

Just prior to his current assignment, Major General Larson was the Assistant Deputy Chief of VA Staff for Logistics and Operations, U.S. Army Materiel Command in Alexandria, VA. As such he was activated in November 1996 to be Commander, Logistics Support element—Africa, HQ, Army Materiel Command, in support of Operation guardian Assistance, a humanitarian relief effort for refugees from Rwanda, Zaire, and Uganda.

Major General Larson is a native of Salt Lake City, UT and a graduate of Highland High School. He received his Bachelors Degree in Business Management from Weber State College and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Utah. In his civilian life, Major General Larson is owner and President of Wind River Petroleum. He also serves as Chief Executive Officer of Christensen and Larson Investment Company, President of Wind River Trucking, and is currently serving on the Salt Lake International Airport board of directors. He is married to the former Toni Eskelson of Salt Lake City—also a Highland High School graduate. They have five daughters, two sons, and eight grandchildren.

General Larson is leaving command and the uniform on Saturday, the 24th of March 2001. His uniformed service to the Nation will be greatly missed. However, he will continue to serve his community and family as a business and civic leader and as a father and grandfather. As a nation we should take this opportunity to recognize and honor Major General J. Craig Larson, a true American.●

HONORING MARY HICKEY

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly commend the work of Ms. Mary Hickey of Aberdeen, SD, for her over twenty years of outstanding service on behalf of the taxpayers of South Dakota. As an employee of the Internal Revenue Service, Mary has been the absolute model of a public servant and an invaluable asset to my office during the last several years. It is with regret that I announce that she will be leaving South Dakota and moving to Nebraska, where I'm sure she will continue her exemplary service.

Mary began her career with the IRS in 1980 as a Contact Service Representative in Rapid City, SD. She became a Tax Auditor in 1986, and in 1996 she was promoted to Problem Resolution Officer in Aberdeen. During her many years of service to the citizens of South Dakota, she has provided outstanding assistance, helping to make sense of what can often be a complicated federal bureaucracy. On more than one occasion, I've heard my staff raving about the amount of time, commitment, and cooperation Mary put forth to serve and represent the taxpayers of South Dakota.

Mary's accomplishments are numerous. During the last few years, Mary developed new and innovative tech-

niques to aid in the restructuring of the Taxpayer Advocate Service, a project of the IRS' Problem Resolution Office. For all of her outstanding work, Mary has received numerous, well-deserved IRS awards and accolades. Mary also excels in her community, and is active with the United Way of Northeastern South Dakota, having served as the Board Secretary for the past four years. As Board Secretary, Mary participates in oversight of the organization and has helped to raise over \$600,000 annually to support 19 local charities.

It is an honor for me to share Mary's accomplishments with my colleagues and to publicly commend her for serving South Dakota so excellently. Alas, South Dakota's loss is Nebraska's gain and I'm sure she will provide that state with the same outstanding performance she has demonstrated here.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry withdrawals and nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations and withdrawals received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 560. A bill for the relief of Rita Mirembé Revell (a.k.a. Margaret Rita Mirembé); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 561. A bill to provide that the same health insurance premium conversion arrangements afforded to Federal employees be made available to Federal annuitants and members and retired members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 562. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the record of admission for permanent residence in the case of certain aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. GREGG):

S. 563. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to require Social Security Administration publications to highlight critical information relating to the future financing shortfalls of the social security program, to

require the Commissioner of Social Security to provide Congress with an annual report on the social security program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 564. A bill to amend section 1713 of title 38, United States Code, to provide continuing eligibility for medical care under that section for individuals who become eligible for hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act by turning 65; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 565. A bill to establish the Commission on Voting Rights and Procedures to study and make recommendations regarding election technology, voting, and election administration, to establish a grant program under which the Office of Justice Programs and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice shall provide assistance to States and localities in improving election technology and the administration of Federal elections, to require States to meet uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration requirements for the 2004 Federal elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. HOLLINGS:

S. 566. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 10 percent individual income tax rate for taxable years beginning in 2001 and a payroll tax credit for those taxpayers who have no income tax liability in 2001; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

S. 567. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide capital gain treatment under section 631(b) of such Code for outright sales of timber by landowners; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. Con. Res. 26. A concurrent resolution authorizing the Rotunda of the Capitol to be used on July 18, 2001, for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 22, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide meaningful campaign finance reform through requiring better reporting, decreasing the role of soft money, and increasing individual contribution limits, and for other purposes.

S. 152

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 152, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 60-month limit and increase the income limitation on the student loan interest deduction.

S. 155

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 155, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate an inequity in the applicability of early retirement eligibility requirements to military reserve technicians.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, *supra*.

S. 250

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 250, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit to holders of qualified bonds issued by Amtrak, and for other purposes.

S. 255

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 255, a bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.

S. 258

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 258, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the medicare program of annual screening pap smear and screening pelvic exams.

S. 278

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 278, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services.

S. 283

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 283, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

S. 284

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr.

REID) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 284, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to expand health care coverage for individuals.

S. 289

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives for education.

S. 319

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure that air carriers meet their obligations under the Airline Customer Service Agreement, and provide improved passenger service in order to meet public convenience and necessity.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide eligibility for members enlisting in a regular component of the Armed Forces to enroll for advanced training in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Program; to increase the maximum age authorized for participation in the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps financial assistance program; and for other purposes.

S. 366

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to increase the amount of funds available for certain agricultural trade programs.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 413

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) were added as cosponsors of S. 413, a bill to amend part F of title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and refocus civic education, and for other purposes.

S. 433

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 433, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove the limitation that certain survivor benefits can only be excluded with respect to individuals dying after December 31, 1996.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on vaccines to 25 cents per dose.

S. 484

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to create a grant program to promote joint activities among Federal, State, and local public child welfare and alcohol and drug abuse prevention and treatment agencies.

S. 525

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 525, a bill to expand trade benefits to certain Andean countries, and for other purposes.

S. 534

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, a bill to establish a Federal interagency task force for the purpose of coordinating actions to prevent the outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (commonly known as "mad cow disease") and foot-and-mouth disease in the United States.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 543, a bill to provide for equal coverage of mental health benefits with respect to health insurance coverage unless comparable limitations are imposed on medical and surgical benefits.

S. CON. RES. 8

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 8, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding subsidized Canadian lumber exports.

S. CON. RES. 14

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 14, a concurrent resolution recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of it.

S. CON. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 17, 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.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr.

REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 4, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 44

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX), and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 44, a resolution designating each of March 2001, and March 2002, as "Arts Education Month."

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 560. A bill for the relief of Rita Mirembe Revell (a.k.a. Margaret Rita Mirembe); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a private relief bill for Rita Mirembe Revell. Rita is a 15-year-old child from Uganda who was brought to this country in 1994. When Rita was 18 months old she was left with the Daughters of Charity Society, a Catholic organization in Kampala, Uganda. Rita was an orphan, abandoned with no known family.

Rita has resided in the United States under a student visa since 1994. As an orphan the only parents she has ever known are her American guardians, who have sponsored Rita since she was three years old. They want very much to adopt Rita, but they have been unable to get around the mess of international red tape. The Ugandan Government has very strict policies concerning adoption by foreign nationals. Now as Rita approaches her 16th birthday she is in danger of being deported. Rita has formed an intimate bond with her American parents, who hope to complete the adoption as soon as possible. Papers for adoption have already been filed, while there are bureaucratic difficulties, the adoption is not contested by any party.

Understandably, the family is concerned that Rita will be deported before her adoption is finalized. This bill simply gives Rita permanent residency so that she might remain with the only parents she has ever known while her adoption becomes final. Other immigration scenarios would require Rita to return to an unsafe country for an unknown period of time. She has no known family in Uganda. Her new life is in California where she was recently admitted to Loretto High School, an outstanding college preparatory high school.

This bill gives Rita permanent resident status, which will allow her to remain in the country while the adoption process continues. It allows Rita to stay with her American parents in the

country that she now calls home. The bill also offers the comfort of certainty for her parents.

I hope that we can move quickly to grant this relief.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 561. A bill to provide that the same health insurance premium conversion arrangements afforded to Federal employees be made available to Federal annuitants and members and retired members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to extend to Federal retirees and both active and retired military personnel the same health insurance premium conversion benefits allowed to current civilian Federal employees. This legislation directs the Office of Personnel Management to establish a system allowing those who participate in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, FEHBP, to pay their health insurance premiums from pre-tax income.

The practice of allowing health care participants to use pre-tax income to pay their health insurance premiums is often used in the private sector as a way of recognizing the importance of adequate, affordable health insurance. This system is called premium conversion. Last year, the Office of Personnel Management recognized this concept by establishing a plan to allow most employees of the executive, legislative and judicial branches to participate in premium conversion.

Many Federal retirees also participate in the FEHBP program and as a matter of fairness should be extended the opportunity to participate in premium conversion. In addition, the military currently has a separate health care system, but it is exploring offering health benefits under FEHBP, and therefore military employees or retirees who do participate in FEHBP should also be allowed premium conversion.

I have heard from Federal retirees in Maine who have pointed out the unfairness of not including retired Federal employees in the premium conversion system. This legislation will address this inequity.

I urge my colleagues to review and support this important legislation.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 562. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the record of admission for permanent residence in the case of certain aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, family reunification is the cornerstone of our immigration policy. It is truly one of the most visible areas in government

policy in which we support and strengthen family values.

Family unification translates into strong families and strong families build strong communities. For that reason I am introducing the Working Families Registry Act.

This bill would allow immigrants who have been working and raising families in the country since and before 1986 to apply for permanent residence.

In my home State of Nevada I have met with people who everyday fear being deported and separated from their families. They are married to Americans, have American children and have worked and been paying taxes for many years. They help and do not harm our industry and our economy.

A change in the date of registry would help these families. This bill would solve the problem of immigrants who have been paying taxes, who have feared being deported and separated from their families.

The Working Families Registry Act would update a provision of immigration law known as "registry."

The registry provision originated in a 1929 law and in 1958 that law became available to foreigners who had entered the country illegally or who had overstayed. This criteria remains today and sets a required date for which continuous residence must be shown in order to qualify for permanent U.S. residency. The date of registry currently sits at 1972, and was last adjusted in 1986. My legislation would update the date of registry from 1972 to 1986. A change in the date of registry is necessary.

First, it would address the uncertainty of taxpaying immigrants who would qualify for residence under this bill. Many of these immigrants live in fear of being separated from their families, having their worker's permits stripped and their residency status revoked.

Secondly, the legislation would help strengthen the immigrant contributions to our national economy, tax base, and social fabric. The guaranteed benefits of residence (e.g., access to basic health care and education) provide for a more productive and effective workforce.

Third, we recognize today, as so many legislators did in the past that immigrants who have remained in the country for an extended period of time are highly unlikely to leave.

Fourth, if an update of the registry is not achieved, the validity of this concept will be meaningless when this issue emerges in the future.

Finally, Americans care about this issue.

A recent poll conducted by the National Immigration Forum found that 55 percent of Americans strongly favor legalizing a limited number of undocumented immigrants. That is, those immigrants who have been raising their families and paying their taxes—and who can prove they have been in the United States for more than 5 years.