

These hardworking men and women are often the first called to duty in an emergency.

As essential as Dual Status Technicians are, they suffer from the worst of two employment worlds. These technicians are by statute both military and civilian employees. Guard technicians must maintain their military job and grade in order to keep their technician status and remain a federal employee. In the event of separation from military service, however, they are denied the retirement benefits of those who serve in the same grade in the active military. Frequently, Dual Status Technicians who are separated from the military must wait years to qualify for their Federal Service retirement benefits.

The bill I am introducing in the Senate today is a companion bill already introduced on the House side by Representative ABERCROMBIE. It seeks to eliminate retirement inequities—a problem we just addressed head on in the Armed Services Committee when we included a provision in this year's Defense Authorization Bill the eliminate retirement inequities between active duty personnel who retired before or after 1986. We voted this year to effectively eliminate the "Redux" retirement benefit program because of the lower benefits it offered to personnel who retired after 1986. The action I am proposing in this legislation is somewhat similar.

This bill will permit Dual Status Technicians to retire at any age with 25 years of service or at 50 with 20 years of service. Those benefits are similar to benefits provided to Federal police and fire employees. They're similar to federal employees who retire from the Congress.

I am pleased to see, Mr. President, that this year's Defense Authorization bill took a step to provide equitable benefits to Dual Status Technicians, but in doing so, it created an inequity within the Technician community itself. A provision in the bill provides for early retirement after 25 years at any age, or at age 50 with 20 years of service—but only for those employed as Dual Status Technicians after 1996. Those same benefits are withheld from those employed before 1996. In other words, Mr. President, we created a situation similar to the one the Senate dealt with regarding the "Redux" retirement program in the Defense Authorization bill. The bill I offer today would remove that inequity in the same way the Senate voted to remove the inequity for active duty personnel who retired under the "Redux" program.

Mr. President, the cost of equity is not high. An initial estimate by the Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill could cost about \$54 million over a five year period. That number will vary, of course, depending on the number of Technicians who would choose to take advantage of the change in the law when this bill is enacted. Of

course, we're not only paying for equity here, Mr. President. We're paying appropriate, equitable compensation to the men and women who have devoted their careers to service for the nation both at home and abroad—our National Guard and Reserve who serve us all so well.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and urge my fellow Members to support this effort through cosponsorship.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 311

At the request of Mr. McCAIN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of S. 311, a bill to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 312

At the request of Mr. McCAIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 312, a bill to require certain entities that operate homeless shelters to identify and provide certain counseling to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to remove the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 765

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 765, a bill to ensure the efficient allocation of telephone numbers.

S. 786

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that a monthly insurance benefit thereunder shall be paid for the month in which the recipient dies, subject to a reduction of 50 percent if the recipient dies during the first 15 days of such month, and for other purposes.

S. 819

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 819, a bill to provide funding for the National Park System from outer Continental Shelf revenues.

S. 955

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 955, a bill to allow the National Park Service to acquire certain land for addition to the Wilderness Battlefield in

Virginia, as previously authorized by law, by purchase or exchange as well as by donation.

S. 1016

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1016, a bill to provide collective bargaining for rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1020, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1075

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1075, a bill to promote research to identify and evaluate the health effects of silicone breast implants, and to insure that women and their doctors receive accurate information about such implants.

S. 1242

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1242, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make permanent the visa waiver program for certain visitors to the United States.

S. 1263

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1263, a bill to amend the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 to limit the reductions in medicare payments under the prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department services.

S. 1327

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1327, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide States with more funding and greater flexibility in carrying out programs designed to help children make the transition from foster care to self-sufficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 1332

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1332, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Father Theodore M. Hesburg, in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to civil rights, higher education, the Catholic Church, the Nation, and the global community.

S. 1384

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects, and for other purposes.

S. 1419

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1419, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May as "National Military Appreciation Month."

S. 1457

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1457, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to assess opportunities to increase carbon storage on national forests derived from the public domain and to facilitate voluntary and accurate reporting of forest projects that reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, and for other purposes.

S. 1498

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1498, a bill to amend chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, to authorize equal overtime pay provisions for all Federal employees engaged in wildland fire suppression operations.

S. 1516

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1516, a bill to amend title III of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331 et seq.) to reauthorize the Federal Emergency Management Food and Shelter Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for holders of Community Open Space bonds the proceeds of which are used for qualified environmental infrastructure projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1580

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1580, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to assist agricultural producers in managing risk, and for other purposes.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1590, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Surface Transportation Board, and for other purposes.

S. 1680

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1680, a bill to provide for the improvement of the processing of claims for veterans compensation and pensions, and for other purposes.

S. 1707

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1707, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to provide that certain designated Federal entities shall be establishments under such Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1723

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1723, a bill to establish a program to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design, and construct facilities to mitigate impacts associated with irrigation system water diversions by local governmental entities in the Pacific Ocean drainage of the States of Oregon, Washington, Montana, and Idaho.

S. 1733

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1733, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to provide for a national standard of interoperability and portability applicable to electronic food stamp benefit transactions.

S. 1795

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1795, a bill to require that before issuing an order, the President shall cite the authority for the order, conduct a cost benefit analysis, provide for public comment, and for other purposes.

S. 1825

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1825, a bill to empower telephone consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 1867

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the names of the Senator from Washington

(Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1867, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax reduction for small businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to delay the effective date of the final rule regarding the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 118, a resolution designating December 12, 1999, as "National Children's Memorial Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 128

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 128, a resolution designating March 2000, as "Arts Education Month."

SENATE RESOLUTION 196

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 196, a resolution commanding the submarine force of the United States Navy on the 100th anniversary of the force.

SENATE RESOLUTION 217

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 217, a resolution relating to the freedom of belief, expression, and association in the People's Republic of China.

AMENDMENT NO. 1730

At the request of Mr. HARKIN his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1730 proposed to S. 625, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2545

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2545 intended to be proposed to S. 625, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 223—CONDAMNING THE VIOLENCE IN CHECHYNA

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations: