

very helpful in offering federal assistance to help protect State and local officers in concrete ways. It is an extraordinarily successful program and it should be extended and expanded. I thank President Clinton for his support and for calling for enactment of this measure during his remarks at the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service today. I hope that when the Committee meets later this week, Senator HATCH will see fit to include this measure on the agenda and that the Committee will act favorably on it.

In addition, I look forward to enacting additional measures that protect and assist State and local law enforcement. In particular, I was extremely disappointed last year when an anonymous Republican objection prevented S. 521, my bill to improve the Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act, from passing. This bill would allow the Attorney General to waive or reduce the matching fund requirement for assisting poor and rural law enforcement units to provide this life-saving equipment to officers and prevent injury and death. I cannot understand why anyone would want to oppose that effort.

Finally, I am disappointed that the Congress has not taken final action on the Public Medal of Valor Act, S. 39, championed by Senator STEVENS. The awarding of a medal for extraordinary valor shown by law enforcement officers every year would be a good way to draw attention to the service provided every day by officers all across this country. That bill passed the Senate a year ago by unanimous consent. I cosponsored the bill along with 28 others. For the past year, the House has not found the time to pass it. Today the President announced that he will explore ways to proceed to honor valor by our public safety officers through executive action if Congress continues to stall action on this bill. I hope that Congress will finally act on S. 39 this week and send it to the President for his signature.

These are just a few of the important legislative matters that the Congress should address to help our federal and state law enforcement officers. We should strive for constructive action rather than half-baked rhetoric.

Mr. GRAMS. Madam President, I rise today to honor Federal, State and local law enforcement officers who work to protect and serve the public on a daily basis. I am proud to be a cosponsor of S. Res. 247, which designates today as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and recognizes law enforcement officers killed or disabled in the line of duty.

During National Police Week, law enforcement officers in all fifty states will pay tribute to their fellow officers who lost their lives in the line of duty. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, approximately 130 law enforcement officers lost their lives in 1999 while protecting the public. In my home state, 187 Minnesota law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty since 1914.

Most recently, the name of Minnesota State Patrol Corporal Timothy Bowe was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Sadly, more than 14,000 law enforcement officers paid this ultimate sacrifice during the 20th Century. I am honored to pay tribute to the men and women who demonstrated extraordinary bravery while caring for our families and communities.

I would also like to note the extraordinary sacrifice of families who have lost a son, daughter, spouse, parent, or relative who was slain while performing their police duties. We honor the memory of these officers by providing for the families that they have left behind. When I think about these families, I am reminded of the inscription on the wall of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial—"In valor there is hope."

I am very pleased that the Senate is continuing its efforts to provide support for the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Specifically, I have cosponsored S. 1638, legislation introduced by Senator JOHN ASHCROFT that would retroactively provide financial assistance for higher education to the spouses and children of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Current law provides that the dependants of federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty after May 1, 1992, are eligible for this assistance. Dependents of state and local law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty after October 1, 1997, are also eligible. This legislation would change these dates to May 1, 1978, for federal law enforcement officers and October 1, 1978, for state and local law enforcement officers.

This important legislation, endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, builds upon police benefits legislation that passed the 104th and 105th Congress with my strong support. Since 1995, we have enacted the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Act of 1996, the Public Safety Officers Educational Assistance Act of 1998 and the Care for Police Survivors Act of 1998. These laws help to support the families of our law enforcement officers and keep alive the memory of these brave and heroic men and women.

During National Police Week, I join all Minnesotans in honoring the memory of slain law enforcement officers and their contributions to promoting public safety throughout our communities.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and, finally, that any statements in relation to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 247) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 247

Whereas the well-being of all citizens of this country is preserved and enhanced as a direct result of the vigilance and dedication of law enforcement personnel;

Whereas more than 700,000 men and women, at great risk to their personal safety, presently serve their fellow citizens in their capacity as guardians of peace;

Whereas peace officers are the front line in preserving our children's right to receive an education in a crime-free environment, which is all too often threatened by the insidious fear caused by violence in schools;

Whereas 134 peace officers lost their lives in the performance of their duty in 1999, and a total of nearly 15,000 men and women have now made that supreme sacrifice;

Whereas every year 1 in 9 officers is assaulted, 1 in 25 officers is injured, and 1 in 4,400 officers is killed in the line of duty; and

Whereas, on May 15, 2000, more than 15,000 peace officers are expected to gather in our Nation's Capital to join with the families of their recently fallen comrades to honor them and all others before them: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes May 15, 2000, as Peace Officers Memorial Day, in honor of Federal, State, and local officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I welcome our law enforcement officers to town. There are quite a few of them. They have a memorial at Judiciary Square here in town. They are acknowledging those young men and women who have fallen in the line of duty.

#### OMNIBUS CRIME CONTROL AND SAFE STREETS ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 434, S. 1638.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1638) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the retroactive eligibility dates for financial assistance for higher education for spouses and dependent children of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers who are killed in the line of duty.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3147

(Purpose: To further extend the retroactive eligibility dates to January 1, 1978)

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, Senator LEAHY has an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] for Mr. LEAHY, proposes an amendment numbered 3147.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 2, line 10, strike "May 1, 1978" and insert "January 1, 1978".

On page 2, line 12, strike "October 1, 1978" and insert "January 1, 1978".

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I know that Senator ROBB strongly supports this bill and I was glad to work with him and Senator ASHCROFT to expedite Judiciary Committee action in February and finally to achieve Senate consideration today.

I support extending the educational assistance benefits to the families of public safety officers who died in the line of duty. I supported those efforts when we acted for federal officers' families back in 1996 and when we extended those benefits to State and local officers' families in 1998.

A number of us joined with Senator SPECTER and Senator KOHL back in 1996 to pass the Federal Law Enforcement Dependents Assistance Act. Our efforts grew out of the Ruby Ridge investigation and our shared concern to help the family of U.S. Marshal Bill Degan and the families of others killed in the line of duty.

At the time we were unable to gain the consensus needed to authorize these education benefits to State and local law enforcement officers. Some thought that would cost too much. We came back in 1997 and 1998 and were able to pass the Public Safety Officers Educational Benefits Assistance Act to extend these educational benefits to State and local public safety officers. We were led in that effort by Senators SPECTER and BIDEN.

I am delighted to see these benefits expanded further by extending them retroactively by this bill, S. 1638. We were told in February that the estimated cost of this expansion would be \$125 million. Since then we have received a significantly revised estimate from the CBO greatly diminishing the estimated costs. I do not know whether CBO was wrong in February or is wrong now, but I commend Senator ASHCROFT and all the sponsors of this measure for their willingness to make this investment and authorize these payments.

I have said that rather than move the eligibility dates back approximately between 14 and 19 years, we should consider removing them altogether. I do not want some to be penalized by the arbitrary selection of the eligibility date. In this regard I have urged an amendment to take the eligibility dates back to at least January 1978, in order to cover at least one, and possibly more, Vermont families who suffered the loss of a family member who was a public safety officer earlier that year. The family of Arnold Magoon, a Vermont game warden, should not be penalized again because he died on April 27 and not after May 1 or October 1 of 1978.

I said in February when the committee considered this measure that I

would be working to speed its passage and to help it achieve its goal of making these assistance payments as comprehensive as possible. As soon as the majority got around to suggesting consideration of this matter on Wednesday, May 10, I cleared it for consideration so that we could proceed.

In addition, I look forward to enacting additional measures that protect and assist State and local law enforcement. In particular, I was extremely disappointed last year when an anonymous Republican objection prevented S. 521, my bill to improve the Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act, from passing. This bill would allow the Attorney General to waive or reduce the matching fund requirement for assisting poor and rural law enforcement units to provide this life-saving equipment to officers and prevent injury and death. I cannot understand why anyone would want to oppose that effort.

This year, in addition, I have joined again with Senator CAMPBELL to introduce S. 2413 to improve our Bulletproof Vest Grant Partnership Act by reauthorizing the program for another 3 years, raising the annual appropriation to \$50 million and guaranteeing to jurisdictions with populations less than 100,000 a fair share of these resources. Senator HATCH has joined us as a cosponsor of our measure.

I hope that the Judiciary Committee and the Senate will act on these measures without additional delay, as well.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 3147) was agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without any intervening action, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1638), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1638

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

**SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY DATES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1216(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796d-5(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "May 1, 1992", and inserting "January 1, 1978,"; and

(2) by striking "October 1, 1997," and inserting "January 1, 1978,".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect October 1, 1999.

## APPOINTMENTS

### FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER FOUNDATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 100-702, appoints John B. White, Jr. of South Carolina, to the board of the Federal Judicial Center Foundation, vice Richard M. Rosenbaum of New York.

### OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Public Law 104-1, announces the joint appointment of Susan S. Robfogel, of New York, as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance.

## ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2000

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, May 16. I further ask consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, 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 the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska or his designee, 45 minutes; Senator KENNEDY of Massachusetts, 35 minutes; and Senator DORGAN of North Dakota, 10 minutes.

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

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I further ask consent that the Senate stand in recess from the hours of 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

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

## PROGRAM

Mr. BURNS. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will be in a period of morning business from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. tomorrow. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the military construction appropriations bill. Any amendments prior to 2:15 p.m. must be cleared by both bill managers. However, those Senators who have general statements on the bill are encouraged to come to the floor during tomorrow morning's session. Votes are possible throughout tomorrow's session, and Senators will be notified as those votes are scheduled.

## ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous