

reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 1714) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1714

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

SECTION 1. INSTALLATION OF PLAQUE TO HONOR DR. JAMES HARVEY EARLY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Postmaster General shall install a plaque to honor Dr. James Harvey Early in the Williamsburg, Kentucky Post Office Building located at 1000 North Highway 23 West, Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAQUE.—The plaque installed under subsection (a) shall contain the following text:

“Dr. James Harvey Early was born on June 14, 1808 in Knox County, Kentucky. He was appointed postmaster of the first United States Post Office that was opened in the town of Whitley Courthouse, now Williamsburg, Kentucky in 1829. In 1844 he served in the Kentucky Legislature. Dr. Early married twice, first to Frances Ann Hammond, died 1860; and then to Rebecca Cummins Sammons, died 1914. Dr. Early died at home in Rockhold, Kentucky on May 24, 1885 at the age of 77.”

HERB HARRIS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1761, and that 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 (H.R. 1761) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8588 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, Virginia, as the “Herb Harris Post Office Building.”

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to consider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1761) was read the third time and passed.

HOMELESS VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 201, H.R. 2716.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2716) to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise, improve, and consolidate provisions of law providing benefits and services for homeless veterans.

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

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, I urge prompt Senate passage of H.R. 2716, the “Comprehensive Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001,” a bill that enhances VA’s efforts to combat homelessness among our Nation’s veterans. This bill represents a compromise between S. 739, as passed by the Senate on November 15, 2001; and H.R. 2716, which passed the House on October 16, 2001.

This bill sets a rather lofty—but, in my view, attainable—goal of ending chronic homelessness among veterans within a decade. Unless we aim high, we will never end the problem. The bill also encourages interagency cooperation to facilitate meeting that goal. With the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services administering most programs targeting homelessness, it seeks to revive the Interagency Council on the Homeless, of which all three agencies are members.

I will highlight some of the other key provisions in this important piece of legislation.

Proposed new section 2062 of title 38, United States Code, is intended to authorize VA to provide essential dental care services to those homeless veterans who demonstrate a commitment to rehabilitation and reintegration into society. In the course of developing this provision, the Committee members agreed that there is a unique and urgent need for basic dental care within the homeless population.

Consequently, the bill provides a one-time course of dental care to those homeless veterans who enroll and remain in a specified VA, grant or contract assistance, or specialized health program for 60 consecutive days. The treatment is limited to a “one-time” course of care that would allow VA to carry out a treatment plan as medically indicated by the veteran’s needs. The Committee members also recognized there may be a break in treatment services that could occur through no fault of the veteran. In those cases, the compromise agreement makes allowance for the Secretary to aggregate days of treatment, by disregarding these breaks in continuous treatment.

Section 8(a) of the compromise agreement contains a provision requiring that every VA facility develop a plan to treat patients who present themselves at the facility and are in need of mental health care. This can include referral to another facility that has the mental health treatment capability if the original facility does not. A similar provision was included in section 8(c) with regard to the availability of substance abuse treatment at every VA medical center. It requires VA to have

a plan ready to implement should a veteran walk into a VA medical center and require such treatment. Opioid substitution therapy is specifically mentioned in this section because it has proven to be very successful for the treatment of heroin addiction.

In closing, I acknowledge the tireless efforts of the original namesake of the bill, Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000. She dedicated her tenure to raising the Nation’s awareness of the plight of homeless veterans, traveling some 20,000 miles a month to visit with veterans in recovery programs and offer encouragement.

Mrs. Henry’s father and uncle provided the inspiration for her to commit herself to the issue, as they both had suffered and recovered from substance abuse and ultimately homelessness following their military service. The work that Heather French Henry has done on behalf of homeless veterans did not stop at the end of her reign, but has continued on. This bill is a testament to her profound dedication.

I also thank my good friend and colleague Senator WELLSTONE for his strong dedication to this issue. His unwavering commitment to homeless veterans was exemplified by his introduction of the Senate version of the bill and his tenacious efforts to get it passed. I applaud his efforts on behalf of this forgotten segment of the veterans population.

Finally, Mr. President, I recognize the hard work of Alexandra Sardagna of the Democratic staff of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; Bill Cahill of the Republican staff of the Committee; and John Bradley and Susan Edgerton of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee in developing this legislation and seeing it through the legislative process.

I ask unanimous consent that a summary of provisions be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the materials were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUMMARY OF H.R. 2716 (AS AMENDED): THE “COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001”

The Compromise Agreement incorporates provisions from S. 739, passed by the Senate on November 15, 2001; with provisions of H.R. 2716, passed by the House on October 16, 2001. It seeks to enhance and provide additional support for VA programs that combat homelessness among veterans.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

The following is a summary of key provisions in the Compromise Agreement, H.R. 2716:

Programmatic Expansions: Authorizes VA to spend up to \$60 million per year on the transitional housing Grant and Per Diem program. Requires VA to establish at least twenty new comprehensive service centers for homeless veterans in those metropolitan areas found to have the greatest need. Extends the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill and Comprehensive Homeless Programs until December 31, 2006.

Mental Health Treatment Capability: Requires VA to develop and carry out a comprehensive plan to treat those patients, either on-site or through referral to another

facility, who present themselves at VA facilities and are in need of mental health services.

Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans: Establishes a Committee that will examine and report to the Secretary on various services provided to homeless veterans.

Interagency Council on the Homeless: Requires annual meetings of the Interagency Council on the Homeless, as the Council has yet to get underway.

Dental Care: Provides a one-time course of dental care to homeless veterans who complete 60 consecutive days of a rehabilitative program. Makes an exception for those veterans who have a break in services through no fault of their own.

Evaluation of Homeless Programs: Encourages the continued support of at least one evaluation center to monitor the effectiveness of VA's various homeless programs. Requires VA to report on both the benefits and health care aspects of combating homelessness.

Life Safety Code: Requires that real property of grantees under VA's homeless Grant and Per Diem program meet fire and safety requirements applicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.

Technical Assistance Grants: Authorizes the Secretary to conduct a technical assistance grants program to assist nonprofit groups in applying for grants relating to addressing problems of homeless veterans. Provides \$750,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006 for these purposes.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program: Extends the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and authorizes \$50 million a year for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand that Senators ROCKEFELLER and SPECTER have a substitute amendment at the desk. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the act, as amended, be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 2308) was agreed to.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

The bill (H.R. 2716), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

nal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate begin consideration of the District of Columbia Appropriations conference report.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Madam President, I appreciate the patience of the Presiding Officer.

If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:46 p.m., adjourned until Friday, December 7, 2001, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 6, 2001:

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

MARK W. OLSON, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1996.

SUSAN SCHMIDT BIES, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 1998.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

THE JUDICIARY

HARRIS L. HARTZ, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT.

DANNY C. REEVES, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY.

JOE L. HEATON, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2001

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m., Friday, December 7; that immediately following the prayer and pledge, the Jour-