

and defend lives and property of our citizens. With courage, compassion and devotion to duty they epitomize the phrase "public servant." Indeed, I am honored to humbly recognize this noble profession and this outstanding individual, Chief James Bennett, on the occasion of his retirement.

I ask that you join me in paying tribute to Chief Bennett on this milestone and ask that you also recognize his devoted wife Kaiji who this June retired from her own career as an elementary school secretary after many years of loyal service. As a grateful community we recognize the immense contributions made by people like James and Kaija Bennett to the cherished quality of life in this great Nation. Please join me and the Bennett's wonderful daughters, Kerrie and Stacie, their many friends and colleagues in this much deserved retirement celebration.●

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 nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MEASURES REFERRED—on September 11, 2003

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

H.R. 911. An act to authorize the establishment of a memorial to victims who died as a result of terrorist acts against the United States or its people, at home or abroad; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1538. An act to posthumously award congressional gold medals to government workers and others who responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and perished and to people aboard United Airlines Flight 93 who helped resist the hijackers and caused the plane to crash, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Spirit of America, recognizing the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2433. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide veterans who participated in certain Department of Defense chemical and biological warfare testing with health care for their illness without requirement for proof of service-connection; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2595. An act to restore the operation of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program during fiscal year 2003 to the scope of that program as in effect on September 30, 2002; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2622. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act, to prevent identity theft, improve resolution of consumer disputes, improve the accuracy of consumer records, make improvements in the use of, and consumer access to, credit information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following concurrent resolution was ordered held at the desk by unanimous consent:

S. Con. Res. 68. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Johnny Cash.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-258. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to antiterrorism funding; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-259. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey relative to increasing the minimum allotment for the Food Stamp Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

POM-260. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to stronger protections for Lake St. Clair, the Heart of the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

POM-261. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to the Protect Children from E-Mail Smut Act of 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-262. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire relative to the Telemarketing Sales Rule and the Know Your Caller Act of 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-263. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to reopening La Linda Bridge as a border crossing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-264. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the history of a slave quarters located on the site of the planned Liberty Bell Pavilion; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-265. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to legislation that would ban bear baiting on Federal lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-266. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to nuclear power; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-267. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to Pennsylvania's veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

POM-268. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the Second Regiment United States Sharpshooters, Company C, during the Civil War; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-258. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to antiterrorism funding; to the Committee on Appropriations.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, The heinous terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, have deeply impacted the fabric of American life, provided a wakeup call to every American's awareness of the nation's vulnerability to terrorists attacks, and changed Americans' lives forever; and

Whereas, Californians are gravely concerned about the continued threat of violence and their own personal safety; and

Whereas, The takeover of airplane flights by unconscionable terrorists has increased the need for security by state and local governments at all airports and public facilities, including water systems, hospitals, bridges, and dams; and

Whereas, Recent horrific incidents of sending anthrax through the mail, other threats of bioterrorism, and hoaxes have increased demands upon public services, including public health departments and laboratories, public safety and fire protection agencies, hospitals, and emergency rooms, and state and local emergency response agencies; and

Whereas, City and county governments have experienced an increased awareness and demand from the general public for more public services in the area of public health and safety; and

Whereas, Cities and counties have appropriated millions of dollars for increased response and preparedness for potential terrorist threats and anticipate the need for additional funds to continue these efforts; and

Whereas, In this period of economic uncertainty and unprecedented need for enhanced local public safety and health services, cities and counties cannot afford these increased costs of security without additional funding; and

Whereas, There may be continued terrorism activities in California. For example, in San Diego County investigations revealed that some of the hijackers of September 11, 2001, were training in San Diego training facilities in preparation for the attacks; and

Whereas, Public safety officials require specialized training at all levels and local governments have seen an increased demand for additional personnel to effectively protect and serve citizens in the event of a major local incident; and

Whereas, Hazardous material teams lack the specialized equipment and protective gear to deal with bioterrorism and new public health threats; and

Whereas, Due to the continued bioterrorism threats and hoaxes, public health departments need additional staff to increase their surveillance activities for the identification of biological and chemical threats at the earliest possible stage; and

Whereas, Local health departments are the early warning system in the defense against bioterrorism; local health departments rely on strong linkages with other county agencies including emergency medical services, hospitals, county outpatient services, laboratories, mental health departments, and environmental health agencies in preparing for and responding to disasters; and

Whereas, The budgets of many public health departments have been neglected for several years, and in order to assure an adequate response, if necessary, to any potential bioterrorism threat, public health infrastructure needs significant investment of state and federal resources. For example, Orange County has identified the need for \$2.1 million for public health infrastructure and training in order for their public health system to respond to a public health crisis; and

Whereas, Local governments have already encountered budget overruns of 13 percent in public safety, with the City of Los Angeles alone incurring security costs in excess of \$11 million in the first two and one-half months following September 11, 2001; and

Whereas, Santa Clara County alone has already appropriated \$5 million for additional public safety services since September 11, 2001, and expects to spend an additional \$7 million by June 30, 2002; and

Whereas, Cities and counties estimate over \$1 billion in additional one-time and ongoing funding needs and the State of California anticipates expenditures of at least \$500 million in 2002; and

Whereas, Local governments and the state are financially suffering from an economic recession and lack the funds to provide the required additional services and equipment; and

Whereas, Congress has approved a total of \$8.3 billion for homeland defense in the emergency supplemental allocation sent to the President for his signature; and

Whereas, Senator Dianne Feinstein of California and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York have together proposed supplemental federal funding to assist state and local governments in security, prevention, and preparedness; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide funds to states and local governments to provide the necessary security and relief measures to protect local citizens from terrorism; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-259. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey relative to increasing the minimum allotment for the Food Stamp Program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, The minimum monthly allotment for one-person and two-person households under the federal Food Stamp Program is currently \$10, which is the same amount as was established by the "Food Stamp Act of 1977"; and

Whereas, The amount of food that could be purchased in 1977 for \$10 costs \$29.19 in 2001; the amount of food that can be purchased in 2001 for \$10 only cost \$3.43 in 1977; and

Whereas, The "Mickey Leland Memorial Domestic Hunger Relief Act," which was enacted in 1990, amended the Food Stamp Act to annually adjust the minimum monthly allotment, with the result rounded to the nearest \$5, in accordance with annual adjustments to other elements of the Food Stamp Program; and

Whereas, The "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996" amended the Food Stamp Act to remove the provision for annual adjustments to the minimum monthly allotment; and

Whereas, Annual cost-of-living adjustments are currently made to maximum monthly allotments and income eligibility standards for the Food Stamp Program; and

Whereas, The maximum monthly income, minus deductions allowable within the program, for eligibility for the Food Stamp Program is \$696 for one-person households and \$938 for two-person households; one-person households with a monthly income between

\$400 and \$696 and two-person households with a monthly income between \$760 and \$938 are eligible for no more than the \$10 minimum monthly allotment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House urges the Congress of the United States to increase the minimum monthly allotment for one-person and two-person households under the federal Food Stamp Program from \$10 to \$25 and require that the minimum be adjusted annually in accordance with changes in the federal cost-of-living.

2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of the Senate and attested by the Secretary of the Senate, shall be forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture, the presiding officers of the Congress of the United States and each member of New Jersey's Congressional delegation.

POM-260. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to stronger protections for Lake St. Clair, the Heart of the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

Whereas, By any measure, Lake St. Clair is a critical component of the Great Lakes system. It is the source of drinking water for millions of Americans and Canadians and a vital element of the region's commercial, recreational, and transportation resources; and

Whereas, Even within the Great Lakes network, Lake St. Clair is unique in its value through its wetlands, its great variety of fish and plant species, and the range of habitats it holds. It is an unsurpassed treasure for boaters and anglers; and

Whereas, In spite of its clear importance to the health of millions of people and the quality of the water system that is the most valuable in the world, Lake St. Clair has been harmed by several environmental problems, including spills, beach closings, and invasive species. Resources to address all of these needs are badly needed; and

Whereas, Congress is considering a measure, House Resolution 121, which calls for increased efforts to protect Lake St. Clair and affirms the central role that it plays as the Heart of the Great Lakes. Clearly, this is a designation that is appropriate not only because of Lake St. Clair's shape and location, but also because of its commercial, environmental, and recreational significance to our nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the State, That we memorialize Congress to adopt House Resolution 121 to endorse stronger protections for Lake St. Clair, the Heart of the Great Lakes; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-261. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislative of the State of Texas relative to the Protect Children from E-Mail Smut Act of 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, A 2000 sample survey of 1,501 of the nearly 24 million school-aged children regularly using the Internet in the United States found that approximately one out of every four children in that sample had experienced unwanted exposure to sexual images while on-line; and

Whereas, The development of the Internet is widely regarded as the most profound

change in the way people communicate since the invention of the printing press, but as remarkable as it may be, there are risks to children that are unique to such a pervasive and accessible medium; with the development of newer and increasingly invasive technologies that can deliver or disguise unwanted material through direct marketing e-mails, or "span" mailings, the risks are even more pronounced and difficult to detect; and

Whereas, Compounding the challenge of protecting minors from inappropriate material on-line is the fact that children often understand more about the Internet than their parents, teachers, and other caregivers; in addition, common sense measures used to secure a child's environment and the "physical world" are not feasible in cyberspace; and

Whereas, In a bipartisan effort to address these concerns, congress passed the Communications Decency Act of 1996 (CDA) and the Child Online Protection Act (COPA) and, in doing so, criminalized Internet transmission of indecent materials to minors; however, the Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that certain provisions of the CDA were unconstitutional and in 2002 upheld a district court's temporary injunction against enforcement of COPA on the same grounds; and

Whereas, Recognizing the need to make children's on-line experiences safe, educational, and entertaining while honoring constitutional safeguards, the 107th Congress is considering legislation that would address specific questions posed by the Supreme Court without discouraging the evolution of the Internet or violating the First Amendment; and

Whereas, Modeled after existing law that regulates the identification of sexually explicit advertisements sent via U.S. mail, House Resolution 2472 requires the National Institute of Standards and Technology to prescribe an electronic tag that would identify sexually oriented messages and allow parents to use the filtering tools already available on e-mail programs to block messages bearing the tag; the legislation is a balanced and realistic solution to the complexities of protecting free speech and children on-line; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact the Protect Children From E-Mail Smut Act of 2001; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the Senate of the United States Congress, and all the members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-262. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire relative to the Telemarketing Sales Rule and the Know Your Caller Act of 2001; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21

Whereas, telephone subscribes in New Hampshire and throughout the country receive innumerable telephone calls from various telemarketers operating in this country and in other countries; and

Whereas, many telephone subscribers are annoyed by the relentless calling at the most inconvenient times during the day, and other such subscribers have received calls from unscrupulous telemarketers and have been victims of their fraudulent practices; and

Whereas, the Telemarketing Sales Rule and Know Your Caller Act of 2001 are intended to protect subscribers from unscrupulous telemarketers and to maintain the privacy and harmonious nature of American homes; and

Whereas, the Telemarketing Sales Rule requires telemarketers to maintain a list of telephone subscribers who do not wish to receive any further calls from a particular seller; provides for penalties in amounts as high as \$10,000 per violation; and allows the Federal Trade Commission, states, and private persons to enforce such provisions; and

Whereas, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 also requires that telemarketers abide by "do-not-call" requests from consumers as well as restricts telemarketing calling hours, mandates identification of the telephone solicitor, and includes both a private right of action and a right of action by states; and

Whereas, the Know Your Caller Act of 2001 strengthens the consumer protections of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act by preventing telemarketers from blocking caller identification information, by requiring telemarketers to provide such information when they have the capability of doing so, and by prohibiting telemarketers from using information on "do-not-call" lists for any other marketing purpose; and

Whereas, since telemarketers can evade state laws restricting telephone solicitation through interstate operation, federal regulation and enforcement actions are needed to control residential telemarketing practices; now therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the general court urges the state attorneys general and the Federal Trade Commission to vigorously enforce the provisions of the Telemarketing Sales Rule that require telemarketers to cease from calling telephone subscribers who have previously requested to be placed on a list of subscribers who do not wish to receive any further calls from that telemarketer and to assess the appropriate penalties for violation of such provisions; and

That the general court urges the United States Congress to pass the Know Your Caller Act of 2001, which will provide telephone subscribers with additional protection from telemarketing abuses and annoyances; and

That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation, to the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, to the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and to the president of the National Association of Attorneys General.

POM-263. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas relative to reopening La Linda Bridge as a border crossing; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 186

Whereas, In 1962, Pub. L. No. 87-525 authorized the construction of an international bridge across the Rio Grande to join Heath Canyon in Texas with the village of La Linda, Coahuila, Mexico, for the purpose of transporting refined ore into the United States from nearby mills in Mexico and to one day facilitate the movement of tourists interested in visiting the Sierra del Carmen mountain areas across from Big Bend National Park; and

Whereas, Since the bridge was constructed, the Texas Department of Transportation has, without interruption, maintained Farm-

to-Market Road 2627 as a paved two-lane highway for a 28-mile stretch connecting the bridge to United States Highway 385, which leads from that junction southward to Big Bend National Park and northward 40 miles to Marathon and United States Highway 90; and

Whereas, La Linda Bridge, also known as the Hallie Stillwell Memorial Bridge, is still in place and is in good repair but cannot be crossed by vehicles or pedestrians because of barriers and the placement of "no trespassing" signs at the bridge since 1997 pursuant to orders issued by the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico; and

Whereas, The La Linda international crossing is the only bridge structure in place and the only point of entry authorized by public law between the United States ports of entry at Presidio and Del Rio, a distance of 385 miles; and

Whereas, The principal owner of the United States section of the international bridge at La Linda, the National Parks Conservation Association, is prepared to donate its interest in the bridge and associated properties to the State of Texas through the General Land Office so that the bridge may be reopened and operated as a legal border crossing; and

Whereas, The tourism industries serving scenic and recreational areas joined by this bridge, including the Big Bend mountains of Texas and the Sierra del Carmen mountains of Northwest Coahuila, wish to promote, accommodate, and economically benefit from cross-border tourism but are unable to implement those objectives if the La Linda crossing is not functioning; and

Whereas, The safety of tourists wishing to enjoy the area, the binational scientific cooperation called for under existing international agreements, and the security and public safety of communities and citizens on both sides of the international border would be enhanced by a functioning border crossing at La Linda; and

Whereas, The State of Coahuila and the commissioners court of Brewster County, respectively represented by the Instituto de Turismo and the Big Bend Border Council and joined by a coalition of local residents and the Big Bend National Park Superintendent, have twice requested that the Binational Bridges and Border Crossings working group, which is convened semiannually by the United States Department of State and the Mexican Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, take the necessary actions to have the bridge and border crossing at La Linda reopened by the United States and Mexican federal governments; and

Whereas, The working group, composed of United States and Mexican federal authorities responsible for authorizing international ports of entry and required inspections along the international boundary, will convene again in the coming months to consider action on either reopening the bridge at La Linda or ordering its removal; and

Whereas, It is in the economic, cultural, and security interest of the State of Texas and the homeland security interest of the United States of America to have a functioning border crossing station under the management and control of trained and equipped law enforcement and public safety officials in the extensive area known as the Big Bend; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby express its support and encouragement for the reopening of the bridge and border crossing at La Linda to accommodate trade and tourism between Texas and Coahuila, Mexico, and to better protect residents of both countries and secure the protection of our nation from threats that might be associated with the illegal crossing

of individuals or materials with a lethal intent; and, be it further

Resolved, That the legislature hereby urge the General Land Office to proceed expeditiously with the due diligence needed to make a determination regarding acceptance of an ownership interest in La Linda Bridge by the State of Texas; and, be it further

Resolved, That the legislature hereby urge that the governor, the Texas Department of Transportation, the secretary of state, the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas, the Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Economic Development, the Texas Historical Commission, and other appropriate state agencies render encouragement and assistance to the General Land Office as it proceeds in this matter and render encouragement and assistance as well to Brewster County and to private and public advocates for tourism in the Big Bend in their efforts to develop a regional tourism economy in conjunction with a reopened bridge at La Linda; and, be it further

Resolved, That the legislature hereby call upon the United States Department of State to communicate the interest of the State of Texas in this matter to the government of the Republic of Mexico and to all other parties participating in decisions relating to either reopening or removing the bridge at La Linda; and, be it further

Resolved, That the legislature hereby respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States to initiate whatever actions are needed to reopen La Linda Bridge as a border crossing; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-264. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the history of a slave quarters located on the site of the planned Liberty Bell Pavilion; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 490

Whereas, A portion of the proposed location of the planned Liberty Bell Pavilion in Philadelphia is located on the historic site of the residence of United States Presidents George Washington and John Adams prior to the construction of the White House in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, This property, referred to as the President's House, included other complexes such as slave quarters and icehouses; and

Whereas, The land previously occupied by the slave quarters will be partially covered by the newly built facility; and

Whereas, The Liberty Bell is recognized as a symbol of the American Revolution; and

Whereas, The Liberty Bell became famous when abolitionists fighting to rid the nation of slavery adopted it as their . . .

POM-265. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to legislation that would ban bear baiting on federal lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 82

Whereas, Michigan, along with other states throughout the country, has been very successful in its wildlife management strategies. While there is always more progress to

be made, the increasing numbers of game animals and effective control of wildlife populations in Michigan and other states reflect the wisdom of local management of wildlife and hunting matters; and

Whereas, Congress is considering legislation, H.R. 1472, that would require the adoption and enforcement of regulations that would prohibit the intentional feeding of bears on federal lands in order to end what is known as "bear baiting"; and

Whereas, Of the states that allow bear hunting, Michigan is one of several that permit bear baiting. The experience in Michigan and the other states that permit bear baiting is that this technique is a valuable and highly effective wildlife management tool. The voters of Michigan overwhelmingly rejected a 1996 ballot proposal that included a ban of bear baiting. Bear baiting is part of an overall strategy that effectively controls the bear population and does so more humanely than hunting techniques that may result in higher rates of injuries for the animals. This mechanism has clearly allowed Michigan to keep the bear population at appropriate levels; and

Whereas, Michigan is a state that includes extensive federal lands. The citizens of our state have used these lands respectfully, and our state's hunting and fishing management efforts have enhanced these lands over the years. Michigan's proven effectiveness in dealing with wildlife management challenges should not be negated by federal control of the matter of bear hunting; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States not to enact any legislation that would ban bear baiting on federal lands; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-266. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to nuclear power; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 211

Whereas, Pennsylvania's nine nuclear power reactors have proven to be reliable sources of electricity to Pennsylvania citizens and businesses, producing 36% of the electricity generated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Congress enacted the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and directed the Department of Energy to establish a program for the management of the nation's high-level waste, including used nuclear fuel, and for its permanent disposal in a deep geologic repository; and

Whereas, More than \$7 billion has been spent on scientific testing and studies of Yucca Mountain, Nevada, showing that the proposed site is an ideal repository to safely contain the nation's used nuclear fuel, with a capacity sufficient to meet all foreseeable storage needs; and

Whereas, Studies of Yucca Mountain have yielded the scientific information necessary for a decision by the United States Secretary of Energy that there are no technical or scientific issues to prevent Yucca Mountain from serving as a permanent repository and clearly support the recommendation by the Secretary to the President of the United States to proceed on licensing a permanent repository at Yucca Mountain; and

Whereas, Since 1983, consumers of electricity from the Commonwealth of Pennsyl-

vania have committed nearly \$1.5 billion to the Federal Nuclear Waste Fund to finance site assessment and nuclear waste management; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge Congress to sustain the President's affirmative decision on Yucca Mountain's suitability as a permanent Federal repository for used nuclear fuel; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the United States Secretary of Energy, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-267. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to Pennsylvania's veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 229

Whereas, Pennsylvania's veterans have faithfully and honorably served this nation and this Commonwealth in times of peace and times of war; and

Whereas, There are approximately 1.2 million veterans of the United States armed services living in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania today; and

Whereas, More than 500,000 of these veterans are 65 years of age or older; and

Whereas, By virtue of the honorable service they have provided, veterans are entitled to certain benefits; and

Whereas, Medical, surgical and rehabilitative services, such as the Veterans Health Administration's cancer program, diabetes program, kidney diseases program and the pharmacy benefits management program, are of particular importance to this Commonwealth's aging veteran population; and

Whereas, These benefits are provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs through a network of Veterans Health Administration centers, outpatient clinics, community-based outpatient clinics and veterans centers; and

Whereas, Even though Federal funding for medical services and administration for veterans in Pennsylvania has increased, many of the facilities located throughout this Commonwealth still lack the necessary resources to provide for the veterans who need and richly deserve these services; and

Whereas, There are 12 to 24 month waiting lists at many Veterans Health Administration facilities in Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, These waiting lists will only lengthen and the level of service will only lessen unless funding for these services in Pennsylvania increase to a level that matches needs; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to reexamine the level of funding for veterans medical services in order to provide timely, high-quality service to veterans of United States military services; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-268. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the Second Regiment United States Sharpshooters, Company C, during the Civil War; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 534

Whereas, At the suggestion of Hiram Berdan, a New York inventor and eventual

Colonel of Volunteers, that the best marksmen in the North be organized into two distinct units, the United States Sharpshooters were raised and mustered into action by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861; and

Whereas, These men were to be armed with the most reliable rifles and employed as scouts and skirmishers, with each applicant having to pass a shooting test to prove his worth; and

Whereas, At Orange Court House, the Sharpshooters engaged some Confederate Cavalry, easily pushing them off the field, but the advancing Confederate Infantry forced the Sharpshooters off the field and into the camp of their reserves, the Second Wisconsin; and

Whereas, The Sharpshooters fell in on General Gibbon's left and engaged the Confederates, pushing them off the field for good; and

Whereas, The exploits of this decorated group were rivaled by few as they fought Confederates across the Rappahannock River to the plains of Manassas, through Antietam and Chancellorsville and eventually to the fields of Gettysburg; and

Whereas, At Gettysburg the men of Company C were chosen to be the color company of the entire Second Regiment; and

Whereas, They fought valiantly and courageously, helping to defeat the Confederates at the Battles of Big and Little Round Top; and

Whereas, The men of Company C and all who served with them in the Second Regiment United States Sharpshooters served this nation with honor; and

Whereas, There is no monument recognizing the efforts of the men of Company C at Gettysburg National Military Park; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the National Park Service to erect a monument befitting their sacrifices; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania; to Fran P. Mainella, Director, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240; and to John A. Latschar, Superintendent, Gettysburg . . .

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 189. A bill to authorize appropriations for nanoscience, nanoengineering, and nanotechnology research, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-147).

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 Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1614. A bill to designate a portion of White Salmon River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1615. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to make permanent the rates of hostile fire and imminent danger special pay