the English language, including the names of people and locations in the United States;

Whereas Congress has recognized Native American code talkers who served with honor and distinction in World War I and World War II, using indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless American lives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives are deeply rooted in tradition and culture, which drives their strength of community; and

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives of all ages celebrate the great achievements of their ancestors and heroes and continue to share their stories with future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month during the month of November 2008;

(2) honors the heritage and culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities.

REGARDING HORRIFIC TERRORIST ATTACKS AND SIEGE IN MUMBAI, INDIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 724 submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 724) expressing the sense of the Senate on the horrific terrorist attacks and siege in Mumbai, India, beginning on November 26, 2008, and concluding on November 29, 2008.

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, that there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 724) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 724

Whereas, on the evening of November 26, 2008, evidence strongly suggests that 10 terrorists came ashore into the city of Mumbai, India, from a hijacked fishing trawler in the Arabian Sea, and conducted coordinated attacks on major hotels, restaurants, hospitals, and transportation hubs, and a religious center;

Whereas the attackers entered into a standoff with security forces of the Government of India over the next 60 hours at a number of sites, deliberately holding many hostages while trapping other innocent victims with no means of escape;

Whereas authorities of the Government of India brought the horrific three-day siege of Mumbai to a close on the morning of November 29, 2008;

Whereas the final death toll from the siege exceeded 170 victims, with hundreds more injured;

Whereas those murdered include citizens of India as well as 22 foreigners from 11 different countries, including the following six United States citizens: Aryeh Leibish Teitelbaum, Rabbi Gavriel Noah Holtzberg, Ben Zion Chroman, Sandeep Jeswani, Alan Michael Scherr, and Naomi Leia Scherr.

Whereas the terrorists who attacked Mumbai attacked a symbol of religious pluralism and outreach, a Jewish outreach center at the Nariman House, murdering six residents of the Nariman House, including Rabbi Holtzberg and his five-month pregnant wife, Rivka, orphaning their two-year old son, Moshe, who was heroically rescued by his Indian nanny, Sandra Samuel;

Whereas nine of the attackers were found dead at various sites where they were engaged in a standoff with authorities of the Government of India, with only one surviving attacker taken into custody;

Whereas evidence collected to date suggests the involvement of an Islamic militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, that has ties to al Qaeda and operates out of Pakistan;

Whereas India has endured a series of devastating terrorist attacks in recent years, suffering 3,674 deaths from terrorist attacks in a recent three-year period; and

Whereas India, the world's largest democracy, is a strategic partner of the United

States, and this bilateral relationship is built on common values and unity against extremism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that the people of the United States stand in unison with the people of India in the aftermath of these horrific terrorist attacks;

(2) condemns strongly the atrocities perpetrated against the people of Mumbai, conveys its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed, and expresses its wishes for the speedy recovery of the hundreds of people injured in these senseless attacks;

(3) notes that these attacks did not only target citizens of India, but represented a collective assault against the international community, with 22 foreigners, including six Americans, among those murdered;

(4) noting that President Bush has offered United States Government assistance, encourages the Government of India to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the attacks and applauds the tone of moderation and restraint exhibited by the Government of India to date in reaction to these horrific attacks;

(5) urges the Government of Pakistan to investigate aggressively the possible connection of groups based in Pakistan, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba, to the Mumbai attacks and take definitive action to apprehend and detain suspects, and is thus encouraged by the raid on an apparent militant camp on December 7, 2008, and the arrest of key suspects;

(6) calls upon the Government of Pakistan to take all necessary steps to root out all extremist groups operating on its territory, halt attacks aimed at Pakistan and any other countries, and ensure that no elements of the Government support such groups;

(7) strongly encourages President-elect Obama to consider ways in which the United States Government can bolster counter-terrorism cooperation with the Government of India to ensure that authorities in that country possess all the requisite equipment and training needed to prevent and respond to future terrorist attacks; and

(8) urges bolstered United States efforts to develop and implement policies and projects to combat all forms of religious extremism, including anti-Semitism, in order to deter the type of targeted attacks like that waged against the Chabad Lubavitch center in Mumbai.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS OF THE YOUTH IMPACT PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 725.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 725) acknowledging the accomplishments and goals of the Youth Impact Program.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 725) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 725

Whereas many at-risk young men in the inner cities of the United States face a challenging and uncertain future;

Whereas the future success of at-risk young men can be greatly enhanced through sustained mentorship;

Whereas effective working partnerships between and within the public and private sectors can have a lasting and positive impact on the future of at-risk young men;

Whereas participation in organized sports has provided a creative and disciplined outlet and a path to a better life for many at-risk young men;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program combines the disciplines of football, mentoring, and academics in partnerships between local National Football League franchises and universities to promote discipline, learning, and positive values;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program is a community-based program that has proven its value over the past 2 years in raising the outlook and aspirations of at-risk young men and has provided at-risk young men greater exposure to academics, core values, and life skills;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program provides year-round mentoring to its participants, a proven formula for building success;

Whereas the National Football League, the National Football League Players Association, the University of Southern California, and Tulane University have provided critical support to the Youth Impact Program;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program will be expanded to 3 additional cities in partnership with local National Football League franchises and universities;

Whereas the Youth Impact Program seeks to establish a presence in each city with a local National Football League franchise; and

Whereas under the vision and leadership of Mr. Riki Ellison, the founder of the Youth Impact Program, a 10-year veteran of the National Football League, a 3-time Super Bowl champion, and a University of Southern California alumnus, the Youth Impact Program has expanded from a regional program to a program with a growing national presence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the ongoing and significant contributions of those organizations that support the Youth Impact Program; and

(2) encourages the expansion of the Youth Impact Program to inner cities across the United States.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 726.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 726) designating December 13, 2008, as "Wreaths Across America Day."

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 726) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 726

Whereas, more than 15 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began the tradition of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery each December;

Whereas, since that tradition began, through the hard work and generosity of the people involved in the Wreaths Across America project, hundreds of thousands of wreaths have been sent to more than 200 national cemeteries and veterans' memorials in all 50 states;

Whereas, in December 2008, the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehicle group dedicated to patriotic events, with more than 65,000 members nationally, will continue their tradition of escorting a tractor-trailer full of donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas hundreds of volunteers participate in the escort each December; and

Whereas Wreaths Across America will continue this proud legacy on December 13, 2008: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 2008, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, and all other volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices our veterans and service members and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 727.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 727) honoring the victims of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 on the twentieth anniversary of the tragedy.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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, that there be 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. 727) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 727

Whereas, on December 21, 1988, 259 passengers and crew members on board Pan American Airways flight 103, and 11 people

on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland, were killed by a terrorist's bomb;

Whereas 189 people of the United States and nationals from 20 other countries were victims of this heinous attack;

Whereas the families and friends of the victims of this tragedy have suffered immeasurable losses;

Whereas people around the world actively have worked to diminish the possibility of future terrorist attacks;

Whereas, in 2003, Libya accepted responsibility for Libyan officials' involvement in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103, denounced terrorism, and vowed to abandon its weapons program;

Whereas, on October 31, 2008, almost 20 years after the terrorist attack, Libya completed delivery of long-awaited compensation to the families of the victims of the bombing of Pan Am flight 103; and

Whereas nothing can replace the loved ones lost in the attack, and the United States must never forget the victims of this crime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 21, 2008, as "Twenty-ninth Anniversary of Remembrance for the Victims of the Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 Day"; and

(2) conveys the most sincere condolences to the families, friends, and communities of the victims of the attack on Flight 103.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 815; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; and any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment as the Director, Air National Guard and for appointment to the grade indicated in the Reserve of the Air Force under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 10506:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, III

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, December 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the

morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there then be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and that the Senate then resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3297.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:30 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 10, 2008, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE AGENCIES INDICATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS TWO, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LASZLO F. SAGI, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID A. THOMANEK, OF VIRGINIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

STEVEN BRADLEY BENNETT, JR., OF VIRGINIA
ANDY D. NGUYEN, OF VIRGINIA
FATMA A. ROSE, OF ARIZONA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JOHN F. CORONADO, OF CALIFORNIA
JAMES S. CRAMER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ROBERT W. DUNN, OF VIRGINIA
BRENT E. OMDAHL, OF TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ALFREDO DAVID BARELA, OF TEXAS
JEHAN SADIA JONES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CATHERINE HENDERSON SCHWEITZER, OF VIRGINIA

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

GREGORY HARRIS, OF WASHINGTON
AARON M. HELD, OF CALIFORNIA
FRANKLIN D. JOSEPH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DAO M. LE, OF CALIFORNIA
DINAH M. MCDUGALL, OF TEXAS
MARK C. O'GRADY, OF MARYLAND
JANEE PIERRE-LOUIS, OF FLORIDA
ELIZABETH M. SHIEH, OF NEW YORK
WILLIAM P. THORN, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMY MARIE MOSER, OF MISSOURI
SADIE MARIE OKOKO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE TO BE CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SECRETARIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BRIAN W. CARR, OF VIRGINIA
LAWRENCE D. CORNMAN, OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KATHRINE L. ALDERMAN, OF VIRGINIA
BOOYEON LEE ALLEN, OF CALIFORNIA
CLAY C. ALLEN, OF MASSACHUSETTS
SHANE MICHEL ANDERSEN, OF VIRGINIA
BEATA ANGELICA, OF VIRGINIA
LA JUNE L. BARNES, OF NEW YORK
NICHOLAS G. BARNETT, OF NEW YORK

CHRISTINA I.M. BISHOP, OF VIRGINIA
JOSEPH E. BURZYNSKI
DANIEL J. CARL, OF COLORADO
ALBERT RAY CEA HENRIQUEZ, OF TEXAS
FREDERICK CHARLES, OF VIRGINIA
JOHN PAUL CHARLES, OF WASHINGTON
DONALD K. CODDING, OF OKLAHOMA
SYDNEY A. CODDING, OF OKLAHOMA
ROBERT PATRICK CONTRERAS, OF MISSOURI
CRAIGORY D. CRANK, OF MARYLAND
ERIC T. CUYLER, OF NEBRASKA
PHILLIP NELSON DE ASSIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

BROOKE HEILNER DEAN, OF MARYLAND
ANTHONY J. DIAZ, OF KENTUCKY
RYAN T. DRISCOLL, OF VIRGINIA
EDMUND FLEETWOOD DUNSTAN III, OF MARYLAND
KARYN MALIA CHOQUETTE ELIOT, OF VIRGINIA
ANDREW L. ELLIS, OF VIRGINIA
TIMOTHY F. FARRELL, OF VIRGINIA
MARISA FERGUSON, OF VIRGINIA
JOSE M. GARZA, JR., OF VIRGINIA
NOAH J. GEESAMAN, OF VIRGINIA
JENNIFER H. GIBBS, OF VIRGINIA
KIMBERLY K. GIUSTI, OF OREGON
PALOMA H. GONZALEZ, OF CALIFORNIA
JACOB DANIEL GRANNELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

KERRY J. GROOME, OF MARYLAND
RYAN N. GUHLINGER, OF VIRGINIA
PRISCILLA GUZMAN, OF TEXAS
CHANNONETTE HALL, OF PENNSYLVANIA
GARTH HALL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LAURA J. HAMMOND, OF MINNESOTA
SEAN M. HANIFEN, OF VIRGINIA
NICHOLAS HARRIS, OF VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA HARRIS, OF NEW YORK
APRIL M. HAYNE, OF OHIO
CHERYL A. HIPPE, OF CALIFORNIA
RYNA HOK, OF VIRGINIA

KERRY F.A. HYRE, OF NEW YORK
TIFFANY L. JACKSON, OF FLORIDA
CHRISTOPHER C. JENSEN, OF VIRGINIA
VISHAL JINDAL, OF VIRGINIA
KENNETH J. KANN, OF MARYLAND
SONIA JUNG KIM, OF GEORGIA
RICHARD CHARLES KOLKER, OF VIRGINIA
STEPHAN G. LANGLEY, OF WASHINGTON
JOHN B. LAVIN, OF MARYLAND
MICHAEL E. LEE, OF VIRGINIA
THOMAS J. LEIBY, OF PENNSYLVANIA
WENDY ANN LIGON, OF VIRGINIA
BRIDGET MARY LINES, OF TEXAS
LOREN C. LOCKE, OF GEORGIA
RYAN J. LONG, OF WASHINGTON
JAMES MICHAEL LOWELL, OF TENNESSEE
MUNIR DAWAN MADYUN, OF GEORGIA
SARA V. MARTI, OF FLORIDA
ANNA ARAMBULO MARTZ, OF TEXAS
JOEL SUNIL MATHEW, OF VIRGINIA
WESLEY S. MATHEWS, OF TEXAS
TRISHITA MAULA, OF NEW YORK
JAMES PATRICK MCCORMICK, OF OREGON
CHRISTOPHER H. MCHONE, OF TEXAS
ROLAND DAVID MCKAY, OF MICHIGAN
MARY KATHLEEN MCKNIGHT, OF TENNESSEE
DOERING S. MEYER, OF MINNESOTA
MORGAN DANIEL MILES, OF WASHINGTON
AARON TYRELL MITCHELL, OF MARYLAND
DOUG MORROW, OF ILLINOIS
KATHRINE M. MORTENSEN, OF NEW YORK
STEVEN MARK MOUTON, OF VIRGINIA
NATALYA A. NIKIFOROVA-SMITH, OF FLORIDA
NAROLINE CASEY NOHR, OF CALIFORNIA
FREDERICK NICHOLAS NOYES, OF TEXAS
ILENA C. PATTI, OF VIRGINIA

KARLEE MARIE PAYNE, OF VIRGINIA
CHRIS F. PIERSON, OF CONNECTICUT
SUSAN QUINTANA, OF TEXAS
ERIN ALEXIS RATTAZZI, OF CALIFORNIA
SUNIL KUMAR RAVI, OF ARIZONA
STEPHANIE LAUREN REED, OF VIRGINIA
MARK V. REEDY, OF GEORGIA
NICHOLAS B. REID, OF FLORIDA
REGINE RENE, OF LOUISIANA
ANGELICA RODAS-HUGHES, OF VIRGINIA
THOMAS S. ROOKER, OF VIRGINIA
ALISON E. ROWLES, OF MARYLAND
CHUNNONG SAEGER, OF MARYLAND
MARYUM FATIMA SAIFEE, OF TEXAS
FELIX J. SALAZAR, OF MARYLAND
JANICE T. SCHILL, OF CALIFORNIA
PHILIP SCOT SCHWADA, OF VIRGINIA
BEHRANG FARIAN SERAJ, OF CALIFORNIA
ANDREW MICHAEL SHERNUK, OF VIRGINIA
ARATI SHEROFF, OF ILLINOIS
ALEXANDREA R. SHYBUT, OF VIRGINIA
CLAIRE ELIZABETH SMOLIK, OF CALIFORNIA
LAURENCE J. SOCHA, OF ILLINOIS
NITZA SOLA ROTGER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CORY RAJA STELLING, OF VIRGINIA
MASAMI TANAKA, OF ILLINOIS
MEGAN J. TETRICK, OF INDIANA
SYGA THOMAS, OF CALIFORNIA
ROBBIE J. THOMPSON, OF MARYLAND
WOLFGANG TOLLE, OF VIRGINIA
DIANE K. TOMION, OF VIRGINIA
KEISHA N. TOMS, OF NEW YORK
WILLIAM RANDALL TORRANCE, OF TEXAS
CATHERINE TRUONG, OF ILLINOIS
JUSTIN W. TULL, OF CALIFORNIA
PENNY L. VASQUEZ, OF VIRGINIA
YAYOI VICKOVIC, OF VIRGINIA
BENJAMIN WALLACE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BRIANNE A. WATTS, OF VIRGINIA
OTTO HAAVERSEN WESTHASSEL, OF NEVADA
ERIC S. WEXLER, OF VIRGINIA

December 9, 2008

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S10839

C. LOGAN WHEELER, OF TENNESSEE
AMANDA FAITH WHITESELL, OF VIRGINIA
HEATHER A. WIGGINS, OF VIRGINIA
DAVID WISNER, OF NEW YORK
HEATHER NICOLE WRIGHT, OF MARYLAND
CHRISTIAN S. YUN, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN AND INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER COUNSELOR:

DANIEL E. HARRIS, OF MARYLAND

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

GEORGE B. GOSTING

To be major

JOSEPH S. PARK

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

GARY D. GILMORE

CHRISTINE GLOVER
HAROLD B. JONES, JR.
LEE D. SCHNELL

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

MIGUEL GONZALEZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

DAVID M. DROMSKY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

CHARLES C. ADKISON
ROBERT J. BARRETT
ALICIA L. BELCHER
SHAN A. BOGART
KENNETH A. BOURASSA
MARK C. BURKE
KEVIN R. CASAGRANDE
THOMAS J. COOPER
JANET H. DAYS
DANIELLE C. DEFANT
ERIC E. ERHARD

ANDREW D. FLEISHER
JENNIFER M. FREE
RAYMOND J. GAMICCHIA
CHRISTOPHER D. HEINZ
JEREMIAH D. JACKSON
ANTHONY G. JARED
ALEXANDER B. KORN
JASON LABOTT
JIWAN A. MACK
ROBERT L. NOWLIN
DOUGLAS V. NYE
RICHARD A. ROBBINS, JR.
DAVID H. RYAN
CHRISTOPHER J. SEVERS
ERIC W. SISCO
TRICIA L. TEAS

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, Tuesday, December 9, 2008:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DIRECTOR, AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10506:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. HARRY M. WYATT III