

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 3099

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand S. 3099, introduced earlier today by Senator DASCHLE and others, is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask for its first reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3099) providing emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers.

Mr. REID. I ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request on behalf of the minority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 3100

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand S. 3100, introduced earlier today by Senator FEINSTEIN and others, is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask for its first reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3100) to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the misuse of social security numbers, to establish criminal penalties for such misuse, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I now ask for its second reading, and I object to my own request on behalf of the minority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

REFERRAL OF S. 2018

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that Calendar No. 637, S. 2018, a bill to establish the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area, be referred to the Indian Affairs Committee for the sole purpose of the committee reporting the bill with amendments that were agreed upon by the committee, and the bill be returned to the calendar forthwith.

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

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2003—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I submit a report of the committee on the conference on the bill (H.R. 5011), and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R.

5011), making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, signed by all of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 9, 2002.)

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring before the Senate the conference agreement on the fiscal year 2003 military construction appropriations bill.

While the United States is engaged in a war on terrorism, and Congress is debating whether to give the President the authority to attack Iraq, it is timely that we are also acting to provide the military with the resources it needs to carry out its missions. The military construction appropriations bill funds scores of mission critical and quality of life infrastructure projects that are essential to support the efforts of the military.

I am pleased that the Senate has moved quickly to take up this conference agreement. This bill provides nearly \$10.5 billion in new budget authority, an amount only slightly below last year's funding. Given the many additional requirements being imposed on the military, particularly to meet new antiterrorism and force protection standards, additional funding would have been helpful. Still, within the funding constraints imposed on the bill, this measure does an excellent job of meeting the most critical infrastructure needs of the services.

Mr. President, the projects in this bill address military readiness, quality of life, and anti-terrorism/force protection requirements. The conference attempted to address as many of the services' priorities as possible, and I believe we have done a good job in that respect, particularly in light of the fact that the House and Senate bills had very significant differences between them.

The conference agreement provides nearly \$4.9 billion for the active components of the military. It provides \$688 million for the guard and reserve, more than double the President's budget request. Within these amounts is included \$799 million for anti-terrorism/force protection enhancements for military facilities worldwide. This commitment to protect American military bases will help to ensure the security of military personnel and the families, as well as to protect the taxpayers' substantial investment in defense infrastructure.

The Conference Agreement also provides \$1.2 billion for barracks, and \$4.2 billion for military family housing, both of which are top quality of life priorities for military personnel and their families.

There are two other very important items that merit mention. The first is a \$25 million initiative to accelerate the construction associated with the Army's Stryker Brigade combat teams.

The Stryker Brigades will offer the military fast, light-weight, air-mobile combat power—a far advanced system when compared to the restrictions with heavy armor.

An additional \$25 million initiative will accelerate the Air Force's C-17 Air Mobility Program.

The C-17 initiative will provide the infrastructure needed to support and enhance the ability of one of the air force's most dependable aircraft, capable of transporting both troops and equipment. The C-17 program will help address the significant shortfall in Military airlift requirements.

The conference report also includes \$20 million dollars for a BRAC Environmental cleanup initiative.

This initiative assists Military installations that have been closed as part of the base realignment and closure effort. This additional funding, in addition to the budget requested amount, is necessary to enable the military to honor its commitments to the people and the communities that have been affected by these last four rounds of base closure.

This is a start, but much more will be needed to complete the environmental clean up of BRAC sites across the nation in a reasonable period of time. This is certainly something that should be considered before the nation embarks on any future rounds of base closings.

Mr. President, I thank chairman BYRD, Senator STEVENS, and my ranking member on the subcommittee, Senator HUTCHISON, for their support and assistance in bringing this conference agreement to the Senate. I also thank the subcommittee staff, including Christina Evans and BG Wright of the majority staff; Sid Ashworth and Alycia Farrell of the minority staff; and Matt Miller of my staff, for their hard work on this measure.

Given the difficulties that have faced the appropriations process this year, I am pleased and grateful that the military construction bill will be sent to the President prior to the Senate's adjournment. I urge the President to sign this bill without delay.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I am pleased to bring before the Senate the conference agreement on the fiscal year 2003 military construction appropriations bill and endorse those comments made by the Chairman, Senator FEINSTEIN.

I am gratified that the Congress was able to move forward on a military construction bill for fiscal year 2003. This is especially critical when the nation is considering military action to prevent the spread of terrorism and the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. Given the circumstances, this is a particularly timely, and time sensitive, Conference Report, and it is

important that the Senate is moving quickly to pass it so that we can provide our military personnel the housing and facilities they need to perform their duties.

This is a good package that meets the most pressing needs of the military, both in terms of readiness and quality of life issues. It is not, of course, a perfect package. The Conference Report does not include everything that the Senate wanted; nor does it include everything that the House wanted. It does, however, address the priorities of the Department of Defense as well as both Houses of Congress. It is a carefully crafted compromise that is both balanced and bipartisan.

The Chairman highlighted several of the critical items contained in this bill, such as \$1.2 billion for new barracks, \$151 million for military hospitals and medical facilities, \$688 million for new Guard and Reserve facilities, and \$1.34 billion for new family housing for military personnel and their families.

These are important increases that signal a renewed commitment to upgrading and rebuilding the infrastructure that is truly the backbone of our Nation's military. I am proud to support funding for these important programs.

In recent years, we have made real progress in improving family housing for single service members and for families, as well as improving the workplaces for the men and women who serve America both at home and abroad. However, much remains to be done.

It is my hope that in future budgets, we will see sufficient resources to continue the Department of Defense's efforts to modernize, renovate and improve aging defense facilities and infrastructure. The effects of sustained and structural inattention by the Pentagon and the military services to basic infrastructure are apparent on nearly every military installation. This will continue to have long-term implications as facilities continue to age disproportionately without a sustained level of investment in maintenance and repair.

Mr. President, I want to thank Chairman BYRD, Senator STEVENS, and the Chairman of this subcommittee, Senator FEINSTEIN, for their unflagging support and assistance in bringing this conference agreement to the Senate. I also thank the subcommittee staff for their hard work on this measure.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the conference report be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD with no intervening action or debate.

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

The conference report was agreed to.

RECOGNIZING THE EXPLOITS OF THE OFFICERS AND CREW OF THE S.S. HENRY BACON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 411.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 411) recognizing the exploits of the officers and crew of the S.S. *Henry Bacon*, a United States Liberty ship that was sunk on February 23, 1945, in the waning days of World War II.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements regarding this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 411) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to H.R. 3389, Calendar No. 463.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3389) to reauthorize the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Senator KERRY has an amendment at the desk. I ask unanimous consent the amendment be considered and agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, the bill as amended be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 4878) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To reauthorize the National Sea Grant Program, and for other purposes)

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO FINDINGS.

Section 202(a)(6) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1121(a)(6)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting "., including strong collaborations between Administration scientists and scientists at academic institutions.".

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM.

(a) QUADRENNIAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—Section 204 (c)(1) of the National Sea Grant Col-

lege Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(c)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) The Secretary, in consultation with the panel, sea grant colleges, and sea grant institutes, shall develop at least every 4 years a strategic plan that establishes priorities for the national sea grant college program, provides an appropriately balanced response to local, regional, and national needs, and is reflective of integration with the relevant portions of the strategic plans of the Department of Commerce and of the Administration."

(b) PROGRAM EVALUATION AND RATING.—

(1) EVALUATION AND RATING REQUIREMENT.—Section 204(d)(3)(A) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(3)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

"(A)(i) evaluate the performance of the programs of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes, using the priorities, guidelines, and qualifications established by the Secretary under subsection (c), and determine which of the programs are the best managed and carry out the highest quality research, education, extension, and training activities; and

"(ii) rate the programs according to their relative performance (as determined under clause (i)) into no less than 5 categories, with each of the 2 best-performing categories containing no more than 25 percent of the programs;".

(2) REVIEW OF EVALUATION AND RATING PROCESS.—(A) After 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, shall contract with the National Academy of Sciences—

(i) to review the effectiveness of the evaluation and rating system under the amendment made by paragraph (1) in determining the relative performance of programs of sea grant colleges and sea grant institutes;

(ii) to evaluate whether the sea grant programs have improved as a result of the evaluation process; and

(iii) to make appropriate recommendations to improve the overall effectiveness of the evaluation process.

(B) The National Academy of Sciences shall submit a report to the Congress on the findings and recommendations of the panel under subparagraph (A) by not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDING.—Section 204(d)(3)(B) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1123(d)(3)(B)) is amended by striking "and" after the semicolon at the end of clause (ii) and by adding at the end the following:

"(iv) encourage and promote coordination and cooperation between the research, education, and outreach programs of the Administration and those of academic institutions; and".

SEC. 4. COST SHARE.

Section 205(a) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1124(a)) is amended by striking "section 204(d)(6)" and inserting "section 204(c)(4)(F)".

SEC. 5. FELLOWSHIPS.

(a) ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS.—Section 208(a) of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1127(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "The Secretary shall strive to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to the program carried out under this subsection. Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the National Sea Grant College Program Act Amendments of 2002, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress describing the efforts by the Secretary to ensure equal access for minority and economically disadvantaged students to the program