

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

The bill (H.R. 4542) was read a third time and passed.

HONORING THOSE LOST ABOARD THE U.S.S. "THRESHER" ON APRIL 10, 1963

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 318, submitted earlier by Senator SNOWE, for herself and others.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 318) honoring the 129 sailors and civilians lost aboard the USS THRESHER on April 10, 1963, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. 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, any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 318) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 318

Whereas this is the 100th year of service to the people of the United States by the United States Navy submarine force, the "Silent Service";

Whereas this is the 200th year of service to the Nation of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard;

Whereas Portsmouth Naval Shipyard launched the first Navy built submarine, the L-8, on April 23, 1917;

Whereas 52 years and 133 submarines later, on November 11, 1969, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard launched the last submarine built by the Navy, the U.S.S. Sand Lance;

Whereas the U.S.S. Thresher was launched at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on July 9, 1960;

Whereas the U.S.S. Thresher departed Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on April 9, 1963, with a crew of 129 composed of 16 officers, 96 sailors, and 17 civilians;

Whereas the mix of that crew reflects the unity of the naval submarine service, military and civilian, in the protection of the Nation;

Whereas at approximately 7:45 a.m. on April 10, 1963, at a location near 41.46 degrees North latitude and 65.03 degrees West longitude, the U.S.S. Thresher began her final mission;

Whereas the U.S.S. Thresher was declared lost with all hands on April 10, 1963;

Whereas from the loss of that submarine, there arose the SUBSAFE program which has kept America's submariners safe at sea ever since as the strongest, safest submarine force in history;

Whereas from the loss of the U.S.S. Thresher, there arose in our Nation's universities the ocean engineering curricula that enables America's preeminence in submarine warfare; and

Whereas the "last full measure of devotion" shown by the crew of the U.S.S.

Thresher characterizes the sacrifice of all submariners, past and present, military and civilian, in the service of this Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers with profound sorrow the loss of the U.S.S. Thresher and her gallant crew of sailors and civilians on April 10, 1963;

(2) expresses its deepest gratitude to all submariners on "eternal patrol", forever bound together by their dedicated and honorable service to the United States of America;

(3) recognizes with appreciation and respect the commitment and sacrifices made by the Naval Submarine Service for the past 100 years in providing for the common defense of the United States; and

(4) offers its admiration and gratitude for the workers of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard whose 200 years of dedicated service to the United States Navy has contributed directly to the greatness and freedom of the United States.

SEC. 2. TRANSMISSION OF RESOLUTION.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit this resolution to the Chief of Naval Operations and to the Commanding Officer of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard who shall accept this resolution on behalf of the families and shipmates of the crew of the U.S.S. Thresher.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2625, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2625) to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise the performance standards and certification process for organ procurement organizations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2625) was read a third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2625

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

SECTION 1. ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION ACT OF 2000.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Organ procurement organizations play an important role in the effort to increase organ donation in the United States.

(2) The current process for the certification and recertification of organ procurement organizations conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services has created a level of uncertainty that is interfering with the effectiveness of organ procurement organizations in raising the level of organ donation.

(3) The General Accounting Office, the Institute of Medicine, and the Harvard School

of Public Health have identified substantial limitations in the organ procurement organization certification and recertification process and have recommended changes in that process.

(4) The limitations in the recertification process include:

(A) An exclusive reliance on population-based measures of performance that do not account for the potential in the population for organ donation and do not permit consideration of other outcome and process standards that would more accurately reflect the relative capability and performance of each organ procurement organization.

(B) A lack of due process to appeal to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for recertification on either substantive or procedural grounds.

(5) The Secretary of Health and Human Services has the authority under section 1138(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-8(b)(1)(A)(i)) to extend the period for recertification of an organ procurement organization from 2 to 4 years on the basis of its past practices in order to avoid the inappropriate disruption of the nation's organ system.

(6) The Secretary of Health and Human Services can use the extended period described in paragraph (5) for recertification of all organ procurement organizations to—

(A) develop improved performance measures that would reflect organ donor potential and interim outcomes, and to test these measures to ensure that they accurately measure performance differences among the organ procurement organizations; and

(B) improve the overall certification process by incorporating process as well as outcome performance measures, and developing equitable processes for appeals.

(b) CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION OF ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 371(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 273(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (G) as subparagraphs (E) through (H), respectively;

(2) by realigning the margin of subparagraph (F) (as so redesignated) so as to align with subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

"(D) notwithstanding any other provision of law, has met the other requirements of this section and has been certified or recertified by the Secretary within the previous 4-year period as meeting the performance standards to be a qualified organ procurement organization through a process that either—

"(i) granted certification or recertification within such 4-year period with such certification or recertification in effect as of January 1, 2000, and remaining in effect through the earlier of—

"(I) January 1, 2002; or

"(II) the completion of recertification under the requirements of clause (ii); or

"(ii) is defined through regulations that are promulgated by the Secretary by not later than January 1, 2002, that—

"(I) require recertifications of qualified organ procurement organizations not more frequently than once every 4 years;

"(II) rely on outcome and process performance measures that are based on empirical evidence, obtained through reasonable efforts, of organ donor potential and other related factors in each service area of qualified organ procurement organizations;

"(III) use multiple outcome measures as part of the certification process; and

“(IV) provide for a qualified organ procurement organization to appeal a decertification to the Secretary on substantive and procedural grounds;”.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 8,
2000

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 8. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate then resume consideration of S. 2549, the Department of

Defense authorization bill, under the previous order.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that Senator SMITH of New Hampshire be recognized for up to 30 minutes of general debate on S. 2549 during tomorrow's session.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, on behalf of the leader, I announce that the Senate will convene at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow and resume debate on the Defense authorization bill. Under the order, at 1 p.m. there will be 2 hours of debate on the McCain-Fein-

gold amendment regarding soft money disclosure. Following that debate, at 3 p.m. the Senate will begin consideration of the Kennedy HMO amendment for up to 2 hours. Votes on the McCain and Kennedy amendments will be stacked to occur at 5 p.m. Further amendments may be offered prior to the votes, and therefore votes may occur prior to the 5 p.m. votes.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:05 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 8, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.