

New Mexico. We must raise the standard of living in my State and one concrete way to accomplish this is by fostering the development of small businesses that provide good wages and good benefits for their employees.

ARLINGTON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in early March of this year I received a letter from Charles R. Mariott, of Louisville, Tennessee, in which he enclosed a stirring poem, written by his wife Ruth and dedicated to Arlington Cemetery. The poem shows great talent and I want to bring it to the attention of my colleagues and to the audience of listeners throughout the country as we approach the Memorial Day weekend. It is a poem that exudes a spirit of patriotism which, I believe, will inspire all freedom loving Americans everywhere.

ARLINGTON (By Ruth Mariott) FIRST CANTO

I saw his name engraved in granite
in the shadow of the ivy covered oak—
a long time tenant in that sacred grove
The wind moves now and then through barren branches
A bird alights sometimes, as if by chance,
it chirps—and then flies on
All else is mute . . .
The marble tomb nearby where night and day
the sentries stand with steadfast vigilance
it bears no name.
During the changing of the guards—
at preset daytime hours—
upon command the sentries spring to life
and to action.
They walk with slow, precisely measured steps
clicking their heels at certain intervals
toeing the line invisible
across expanse of marbled ground
presenting arms and slapping rifle
Flawless in execution and procedures
flawless in bearing and attire
one is the perfect mirror of the other
down to the last detail: just so, no more, no less
Their buckles shine. The honor badge is gleaming
They are the heroes of the Old Guard Regiment
Instant obedience and discipline
thus manifest, are but reflections
of inner core of strength, esprit and gallantry
submerging self for Cause and Greater Good,
(attained by very few)
The changing of the guard has been accomplished
The last command has been obeyed
The guard on duty now enters his station
stands at attention once again over the tomb
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

SECOND CANTO

The people come from far, here to these hallowed hills to witness and be cast in ceremony. They stand in silence and they stare with awe,
They think their solemn thoughts with somber eyes,
Transported by the mesmerizing ritual
into the Presence of a Greater Truth and Order
and brushed by gentle wings of Destiny,

they seem to hear faint echoes stirring from the vault of sky and time
evoking visions in their souls and puzzling memories of what? from where?

Thus paying tribute to the One Unknown
(and with him to the many like him
whose burial mounds and crosses are stretching far below The Tomb)
they sense that he who sacrificed his life
decades ago—nay centuries—was now exalted.
(and with him all the many like him)
exalting Gallantry and Loyalty, Honor and Valor.

Spectators in this Shifting scene on patriotic stage the people leave reluctantly, the Nation's Shrine still pondering.
They wander down the soddy path
They speak in muffled tones, shuffling their feet before they exit slowly through the Outer Arch.

THIRD CANTO

I saw his name engraved in granite
enlaced with ivy from the nearby tree
I plucked a sprig of living ivy
and took it home with me
Planted in a pot of earth
upon my window sill
the climbing vine has taken root
and it is greening still
Your body may be buried
you may be long since gone
but cherished memories of you
and your name live on.
I stepped out of my cabin door
and looked up at the sky
I saw a golden eagle soar
I heard the eagle cry.
The eagle soared into the sun and soon was lost from view
The spirit of the Unknown One and you.

FOURTH CANTO

Down through the corridor of Time
the eagle sounds its piercing cry
keening over all the fields
where the fallen warriors lie.
Their tattered uniforms and bones
have mouldered in their narrow grave
White crosses bear a name and date
so young—and all so brave.
Through countless wars in global spots
they fought in air, on land and sea
They paid the price, They gave their life
so others could be free.
They fought chaotic battles
to victory or defeat
and now they lie in long, long rows
orderly and neat . . .
A bugle in the sunset's glow
is sounding Taps from far away
Soon now the winds of night will blow
And tomorrow is another day.

EPILOGUE

The Stars and Stripes wave on the ridge
High above Arlington Bridge
in between are stretched the grounds
with all its heroes earthen mounds.
From up on high the spirits chide
Forever shall our flag abide
in Freedom—Honor—Valor!

RURAL HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I introduced S. 817, legislation designed to maintain rural communities' access to hospital care.

Today many rural Americans live in fear that they may lose access to local and regional hospital care. In these rural areas, where serious accidents,

often related to farm equipment, are a constant threat. Access to an emergency care hospital within 35 miles can mean the difference between life and death. The ability to be referred to a major regional hospital for more specialized care can be of like importance. Congress must recognize the special needs of rural America and work to meet them. This bill is a step in the right direction.

The Rural Health Care Protection Act of 1997 focuses on providing support to Sole Community Hospitals and Rural Referral Centers. Sole Community Hospitals [SCH's] are hospitals located at least 35 miles from other hospitals and are often the sole source of emergency care or inpatient services in their areas. There are currently 728 SCH's in 46 States. There are 11 in my home State of Iowa. Rural Referral Centers [RRC's] are relatively large and specialized rural hospitals which receive referrals from community hospitals throughout a region. There are currently 142 RRC's in 39 states, including five in Iowa.

This legislation contains four proposals designed to help keep these care centers operating. First, the act would give SCH's the option of choosing an updated fiscal year 1994-95 base year for Medicare funding instead of the outdated base years which they must currently use. Second, the act would permanently grandfather as an RRC any hospital that has previously qualified as an RRC. Third, the act would exempt the RRC's from the statewide rural wage index threshold for geographic reclassification. Finally, the bill would allow rural hospitals that meet the reclassification criteria to be reclassified as urban hospitals for purposes of disproportionate share hospital [DSH] payment adjustments.

This bill would help ensure that rural Americans maintain access to these essential care centers. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in support of this measure.

MEASURE RETURNED TO CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate Concurrent Resolution 27 be placed back on the calendar.

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

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF PUBLICATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 90 submitted earlier today by Senators BYRD, COVERDELL and CLELAND.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A resolution (S. Res. 90) authorizing the printing of the publication entitled "Dedication and Unveiling of the Statue of Richard Brevard Russell, Jr."

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution 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. 90) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 90

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF THE PUBLICATION ENTITLED "DEDICATION AND UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF RICHARD BREVARD RUSSELL, JR."

(a) IN GENERAL.—There shall be printed as a Senate document the publication entitled "Dedication and Unveiling of the Statue of Richard Brevard Russell, Jr.", prepared by the office of Senate Curator under the supervision of the Secretary of the Senate, with the concurrence of the United States Senate Commission on Art.

(b) SPECIFICATIONS.—The Senate document described in subsection (a) shall include illustrations and shall be in the style, form, manner, and binding as directed by the joint Committee on Printing after consultation with the Secretary of the Senate.

(c) NUMBER OF COPIES.—In addition to the usual number of copies, there shall be printed with suitable binding the lesser of—

(1) 1,000 copies for the use of the Senate, to be allocated as determined by the Secretary of the Senate; or

(2) a number of copies that does not have a total production and printing cost of more than \$1,200.

RELIEF FOR THE MEILI FAMILY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 768 which was reported by the Judiciary Committee.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 768) for the relief of Michael Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meile.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 768) was passed, as follows:

S. 768

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The actions of Swiss banks and their relations with Nazi Germany before and during World War II and the banks' actions after the war concerning former Nazi loot and heirless assets placed in the banks before the war have been the subject of an extensive and ongoing inquiry by the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and a study by a United States inter-agency group.

(2) On January 8, 1997, Michel Christopher Meili, while performing his duties as a security guard at the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich, Switzerland, discovered that bank employees were shredding important Holocaust-era documents.

(3) Mr. Meili was able to save some of the documents from destruction and then turned them over to the Jewish community in Zurich and to the Swiss police.

(4) Following Mr. Meili's disclosure of the destruction of the Holocaust-era documents, Mr. Meili was suspended and then terminated from his job. He was also interrogated by the local Swiss authorities who tried to intimidate him by threatening prosecution for his heroic actions.

(5) Since this disclosure, Mr. Meili and his family have been threatened and harassed, and have received many death threats. Mr. Meili also received a hand-delivered note threatening the kidnapping of his children in return for the "Jewish money" he would receive for his actions, and urging him to emigrate to the United States or be killed.

(6) Because of his courageous actions, Mr. Meili and his family have suffered economic hardship, mental anguish, and have been forced to live in fear for their lives.

SEC. 2. PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili shall be held and considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence as of the date of the enactment of this Act upon payment of the required visa fees.

SEC. 3. REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF AVAILABLE VISAS.

Upon the granting of permanent residence to Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili as provided in this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by the appropriate number during the current fiscal year the total number of immigrant visas available to natives of the country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)).

COMMEMORATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 61, Senate Resolution 57.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A resolution (S. Res. 57) to support the commemoration of the bicentennial of Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments; as follows:

(The parts of the resolution intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts intended to be inserted are shown in *italic*.)

S. RES. 57

Whereas the Expedition commanded by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, which

came to be called "The Corps of Discovery", was one of the most remarkable and productive scientific and military exploring expeditions in all American history;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson gave Lewis and Clark the mission to "... explore the Missouri River & such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce. . .";

Whereas the Expedition, in response to President Jefferson's directive, greatly advanced our geographical knowledge of the continent and prepared the way for the extension of the American fur trade with Indian tribes throughout the area;

Whereas President Jefferson directed the explorers to take note of and carefully record the natural resources of the newly acquired territory known as Louisiana, as well as diligently report on the native inhabitants of the land;

Whereas Lewis and Clark and their companions began their historic journey to explore the uncharted wilderness west of the Mississippi River at Wood River, Illinois on May 14, 1804, and followed the Missouri River westward from its mouth on the Mississippi to its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains;

Whereas the Expedition spent its first winter at Fort Mandan, North Dakota, crossed the Rocky Mountains by horseback in August 1805, reached the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia river in mid-November of that year, and wintered at Fort Clatsop, near the present city of Astoria, Oregon;

Whereas the Expedition returned to St. Louis, Missouri, on September 23, 1806, after a 28-month journey covering 8,000 miles during which it traversed 11 future States: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon;

Whereas the explorers faithfully followed the President's directives and dutifully recorded their observations in their detailed journals;

Whereas these journals describe many plant and animal species, some completely unknown to the world of science or never before encountered in North America, and added greatly to scientific knowledge about the flora and fauna of the United States;

Whereas accounts from the journals of Lewis and Clark and the detailed maps that were prepared by the Expedition enhanced knowledge of the western continent and routes for commerce;

Whereas the journals of Lewis and Clark documented diverse American Indian languages, customs, religious beliefs, and ceremonies; as Lewis and Clark are important figures in American history, so too are Black Buffalo, Cameahwait, [Sacajawea, Sheheke and Watkueis;] *Sacagawea, Sheheke, Watkueis, Twisted Hair, Tetoharsky, Yellept, and Comowool;*

Whereas the Expedition significantly enhanced amicable relations between the United States and the autonomous Indian nations, and the friendship and respect fostered between the Indian tribes and the Expedition represents the best of diplomacy and relationships between divergent nations and cultures;

Whereas the Native American Indian tribes of the Northern Plains and the Pacific Northwest played an essential role in the survival and the success of the Expedition;

Whereas the Lewis and Clark Expedition has been called the most perfect Expedition of its kind in the history of the world and paved the way for the United States to become a great world power;