

ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there should continue to be parity between the adjustments in the compensation of members of the uniformed services and the adjustments in the compensation of civilian employees of the United States.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 19

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 19, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that the Federal investment in biomedical research should be increased by \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2000.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 29

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 29, a resolution to designate the week of May 2, 1999, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week."

## SENATE RESOLUTION 45

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 45, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 47

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 47, a resolution designating the week of March 21 through March 27, 1999, as "National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week."

## AMENDMENT NO. 6

At the request of Mr. CLELAND the name of the Senate from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6 intended to be proposed to S. 4, a bill to improve pay and retirement equity for members of the Armed Forces; and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 12—REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROTH, Mr. FRIST, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ROCKE-

FELLER, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. ROBB, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DODD, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. GREGG, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. REID, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. LOTT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental affairs:

## S. CON. RES. 12

Whereas the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "VFW"), which was formed by veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection to help secure rights and benefits for their service, will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1999;

Whereas members of the VFW have fought, bled, and died in every war, conflict, police action, and military intervention in which the United States has engaged during this century;

Whereas, over its history, the VFW has ably represented the interests of veterans in Congress and State Legislatures across the Nation and established a network of trained service officers who, at no charge, have helped millions of veterans and their dependents to secure the education, disability compensation, pension, and health care benefits they are rightfully entitled to receive as a result of the military service performed by those veterans;

Whereas the VFW has also been deeply involved in national education projects, awarding nearly \$2,700,000 in scholarships annually, as well as countless community projects initiated by its 10,000 posts; and

Whereas the United States Postal Service has issued commemorative postage stamps honoring the VFW's 50th and 75th anniversaries, respectively: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That the Congress requests that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp in 1999 in honor of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, on behalf of my principal cosponsor, Senator INOUE, and myself, I am proud to submit a resolution requesting that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States ("VFW"), which will be celebrating its centennial in September of this year. We are pleased to be joined by 56 of our colleagues in support of this measure.

As a member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary post in Caribou, ME, and as the daughter of a World War II veteran who was wounded twice in combat, I am honored to lead the charge for this worthwhile legislation.

This measure is intended to pay special tribute to all members of the VFW, past and present, who pledged their honor and their lives to defend the United States and who fought bravely in foreign lands so that we as a nation might live in freedom. These are our true American patriots, for they have demonstrated a profound commitment to the principles of our Founding Fathers not in mere words, but in their deeds. When their country called, they answered, and they fought to keep the American way of life safe and secure.

As an organization, the Veterans of Foreign Wars traces its roots back to 1899. Veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection returned home from intense fighting abroad and were greeted with a hero's welcome. Over time, the memory of wartime sacrifice faded in the minds of many Americans, but not for the men who carried with them permanent battle scars, prolonged illnesses, and other grim reminders of war.

Absent a single Government agency possessing responsibility for veterans, and facing neglect, these brave men banded together to establish a handful of local organizations intended to help secure medical care and pensions for their military service. These original foreign service organizations, located in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, gradually grew in number and influence and in 1914 came to be known collectively as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Mr. President, it was several years later, on June 24, 1921, when the VFW's chapter in my home State of Maine was chartered. Today, there are 84 VFW posts in Maine to which over 16,000 veterans belong.

Those small groups of veterans who organized in 1899 have today grown to over 2 million strong. VFW members have fought and died in every war, conflict, and military intervention in which the United States has been engaged during this century. From factory workers to occupants of the White House, the VFW members and its Ladies Auxiliary have come to represent a cross section of American society, and each new generation of veterans has brought renewed strength and dedication to the VFW's founding principles.

As the 21st century approaches, the VFW's members continue to live by the organization's creed of "Honor the dead by helping the living." They do so by representing the interests of veterans across the Nation through an established network of trained service officers who, at no charge, help millions of veterans and their dependents secure the educational benefits, disability compensation, pension, and health care services that they are rightfully entitled to as a result of their distinguished service to our Country.

The VFW also has a long and proud tradition of supporting troops deployed overseas. From letter-writing campaigns in World War I, to "Welcome

home" rallies after the Persian Gulf war, to providing care packages, to USO shows and, more recently, to providing free telephone cards enabling servicemen and women to call loved ones from their posts in Bosnia, the VFW continues to provide comfort and a touch of home to those men and women stationed far away.

The endeavors of the VFW, however, go well beyond the realm of "veterans helping veterans." In fact, service to the broader American community has always been a pillar of the VFW foundation.

Through the VFW's Community Service Program, members of its 10,000 posts serve local communities, States, and the Nation with all of the integrity, ingenuity, and loyalty that have characterized the organization since its inception. During the past program year, for example, the VFW, working side by side with its Ladies Auxiliary, contributed nearly 13 million hours of volunteer service and donated nearly \$55 million to a variety of community projects. Commitment to worthy causes such as the March of Dimes, the Keep America Beautiful campaign, and many other volunteer organizations also continues to be a hallmark of service among VFW members.

The promotion of patriotism is another hallmark of the VFW's history. Since the beginning of its Americanization Committee in 1921, the VFW has actively taught traditional values to Americans both young and old. Today, teaching respect for the flag is a primary activity, as is educating children in the classroom about the critical role that veterans have played throughout our history.

The interests of today's youth are also met by VFW posts around the Nation through active support for drug prevention programs, the Boy Scouts of America, the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and sponsorship of competitors in both the Junior and Special Olympics. The VFW has also recently commemorated 50 years of helping high school students attend college. Because of VFW support, in fact, America's young people annually receive more than \$2.6 million in scholarships.

The VFW deserves public national recognition for these efforts and for its many other contributions to improving the lives of our Nation's veterans and enhancing American society as a whole. Although as a country we can never fully repay the debt we owe to these brave men and women, we can certainly strive to honor the vision which led them into battle to protect the principles America holds dear.

We must uphold the memories of their heroic acts with respect, with reverence, and with our heartfelt admiration. By requesting that the U.S. Postal Service issue a commemorative stamp honoring the VFW's 100th anniversary, as was done for its 50th and 75th anniversaries, we can take a small step toward remembering their service

and showing our deep appreciation for their unwavering commitment to our country, both in peacetime and in times of conflict. This, I believe, would be a much-deserved tribute to the VFW and its more than 2 million veterans of overseas service.

Mr. President, I am very pleased to note that you are a cosponsor of this important measure.

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, the resolution before the Senate today requesting that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp for the 100th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will honor our veterans who have so courageously fought in every war, conflict, police action, and military intervention since the Spanish-American War in 1899.

Members of the VFW have helped millions of veterans secure the education, disability compensation, pension, and health care benefits that veterans are rightfully entitled to receive as a result of their military service.

With over 2 million members the VFW has also been deeply involved in community service projects designed to encourage service in the local community benefiting education, the environment, health services, civic pride, and community betterment. For example, the VFW's Voice of Democracy essay competition provides over \$2.7 million in college scholarships annually to promising young students. The VFW's Safety Program conducts programs in home, auto, and bicycle safety, as well as programs dealing with drug awareness and substance abuse. Clearly, the VFW with over 10,000 posts continues to make valuable and significant contributions to our communities across the country.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the VFW I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to commemorate our veterans for their service. ●

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### SOLDIERS', SALIORS', AIRMEN'S, AND MARINES' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 1999

##### ROBB AMENDMENT NO. 7

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROBB submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 4) to improve pay and retirement equity for members of the Armed Forces; and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 28, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

#### SEC. 104. AVIATION CAREER OFFICER SPECIAL PAY.

(a) REPEAL OF EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section 301b of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking "during the period beginning on January 1, 1989, and ending on December 31, 1999."

(b) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR SERVICE IN CRITICAL AVIATION SPECIALTY AND LIMITA-

TION TO CERTAIN YEARS OF CAREER AVIATION SERVICE.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking paragraphs (2) and (5);

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "grade O-6" and inserting "grade O-7";

(3) by inserting "and" at the end of paragraph (4); and

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (6) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respectively.

(c) REPEAL OF LOWER ALTERNATIVE AMOUNT FOR AGREEMENT TO SERVE FOR 3 OR FEWER YEARS.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking "than—" and all that follows and inserting "than \$25,000 for each year covered by the written agreement to remain on active duty."

(d) PRORATION AUTHORITY FOR COVERAGE OF INCREASED PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by striking "14 years of commissioned service" and inserting "25 years of aviation service".

(e) TERMINOLOGY.—Such section is further amended—

(1) in subsection (f), by striking "A retention bonus" and inserting "Any amount"; and

(2) in subsection (i)(1), by striking "retention bonuses" in the first sentence and inserting "special pay under this section".

(f) REPEAL OF CONTENT REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL REPORT.—Subsection (i)(1) of such section is further amended by striking the second sentence.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section if further amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(3), by striking the second sentence; and

(2) in subsection (j)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3); and  
(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (2).

#### NOTICES OF HEARINGS

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 1999, 8:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is Education Reform: Governors' Views. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the President's budget request for FY2000 for Indian programs. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building. Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 202/224-2251.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 1999, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of