

of Defense, such as Project 112 and the Shipboard Hazard and Defense Project (Project SHAD), that included testing of biological or chemical agents involving potential exposure of members of the Armed Forces to toxic agents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 2705. A bill for the relief of Robert Bancroft of Hayden Lake, Idaho, to permit the payment of backpay for overtime incurred in missions flown with the Drug Enforcement Agency; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CLELAND:

S. 2706. A bill to improve economic opportunity and development in communities that are dependent on tobacco production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2707. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide comprehensive pension protection for women; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BYRD:

S. 2708. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. Res. 296. A resolution recognizing the accomplishment of Ignacy Jan Paderewski as a musician, composer, statesman, and philanthropist and recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the return of his remains to Poland; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire:

S. Res. 297. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that pet owners should regularly visit their veterinarians for their pets to receive check-ups, and for advice on issues like flea and tick control, especially during the spring and summer months; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. Res. 298. A resolution honoring the Louisiana State University Tigers Men's Outdoor Track and Field Team; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. Con. Res. 127. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Parthenon Marbles should be returned to Greece; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 414

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization

Act to establish a digital network technology program, and for other purposes.

S. 885

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 885, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for national standardized payment amounts for inpatient hospital services furnished under the medicare program.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a Korea Defense Service Medal to be issued to members of the Armed Forces who participated in operations in Korea after the end of the Korean War.

S. 1002

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to the treatment of forestry activities.

S. 1339

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1339, a bill to amend the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000 to provide an asylum program with regard to American Persian Gulf War POW/MIAs, and for other purposes.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to amend the title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment to medicare ambulance suppliers of the full costs of providing such services, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2067, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance the access of medicare beneficiaries who live in medically underserved areas to critical primary and preventive health care benefits, to improve the Medicare+Choice program, and for other purposes.

S. 2078

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 2078, a bill to amend section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate notification and return requirements for State and local political committees and candidate committees and avoid duplicate reporting by certain State and local political committees of information required to be reported and made publicly available under State law, and for other purposes.

S. 2218

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2218, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for kidney disease education services under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2480

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2480, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from state laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 2544

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2544, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants for remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern, to authorize assistance for research and development of innovative technologies for such remediation, and for other purposes.

S. 2554

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2554, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a program for Federal flight deck officers, and for other purposes.

S. 2558

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2558, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the collection of data on benign brain-related tumors through the national program of cancer registries.

S. 2562

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2562, a bill to expand research regarding inflammatory bowel disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2622

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2622, a bill to authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Joseph A. De Laine in recognition of his contributions to the Nation.

S. 2697

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to implement the final rule to phase out snowmobile use in Yellowstone National Park, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway, and Grand Teton National Park, and snowplane use in Grand Teton National Park.

S. RES. 264

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 264, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that small business participation is vital to the defense of our Nation, and that Federal, State, and local governments should aggressively seek out and purchase innovative technologies and services from American small businesses to help in homeland defense and the fight against terrorism.

AMENDMENT NO. 3928

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3928 proposed to S. 2514, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS OF INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. LINCOLN:

S. 2700. A bill to amend titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act to limit the amount of attorney assessments for representation of claimants and to extend the attorney fee payment system to claims under title XVI of that Act; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Social Security Attorney Fee Payment System Improvement Act of 2002. This bill will help ensure that all Social Security claimants have equal access to representation.

Unfortunately, the Social Security Administration's disability determination system has become far too complex for most claimants and their families to successfully navigate on their own. Claimants are confronted by a confusing, time-consuming and multi-level process, which, more often than not, results in a denial of their claim. Appealing a disability claim is a daunting task for anyone without the necessary legal experience, but for individuals who are in poor health or disabled, the procedural hurdles that must be cleared in order to obtain dis-

ability benefits can seem insurmountable. As a result, many of the hard working men and women applying for Social Security Disability Insurance, SSDI, benefits or Supplemental Security Insurance, SSI, benefits choose to retain an attorney to help them with their appeal. The bill I am introducing today will help both SSDI and SSI claimants get the benefits to which they are entitled by extending the attorney fee direct payment system to both programs, a change that is long overdue and that enjoys the support of both claimants' representatives and disability advocates.

Additionally, this bill corrects a serious and unintended consequence of the Ticket to Work Act of the 106th Congress. Although this plainly was a landmark piece of legislation, the disproportionately onerous nature of the attorney fee assessment provisions contained therein have caused a dramatic decline in the number of legal professionals who can afford to represent individuals seeking Social Security disability benefits. As a result of such a decrease in the number of attorneys skilled in this area of the law, the most vulnerable claimants, those with serious physical or mental impairments, those with financial challenges, and those who do not or cannot understand the disability claims process, are often left to find their own way through SSA's labyrinthine bureaucracy. This bill seeks to reverse this disturbing trend and to encourage attorneys to continue providing this extremely important service by enacting rational and equitable modifications to the fee assessment system.

I want to say that my long-term goal is to reform the Social Security disability claims process so that it is not so difficult and frustrating for claimants. However, I recognize that this will not happen overnight and, in the near term, it is essential that we enable citizens to cope with this onerous process.

I hope my colleagues will join me in ensuring that the hard working men and women of America obtain adequate legal representation as they pursue their Social Security disability claims. As my colleagues know, individuals with disabilities rely on Social Security disability and/or Supplemental Security Income benefits for life-sustaining income. We must do all we can to support their efforts to obtain benefits they need and deserve. This bill does just that.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2707. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide comprehensive pension protection for women; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it's a pleasure to join Senator SNOWE in introducing the Women's Pension Protection Act of 2002. In this new millen-

nium, women still work in a world of "less" and "fewer." Less pay and fewer benefits, especially retirement benefits. Less job security and fewer opportunities for advancement. Less respect for their work and fewer rewards for their contributions.

A major challenge of our time is to protect women's retirement security. The legislation we introduce today meets this important goal by giving women greater say in the management of 401(k) funds, giving widows more generous survivor benefits, and granting divorced spouses expanded opportunities to receive a share of their former spouses' pension after a divorce.

The challenge of retirement security is overwhelmingly a women's issue. The Older Women's League's annual Mother's Day Report concludes that women's pension problems are rooted in the realities that shape their lives: the reality of the wage gap, the reality of caregiving responsibilities, and the reality of jobs that offer few benefits, especially pensions.

Almost 40 years after the Equal Pay Act was passed, women still earn only 73 percent of what men earn. You can't save what you don't earn. And the impact of the wage gap extends far beyond the years that women participate in the workforce. Over a lifetime, the wage gap adds up to an average of \$250,000 less in earnings for a woman to invest in her retirement. The result is that one in four older women are living in poverty.

Women represent less than half of the paid workforce, but comprise almost two-thirds of those working in minimum wage jobs. This should not come as a surprise to anyone, but women are 96 percent of all childcare workers, 97 percent of receptionists, and 90 percent of secretaries. Because so many of these jobs are non-union, part-time, and low wage, women are much less likely to be covered by a pension plan than men.

At the same time, women are much more likely to spend time out of the workforce to tend to family caregiving responsibilities. In fact, the average woman now spends 12 years out of the workforce over her work life. That is time that she is not earning a pension, vesting in a pension or contributing to Social Security. This absence from the paid workforce translates into inadequate retirement income and an increased financial dependency on their spouses at retirement. A woman who drops out of the labor market for as few as five years, can end up with as much as 30 percent less in her defined contribution plan.

Although the pension laws are gender neutral, pension policy unintentionally discriminates against women. Women continue to be less likely to be covered by a pension plan and less likely to receive pension benefits. And even when women earn pensions, their benefits tend to be only a fraction of what men receive because of pension formulas that penalize them for moving in and