

slaughter of non-ambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1531, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Chief Justice John Marshall.

S. 1545

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1545, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents.

S. 1548

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1548, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for the production of renewable fuels and to simplify the administration of the Highway Trust Fund fuel excise taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to restore religious freedoms.

S. 1586

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1586, a bill to authorize appropriate action if the negotiations with the People's Republic of China regarding China's undervalued currency and currency manipulations are not successful.

S. 1605

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs in connection with the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services initiative and to satisfy Department of Veterans Affairs requirements on natural disasters, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S.

1622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to exempt certain members of the Armed Forces from the requirement to pay subsistence charges while hospitalized.

S. 1630

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1630, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral services, and for other purposes.

S. 1637

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1637

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1637, supra.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1668, a bill to establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 33

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 33, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding scleroderma.

S. RES. 202

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 202, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the genocidal Ukraine Famine of 1932-33.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAYTON (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1670. A bill to expand the Rest and Recuperation Leave program for members of the Armed Forces serving in the Iraqi theater of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to include travel and transportation to the members' permanent station or home; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation, S. 1670, which would pay for the travel of U.S. troops stationed in Iraq, or in that theater, to and from their homes for the 2-weeks leave they are being granted.

Incredibly, while asking the Congress for an additional \$87 billion for the war in Iraq, the Department of Defense wants to drop soldiers on leave off at the Baltimore Airport and then make them pay for their transportation home and back. Those service men and women are serving with great courage in 115-degree temperatures and other truly awful conditions. They are being given 2 weeks leave—many of them—because they are in the Reserves or National Guard and they have just had their 5- or 6-month tour extended by another 6 months. This will be the only time that many of them will have a chance to see their families during an entire year.

The least we can do is get them home and back at Government expense. If all 138,000 troops who are stationed in Iraq were to take this leave to travel to their homes, the total cost would be approximately \$69 million. My legislation would not increase the \$87 billion requested by the President, it would just direct that up to \$69 million be available to be expensed for this purpose.

Last week, I also cosponsored legislation introduced by Senator BOB GRAHAM, which exempted soldiers wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan from having to pay for meals while they are hospitalized. I was astonished to learn that the military would otherwise dock their pay for the cost of their meals. We are appropriating over \$400 billion for our military operations next year through the regular appropriations and supplemental bills. Surely, that provides enough money that U.S. troops who are fighting, risking their lives, being wounded, and dying can be treated compassionately and fairly, not nicked and dined with travel and meal costs while on leave, or, even worse, while being hospitalized with combat wounds and injuries.

The American people are generous enough to support our troops properly and care for the wounded compassionately. The Department of Defense should not have to be required to do the right thing. It should be obvious enough to them, but if not, they should give me a call and I will let them know.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1670

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

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF REST AND RECUPERATION LEAVE PROGRAM TO INCLUDE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION TO PERMANENT STATION OR HOME.

(a) EXPANSION.—The Secretary of Defense shall expand the Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave program to provide travel and transportation allowances to each member of the Armed Forces participating in the program in order to permit such member to travel at the expense of the United

States from an original airport of debarkation to the permanent station or home of such member.

(b) ALLOWANCES AUTHORIZED.—The travel and transportation allowances that may be provided under subsection (a) are the travel and transportation allowances specified in section 404(d) of title 37, United States Code.

(c) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER ALLOWANCES.—Travel and transportation allowances provided for travel under subsection (a) are in addition to any other travel and transportation or other allowances that may be provided for such travel by law.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave program” means the Rest and Recuperation Leave program for certain members of the Armed Forces serving in the Iraqi theater of operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as established by the United States Central Command on September 25, 2003.

(2) The term “original airport of debarkation” means an airport designated as an airport of debarkation for members of the Armed Forces under the Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave program as of the establishment of such program on September 25, 2003.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 1672. A bill to expand the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that will preserve a part of the history of Florida and America. My bill will allow 20 acres of untouched, undeveloped sand dune land on American Beach, Amelia Island, FL to become part of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

The history of American Beach is partly the chronicle of Africa-American achievement and economic autonomy during the Jim Crow era. American Beach was purchased in 1932 by the Afro American Life Insurance Company and its President, A.L. Lewis. This insurance company was the first insurance company owned by any Floridian, either a black or white. Mr. Lewis' granddaughter, affectionately referred to as the “Beachlady,” still resides on American Beach and is revered for her colorful life and her work to preserve the American Beach from development and environmental degradation.

American Beach was an integrated beach when all beach communities throughout the United States were segregated. For decades, it flourished as an ocean-side paradise for blacks from all parts of the country. American Beach is still owned primarily by African Americans who are the descendants of the original owners. But, developers are slowly moving in to destroy this property that holds a chapter of American history. The sand dunes tell many stories of generations long past—writer Zora Neale Hurston, heavyweight champion Joe Louis, entertainer Cab Calloway, and civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph vacationed on American Beach. But, most of the beach dwellers and visitors were ordinary working-class African Americans.

This legislation merely seeks to expand the boundaries of a wonderful nature preserve already in place to preserve this unique and special place called American Beach.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1672

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Boundary Revision Act of 2003”.

SEC. 2. REVISION OF BOUNDARY OF TIMUCUAN ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVE, FLORIDA.

Section 201(a) of Public Law 100-249 (16 U.S.C. 698n) is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby” and inserting the following:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) MODIFICATION OF BOUNDARY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the land described in paragraph (1), the Preserve shall include approximately 12.5 acres of land located in Nassau County, Florida, as generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve American Beach Adjustment’, numbered 006/80012 and dated June 2003.

“(B) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

“(i) revise the boundaries of the Preserve so as to encompass the land described in subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) maintain the map described in subparagraph (A) on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.”.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. BAYH):

S. 1673. A bill to authorize the award of the Iraqi Liberation Medal as a campaign medal for members of the Armed Forces who serve in Southwest Asia in connection with Operation Iraqi Freedom; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues, Senators LUGAR, LIEBERMAN and BAYH to offer legislation to honor our servicemen and women in Iraq, who serve far from home, and far from family and friends. They left the freedom and security of home to provide freedom and security to those who have not known it for many years. The human cost has been great, over 300 American fighting men and women will never come home, and over 1,500 will return wounded. Today, over 130,000 troops remain in the region. They remain to ensure that those who paid the ultimate sacrifice did not die in vain. They are also there to build a new Iraqi nation of stability and freedom. My fellow Senators, the liberation of Iraq is turning out to be the most significant military, occupation and reconstruction effort since the end of World War II.

Despite their sacrifice and courage, these brave young men and women will

not be specifically recognized for their service in Iraq. Instead, the Department of Defense has decided to award them the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. I believe that this is a mistake, and that our military deserves better. Along with my colleagues, Senator LUGAR, Senator BAYH and Senator LIEBERMAN, I propose to correct this mistake by offering legislation authorizing the Iraqi Liberation Medal in lieu of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

While some of us in this body have not shared the administration's view on this war, we are united when it comes to supporting our troops. These young men and women from active duty, National Guard, and Reserves are all volunteers and exemplify the very essence of what it means to be a patriot. They continue to serve even though they do not know when they will return home to family and friends. They continue to serve despite the tremendous hardships they face and they continue to serve despite the constant threat to their lives. The President agrees with our view of the exemplary service of these young men and women. On the deck of the *U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln*, President Bush proclaimed: “In this battle, we have fought for the cause of liberty and for the peace of the world. Our Nation and our coalition are proud of this accomplishment, yet it is you, the members of the United States military, who achieved it. Your courage, your willingness to face danger for your country and for each other made this day possible.”

I was extremely disappointed when I learned that those serving in Iraq would not be specifically recognized for their efforts. There will be no Iraqi campaign medal. Instead, the Department of Defense will award them a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. I think this is a grave mistake.

During Operation Desert Storm, service members received three separate military decorations for their service: the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Liberation of Kuwait medal. For service in Kosovo, our service men and women received the NATO Service Medal, and the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

Many within the military share this view; according to the *Army Times*: “Campaign medals help establish an immediate rapport with individuals checking into a unit.” An expeditionary medal like the GWOT does not necessarily denote combat. A campaign medal is designed to recognize military personnel who have risked their lives in combat.

Campaign medals matter. “When a Marine shows up at a new duty station, commanders look first at his decorations and his physical fitness score—the first to see where he's been, the second to see if he can hang. They show what you've done and how serious

you are,' said Gunnery Sgt. James Cuneo. 'If you're a good Marine, people are going to award you when it comes time . . .'

My fellow distinguished colleagues, it is time.

We must recognize the sacrifice and courage of our young men and women who liberated Iraq, including great Americans like Army Specialist Joseph Hudson from Alamogordo, New Mexico, who was held as a prisoner of war. The Nation was captivated as we watched Specialist Hudson being interrogated by the enemy. Asked to divulge his military occupation, Specialist Hudson stared defiantly into the camera and said, "I follow orders." Those of us with sons and daughters were united in worry with Specialist Hudson's family. The entire Nation rejoiced when he was liberated.

We have also asked much from our reserve and National Guard forces. The reconstruction of Iraq would not be possible without the commitment and sacrifice of the 170,000 Guard and Reservists currently on active duty. As recently as this weekend an additional 10,000 troops from Washington State and North Carolina were activated for service in Iraq.

My colleagues, Senator LUGAR, Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator BAYH, and I are committed to honoring our over 200,000 heroes who liberated Iraq. We believe that current administration policy does a disservice to our fighting men and women. Therefore we propose, in lieu of the GWOT medal, a new decoration that characterizes the real mission in Iraq, one that is distinctive and honors their sacrifice, the Iraqi Liberation Medal.

What we do today is not without precedent; Congress has been responsible for recognizing the sacrifice and courage of our military forces throughout history. Congress has had a significant and historically central role in authorizing military decorations. Our Nation's highest military decorations were authorized by Congress, including: The Congressional Medal of Honor; the Air Force Cross; the Navy Cross; the Army's Distinctive Service Cross; the Silver Star; and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

We have also authorized campaign and liberation medals similar to what we hope to accomplish with this legislation. A partial list includes: Spanish War Service Medal; Army Occupation of Germany Medal; World War II Victory Medal; Berlin Airlift Medal; Korean Service Medal; and Prisoner of War Medal.

And the list goes on and on. The great men and women of our military forces are doing their jobs everyday in Iraq. It is time to do our job and honor them with a medal that truly stands for their heroic service, the Iraqi Liberation Medal.

I ask unanimous consent that an Air Force Times article also be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I also ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Air Force Times, Sept. 1, 2003]

ONE SIZE FITS ALL?

(By Vince Crawley)

Despite the weight of well over a century of military tradition and precedence, the Pentagon has no plans for campaign-specific medals for the most recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the nation's most protracted conflicts since Korea and Vietnam—both of which were deemed medal-worthy.

Military duty in Antarctica, Kosovo and the 1991 Persian-Gulf War also rates medals, as does "humane action," "humanitarian service" and "outstanding volunteer service." Past generations of veterans have qualified for medals and their accompanying ribbons for a wide range of operations, from the Civil War and both World Wars to China's Boxer Rebellion, the Spanish-American War and military actions against Mexico.

But troops involved in the current battle against terrorism instead will get two recently approved awards, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, which are intended to cover all the bases in an effort that President Bush says likely will last many years and be fought on many shores.

In addition, veterans of these 21st-century wars may receive each medal only once. In theory—and in current practice—troops could spend years fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines and elsewhere and end up with a single medal that doesn't reflect their specific duty history or even the fact that they deployed multiple times in the global war on terrorism.

The Pentagon isn't saying much about its rationale for the decision. Defense officials believe "these two medals will provide appropriate recognition for our service members participating in the global war on terrorism, whether that be in Afghanistan, Iraq, or elsewhere," said Air Force Maj. Sandra Burr, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

Not all troops agree. Marine 1st Lt. Zeb Philpott, 26, weapons platoon commander for Alpha Company, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion at Camp Lejeune, N.C., said campaign medals help establish an immediate rapport with individuals checking into a unit.

"You can tell what he's done," Philpott said. "I can look at a gunny and tell that he was in the Gulf War."

And people look. When a Marine shows up at a new duty station, commanders look first at his decorations and his physical fitness score—the first to see where he's been, the second to see if he can hang.

"They show what you've done and how serious you are," said Gunnery Sgt. James Cuneo, Alpha Company gunny. "If you're a good Marine, people are going to award you when it comes time. My ribbons don't make me who I am, but they show my experience level."

After 15 years, he's got quite a bit to show for his efforts—four full rows and the start of a fifth. They include the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three stars, a combat action ribbon for Desert Storm with a star pending for recent Iraq ops, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

"I think they ought to have an Iraq ribbon," Cuneo said. "They ought to have a Djibouti ribbon. And they ought to have an Afghanistan ribbon. They all mean different things."

Lt. Col. Keith Schultz, a B-52 Stratofortress pilot with the Air Force Reserve's 917th Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., spent 9½ months deployed to Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

On his last deployment, Schultz flew Iraqi Freedom missions from England and then headed to the Indian Ocean and flew Enduring Freedom assignments.

"I saw them as separate conflicts," Schultz said.

If one medal is issued to represent both operations, Schultz hopes the citation will explain the operations in which the recipient fought.

Tech. Sgt. Michael Pierce, a B-52 weapons loader with the 917th Wing, deployed to Enduring Freedom.

He said there should be some way to show, such as with a device on the ribbon, how many times an airman deployed or in what conflicts he served.

Others are fine with the GWOT medals. "It's nice to receive awards and decorations, but I was just there doing my job," said a field artillery major who recently returned from Iraq with the Army's 3rd Infantry Division.

"This is my job, my profession," he said. "There are people doing things everywhere. All of us are a part of this big [global war on terrorism]."

Bush signed an executive order March 12 to create the Global War on Terrorism medals on the recommendation of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. But none has yet been officially issued because Rumsfeld's staff is working out the fine print for eligibility.

The Army Institute of Heraldry said June 13 that Rumsfeld's staff is "finalizing" the criteria and implementation rules for the two medals.

Asked Aug. 18 when the medals would be issued, Burr said she could not predict when coordination on the eligibility policy would be complete.

A March 15 Pentagon news release referred to the medals as the GWOT Service Medal and GWOT Expeditionary Medal, using the Pentagon's acronym for the global war on terrorism.

The Expeditionary Medal will recognize service in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The Service Medal will recognize duty in Operation Noble Eagle, the homeland defense mission against further terror attacks, as well as duty in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom performed in geographic areas that don't qualify for the Expeditionary Medal.

In the past, some medals have been created years or decades after the conflict they represent. The medals can be established by the president or Congress.

They typically include official orders and become part of the service ribbons that appear on service members' dress uniforms.

Below are examples of other campaign and service medals. Most can be awarded more than once; commonly, a small bronze star device is attached to the ribbon for each additional award.

The Southwest Asia Service Medal was awarded for the 1991 Gulf War, with an eligibility period from Aug. 2, 1990, to Nov. 30, 1995.

In October 1990, when U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia began preparing for a possible offensive against Iraq, Pentagon personnel officials asked the Institute of Heraldry to provide proposed designs for a Southwest Asia Service Medal. Proposals were forwarded Oct. 30 to then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. A proposed executive order to authorize the medal was drafted by Cheney's office Feb. 11, 1991, before the ground war began. The medal was established by executive

order March 12, less than two weeks after the cease-fire.

Three separate campaigns are recognized: the defense of Saudi Arabia, the liberation of Kuwait and patrolling the cease-fire agreement through Nov. 30, 1995, and service members can be awarded the medal up to three times.

The Kosovo Campaign Medal was established by President Clinton on May 3, 2000, to recognize service in the U.S.-led Kosovo war, from March 24 to June 10, 1999, or in ongoing Kosovo peacekeeping operations. It may be awarded more than once to troops who took part in multiple Kosovo missions.

The Antarctica Service Medal was established by Congress in 1960 for military members and civilians, such as scientists, who have supported U.S. government programs in the antarctic since Jan. 1, 1946. The medal most commonly goes to aircrews and Navy personnel.

The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was established by President Kennedy on Dec. 4, 1961, for operations on or after July 1, 1958, to recognize service in peacekeeping and peace enforcement missions. The Joint Chiefs have authorized 22 missions for this medal, including operations in Somalia and Bosnia, as well as actions against Iraq in the late 1990s. Multiple awards are allowed.

The Armed Forces Service Medal was established by Clinton Jan. 11, 1996, within weeks of U.S. troops entering Bosnia. It is for troops participating in large military operations who face no armed opposition or threat of imminent hostile action. The medal is intended to fill a void in the criteria between the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal. It has been awarded for service in the Balkans since June 1, 1992, and for service in Haiti.

Previous wars and military actions have resulted in a host of campaign medals, though in some cases they were approved years or even decades after the fighting. They include:

The Vietnam Service Medal, established by President Johnson in 1965. Multiple campaigns are recognized.

The Korean Service Medal, established by President Truman in 1950. Multiple awards are allowed for up to 10 wartime campaigns.

The Medal for Humane Action, established by Congress in 1949 for those who took part in the Berlin Airlift from June 1948 to September 1949.

World War II saw three campaign medals—the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal, approved by President Roosevelt in 1942. All allow for multiple awards.

S. 1673

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF IRAQI LIBERATION MEDAL AS CAMPAIGN MEDAL FOR SERVICE IN SOUTHWEST ASIA IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) According to President George W. Bush, Operation Iraqi Freedom was “fought for the cause of liberty, and for the peace of the world...” and “to free a nation by breaking a dangerous and aggressive regime”.

(2) The military victory in Iraq has been characterized by President George W. Bush as one of the “swiftest advances in heavy arms in history”.

(3) There are more than 130,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines of the United States serving in the Iraqi Theater of Oper-

ations, far from family and friends, and for an unknown duration.

(4) Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, almost 300 members of the Armed Forces of the United States have died in Iraq and nearly 1,500 have been wounded in action.

(5) Congress has authorized and Presidents have issued specific decorations recognizing the sacrifice and service of the members of the Armed Forces of the United States in the Korean War, the Vietnam conflict, and the liberation of Kuwait.

(6) Current Department of Defense guidance authorizes the award of only one expeditionary medal for overseas duty in Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Iraq.

(7) The conflict in Iraq is significant enough in scope and sacrifice to warrant a specific military decoration for the liberation of Iraq.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF AWARD OF CAMPAIGN MEDAL.—The Secretary concerned may award a campaign medal of appropriate design, with ribbons and appurtenances, to any person who serves in any capacity with the Armed Forces in the Southwest Asia region in connection with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(c) NAME OF MEDAL.—The campaign medal authorized by subsection (b) shall be known as the “Iraqi Liberation Medal”.

(d) PROHIBITION ON CONCURRENT AWARD OF GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL.—A person who is awarded the campaign medal authorized by subsection (b) for service described in that subsection may not also be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for that service.

(e) OTHER LIMITATIONS.—The award of the campaign medal authorized by subsection (b) shall be subject to such limitations as the President may prescribe.

(f) REGULATIONS.—(1) Each Secretary concerned shall prescribe regulations on the award of the campaign medal authorized by subsection (b).

(2) The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall not go into effect until approved by the Secretary of Defense.

(3) The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) are uniform, so far as practicable.

(g) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Secretary concerned” means the following:

(1) The Secretary of the Army with respect to matters concerning members of the Army.

(2) The Secretary of the Navy with respect to matters concerning members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard when it is operating as a service in the Navy.

(3) The Secretary of the Air Force with respect to matters concerning members of the Air Force.

(4) The Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to matters concerning members of the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. REED):

S. 1676. A bill to permanently authorize the National Oilheat Research Alliance; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce the National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2003, and to be joined by Senators SMITH, LEAHY, WARNER, BUNNING, and JACK REED. This bill permanently authorizes the National Oilheat Research Alliance, commonly referred to as NORA, which was created by a referendum of oilheat retailers and wholesalers in February of 2001.

I was proud to sponsor the Senate bill that originally authorized the creation of NORA during the 106th Congress, and I am pleased to report that during its almost three years of existence, NORA has proved an unqualified success. Its activities have created genuine, tangible benefits for the heating oil industry and its consumers in the areas of research, education, safety and training, as well as providing information about the industry to existing and potential customers.

This bill is necessary because the original authorization statute for NORA included a sunset provision that, without congressional action, will force NORA to cease operations four years after its creation. The provision was included to allow Congress to assess its performance and determine whether it deserved continued authorization. It is readily apparent, from its numerous activities and the wide support it enjoys from consumer, environmental, and labor groups, along with the industry itself, that NORA should continue in perpetuity.

In a short time, NORA has set the standard for industry-wide cooperative activity with its professionalism, effectiveness, and most importantly, satisfaction from its supporting members. Through its rigorous commitment to activities that benefit all of its members, customers and the public at large, NORA is able to harness the collective strength of its companies and their resources to share cutting-edge technological advances, the latest in training methods, and promising environmental initiatives throughout the industry.

Of particular note is the creation of the National Oilheat Research Institute, or NORI, which oversees valuable study as the industry moves toward the introduction of low sulfur heating oil to help reduce the amount of sulfur emissions in the industry. This forward-looking work highlights NORA's genuine commitment to building an environmentally sound oil heat industry.

Other research undertaken by NORI includes a thorough, systematic evaluation of the fuel component of the oil heat system to maximize fuel performance—and therefore lower heating costs—for oil heat customers. These and other consumer-friendly activities have won NORA the support of the Consumer Energy Council of America, the oldest public interest energy policy organization in the Nation.

In fact, NORA's research and development activities were identified in a report from the Brookhaven National Laboratory, which concluded that the NORA program “will provide economic support to millions of American households by reducing fuel bills, and thousands of small family businesses in the United States who will gain from having satisfied consumers and reduced operating costs.”

NORA is also playing a leading role in continuing education and training for oil heat technicians through the introduction of new and updated training

material, creation of a standardized certification program to encourage professional development, partnerships with community colleges to provide equipment for training, and a new website to provide easy access to NORA safety and training material.

NORA also understands that new homeowners who buy houses with existing oil heat systems have questions about the best way to make use of and maintain their heating source, and publishes a Homeowner's Guide that describes the cleanliness and efficiency of their system, and offers helpful information for real estate purchasers.

This is just a sampling of the many activities taking place in states using oil heat all over the country. Numerous State associations benefit from their partnership with NORA, which supports local and statewide initiatives for the heating oil industry, its customers, and the professionals working within it. Indeed, the Maine Oil Dealers Association has provided me with uniformly positive feedback about its partnership with NORA, including its assistance with development of information brochures and production of safety manuals in both printed and electronic form.

I am persuaded that NORA's performance has exceeded all expectation and deserves permanent authorization from the Congress. I look forward to helping make sure that NORA can continue its beneficial activities long into the future.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1676

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

SECTION 1 SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2003".

SEC. 2 FINDINGS.

(a) Congress finds that—

(1) in 2000, Congress enacted the National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 6201 note), authorizing a referendum to create the National Oilheat Research Alliance;

(2) before enactment of that Act, similar legislation had passed the Senate by unanimous consent with 21 bipartisan Senate cosponsors and the House of Representatives with 148 bipartisan cosponsors;

(3) the Alliance was approved by an industry-wide referendum held in January 2001, with 97 percent of oilheat retailers and 99 percent of oilheat wholesalers voting in favor of creation of the Alliance;

(4) during its nearly 3 years of existence, the Alliance has operated in 21 States and the District of Columbia, providing benefits for its members and oilheat consumers in the areas of research and development, safety, energy efficiency, training, and education;

(5) the Alliance successfully created the National Oilheat Research Institute, which is leading the way toward developing a low-sulfur heating oil product that will allow significant progress in reducing emissions;

(6) the Institute is also at the forefront of developing new efficiency techniques for ex-

isting heating oil units, providing substantial savings for the energy costs of consumers;

(7) the Alliance is providing improved and up-to-date training material for oilheat technicians, establishing a standardized certification program and encouraging continuing education methods that result in efficient and highly trained professionals to service their customers;

(8) the Alliance has prepared material for realtors and prospective home buyers for houses with existing heating oil systems, explaining how to make the best use of oilheat and providing crucial safety and energy efficiency information;

(9) the legislation providing for the creation of the Alliance included a sunset provision that will require the Alliance to terminate activities in February 2005 unless Congress acts to extend the authorization; and

(10) the outstanding progress of the Alliance in the fields of research and development, safety and training, and education, the nearly unanimous support from industry, and the strong potential to yield future benefits for industry and consumers make the Alliance deserving of permanent authorization by Congress.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION.

Section 713 of the National Oilheat Research Alliance Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 6201 note) is repealed.

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 1677. A bill to encourage partnerships between community colleges and 4-year institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss one of the most important issues facing our country today. How we prepare our students to compete for the jobs that are still in demand today and the jobs that will be in demand tomorrow. In order to address this issue, we must increase our support for the entire education and training continuum—including secondary schools, community colleges, 4-year colleges and universities.

Today, I want to focus on one key part of this continuum: community and technical colleges. Nationwide, there are now more than 1,100 of these institutions, which enroll 10.4 million students. For over a century, community colleges have grown and changed with the times. No other segment of higher education is more responsive to its community and workforce needs than the community college. Whether providing academic preparation for a 4-year degree, or technical training for a job requiring a community college credential, 2-year institutions play a very significant role in creating a skilled workforce.

However, transfer rates are low: only about one quarter to one third of those students who intend to transfer to a 4-year institution actually do so. These low transfer rates and the continuing challenges employers face in finding skilled workers mean that we must strengthen the connections between community colleges and 4-year institutions and between community colleges and employers.

I am introducing a bill today that will address these issues. The Commu-

nity College Partnership Act of 2003 will encourage partnerships between community and technical colleges and 4-year colleges and universities. This bill will provide \$70 million for 6 to 12 grants to partnerships between 2- and 4-year institutions to identify and address barriers to staying in school, to transferring to a 4-year institution, and to responding to the demand for skilled workers in high-quality, emerging and established industries.

The fact is employers depend on skilled workers to provide services and produce goods. Even in this time of high unemployment, some employers are having hard times finding skilled workers. For example, according to the American Hospital Association, there are 126,000 nursing positions that are unfilled across the country. In Washington State, there are currently 2,564 nursing vacancies even though our State ranks as one of the highest unemployment States. Why are these jobs going begging? The answer is that we have a lack of trained workers.

From personal experience as both an employee and as an employer, I understand the importance of skills in the private sector. When I changed careers several years ago, I was able to succeed as a software company executive because I had the chance to get a good basic education. I come from a working-class family, but I was able to be the first in my family to get a college degree, thanks to the Federal Pell Grant program.

As an employer in that software company, I realized that because of the fast pace of change we needed to hire a workforce of people who were prepared to respond quickly to changing situations. We also had to hire people who could create new ways of doing business literally overnight. I strongly believe that a good basic education coupled with lifelong training opportunities are key to equipping workers with the types of decision-making abilities necessary to be successful in today's economy.

Yet, we are failing at our job of preparing workers. There is a crisis in our education and training system. Underfunding is a significant issue. Both 2- and 4-year institutions lack the capacity to respond to demand. More State and Federal investment is essential. However, to truly close the skills gap, we must also address the other problems 2- and 4-year institutions face. These problems center on keeping students in the system and advancing them to the next level.

The sad reality is that along the way to a good basic education, students get diverted away from their goals. In high school, they may lack information about the opportunities higher education promises. If they make it into a community college, they may be forced to abandon their education because the opportunity cost of not earning a wage is too high. If they do earn an associate's degree, the transition to a 4-year institution is fraught with challenges.

Agreements between 2- and 4-year institutions to accept students may not exist. Credits may not easily transfer. Community or technical college students may need additional tutoring, mentoring or support to succeed in a 4-year institution. Programs and schedules may be structured to preclude work and study—a growing necessity as college costs rise.

These are significant barriers than can and should be addressed. That is why I am introducing the Community College Partnership Act today. I am proud of this bill and believe that it will go a long way toward closing our skills gap. In addition, however, I remain committed to addressing the significant funding shortfalls that our educational institutions face. Ensuring students get the skills necessary for our new economy is essential. We must meet the needs of employers who have unfilled jobs now, as well as employers in emerging technologies that will provide significant job opportunities in the coming years.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S.J. Res. 18. A joint resolution commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a joint resolution recognizing the accomplishments of the inspectors general during the past 25 years. I am very pleased to be joined in this undertaking by Senator LIEBERMAN and many of our distinguished colleagues in both Houses of Congress.

Since 1978, the inspectors general (IGs) have made valuable contributions to the efficient and economical operation of the Federal Government. They have made thousands of recommendations, which ultimately saved the American taxpayers literally billions of dollars.

We've all heard the horror stories of \$500 hammers and roads build to nowhere: those are examples of the kind of wasteful spending that the IGs have exposed. The waste of scarce Federal resources not only picks the pockets of taxpayers but also places severe financial pressures on already overburdened programs, forcing cutbacks in vital government services.

Investigations by inspectors general have also resulted in the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars to the U.S. Treasury from companies and individuals who defrauded the Federal Government. These investigations have been the basis for thousands of criminal prosecutions, debarments, exclusions, and suspensions.

In my capacity as chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee and

previously as chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I have had the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with IGs to combat fraud and waste in a variety of programs.

To cite just one example, I worked with the Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services to uncover flagrant examples of Medicare fraud. We found that the Federal Government had been sending Medicare checks to 14 fraudulent health care companies that had provided no services whatsoever. Indeed, the address listed by one company did not exist, and, if it had, the address would have been located in the middle of the runway of the Miami International Airport.

The Offices of Inspector General have demonstrated a record of tremendous success over the past 25 years, and we wish to commend them and their employees for their dedication and professionalism in the performance of their duties.

I hope my colleagues will join Senator LIEBERMAN and me in passing this resolution commending the IGS for their many accomplishments.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 236—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BY YASSER ARAFAT IS A HINDRANCE TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT SUCH PEACE DEPENDS ON INSTITUTIONS FREE FROM THE TAIN OF TERRORISM

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 236

Whereas unemployment among Palestinians has risen to 50 percent, and 59 percent of the Palestinian people live below the poverty line;

Whereas a June 2003 independent poll indicated that the Palestinian people do not see Yasser Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Authority, contributing to an end to their suffering;

Whereas the June 2003 poll found that 84 percent of Palestinians believe corruption exists in the institutions of the Palestinian Authority, and 3/5 of those who believe there is corruption also believe that corruption will increase or remain the same in the future;

Whereas Yasser Arafat has steadfastly blocked attempts at political, judicial, and economic reforms by using the Fatah Central Committee and the Palestinian Legislative Council to obstruct efforts to bring greater transparency and accountability to the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas the international community has lost confidence in the ability of the current Palestinian leadership to confront terrorism;

Whereas Palestinian Security Forces have refused to confront and dismantle Palestinian Islamic Jihad, whose express goal is the elimination of the State of Israel, and Hamas, both of which have been responsible

for terrorist attacks that have killed over 800 Israelis in the last 3 years;

Whereas Abu Mazen, the first ever Palestinian Prime Minister, recently resigned because Yasser Arafat refused to turn over full control of the Palestinian Authority's 53,000-man security apparatus to the duly appointed government and continued to wield power over the General Intelligence Apparatus, the National Security Force, and the elite bodyguard unit known as Force 17;

Whereas the dismantling of terrorist organizations is a precondition to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

Whereas Yasser Arafat can no longer be trusted by the international community or the 3,500,000 Palestinian people living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be an honest broker for peace; and

Whereas Yasser Arafat has presided over a period of decay in economic and security conditions affecting the Palestinian people and has impeded any meaningful progress toward peace in the Middle East: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the leadership of the Palestinian people by Yasser Arafat, who has condoned terror and refused to dismantle terror organizations, is a hindrance to efforts to reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East; and

(2) peace in the Middle East depends on the construction of independent, transparent, and accountable institutions that are free from the taint of terrorism.

Mr. REID. Madam President, the struggle to win peace in the Middle East is at a critical juncture. In one direction lies more of the same: Constant fear, the old hatreds, terrorist murders and retaliations that too often claim innocent lives, as well.

Down the other road are lasting peace and security for Israel and a self-ruled homeland for the people called Palestinians.

If we want to move in this direction, we must shed the baggage of the past. If we stick with the same old formula, we will only repeat the violent cycle that has persisted for far too long. I don't claim to have all the answers about how to achieve peace in this very troubled region. But there is one thing I do know: Yasser Arafat must go. He must go now.

We look all over at his tracks. They are tracks he cannot cover.

In the Las Vegas Sun newspaper on September 28 there was an editorial written by Michael O'Callaghan who has been in the newspaper business since 1978. Prior to that he was Governor of the State of Nevada for two terms, probably the most popular Governor ever elected in the State of Nevada. But for many years he has been a newspaper man. He writes in this column, among other things:

What peace lovers over the world have received from Arafat is more bloodshed and the increased use of suicide bombers. Arafat in return has become wealthy from funds provided by the United States and other nations trying to encourage him to practice good government to provide for his people. His siphoning off of funds was exposed years ago

This practice is not acceptable even though it is by some leaders in that part of the world, he writes, in part.