

EC-4829. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to the authority of the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to promulgate regulations relating to staff adjustments of employees appointed under chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4830. A communication from the Director, Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Compensation and Pension Provisions of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2002" (RIN2900-AL62) received on October 8, 2003; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SHELBY, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, without amendment:

S. 300. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1691. A bill to establish commissions to review the facts and circumstances surrounding injustices suffered by European Americans, European Latin Americans, and Jewish refugees during World War II.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on the Judiciary.

George W. Miller, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for the term of fifteen years.

Deborah Ann Spagnoli, of California, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1739. A bill to provide duty-free treatment for certain tuna; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CORZINE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DODD):

S. 1740. A bill to amend the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (Public Law 107-42; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note) to provide compensation for the United States Citizens who were victims of a terrorist-related laboratory-confirmed anthrax infection in the United States during the period beginning on September 13, 2001, through November 30, 2001, on the same basis as compensation is provided to victims of the terrorist-related

aircraft crashes on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1741. A bill to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 1742. A bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for variable interest rates on student loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1743. A bill to permit reviews of criminal records of applicants for private security officer employment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BYRD):

S. 1744. A bill to prevent abuse of Government credit cards; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1745. A bill to designate a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action National Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1746. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 339 Hicksville Road in Bethpage, New York, as the "Brian C. Hickey Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DODD):

S. 1747. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of all contact lenses as medical devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 1748. A bill to establish a program to award grants to improve and maintain sites honoring Presidents of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 1749. A bill to amend various provisions of the Consumer Credit Protection Act to relief for victims of identity theft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1750. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the nutrition and health of children in the United States; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MILLER, Mr. CHAFFEE, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 1751. A bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S.J. Res. 19. A joint resolution recognizing Commodore John Barry as the first flag officer of the United States Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. Res. 244. A resolution congratulating Shirin Ebadi for winning the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize and commending her for her lifetime of work to promote democracy and human rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. Res. 245. A resolution designating the week beginning October 19, 2003, as "National Character Counts Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 767

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the increase in the tax on social security benefits.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve jobs and production activities in the United States.

S. 1033

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1033, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to expand or add coverage of pregnant women under the medicaid and State children's health insurance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1037

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the medicare program of all oral anticancer drugs.

S. 1095

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1095, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve outpatient vision services under part B of the medicare program.

S. 1144

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1144, a bill to name the health care facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 820 South Damen Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Jesse Brown Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

S. 1180

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1180, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the

work opportunity credit and the welfare-to-work credit.

S. 1208

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1208, a bill to amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to establish a program to provide assistance to States and nonprofit organizations to preserve suburban forest land and open space and contain suburban sprawl, and for other purposes.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1218, a bill to provide for Presidential support and coordination of interagency ocean science programs and development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research and monitoring program.

S. 1223

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to increase the number of well-trained mental health service professionals (including those based in schools) providing clinical mental health care to children and adolescents, and for other purposes.

S. 1326

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1326, a bill to establish the position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing in the Department of Commerce.

S. 1397

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1397, a bill to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 1447

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1447, a bill to establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for bioterrorism preparedness in the border area, and for other purposes.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to protect privacy by limiting the access of the government to library, bookseller, and other personal records for foreign intelligence and counterintelligence purposes.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) 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 name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1573

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1573, a bill to redesignate the Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Louisiana as the "Theodore Roosevelt-Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge".

S. 1597

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1597, a bill to provide mortgage payment assistance for employees who are separated from employment.

S. 1612

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1612, a bill to establish a technology, equipment, and information transfer within the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 1630

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) 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. 1645

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1645, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain foreign agricultural workers, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform the H-2A worker program under that Act, to provide a stable, legal agricultural workforce, to extend basic legal protections and better working conditions to more workers, and for other purposes.

S. 1664

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1664, a bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to provide for the enhanced review of covered pesticide products, to authorize fees for certain pesticide products, and to extend and improve the collection of maintenance fees.

S. 1684

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1684, a bill to amend the Public

Health Service Act and Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies and lymph node dissections performed for the treatment of breast cancer.

S. 1717

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1717, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank Network to prepare, store, and distribute human umbilical cord blood stems cells for the treatment of patients and to support peer-reviewed research using such cells.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1726, a bill to reduce the preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. CON. RES. 58

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 58, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of stalking in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Stalking Awareness Month.

S. CON. RES. 67

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 67, a concurrent resolution expressing the need for enhanced public awareness of traumatic brain injury and supporting the designation of a National Brain Injury Awareness Month.

S. CON. RES. 73

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 73, a concurrent resolution expressing the deep concern of Congress regarding the failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adhere to its obligations under a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the engagement by Iran in activities that appear to be designed to develop nuclear weapons.

S. RES. 202

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 202, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the genocidal Ukraine Famine of 1932-33.

AMENDMENT NO. 1807

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1807 proposed to S. 1689, an original bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1825

At the request of Mr. BOND, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1825 proposed to S. 1689, an original bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1837

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1837 proposed to S. 1689, an original bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1852

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1852 proposed to S. 1689, an original bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1853

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1853 proposed to S. 1689, an original bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1858

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1858 proposed to S. 1689, an original bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1859

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1859 proposed to S. 1689, an original bill

making emergency supplemental appropriations for Iraq and Afghanistan security and reconstruction for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CORZINE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. DODD):

S. 1740. A bill to amend the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 (Public Law 107-42; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note) to provide compensation for the United States Citizens who were victims of a terrorist-related laboratory-confirmed anthrax infection in the United States during the period beginning on September 13, 2001, through November 30, 2001, on the same basis as compensation is provided to victims of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes on September 11, 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank my good friend, the senior Senator from South Dakota and Democratic leader. I thank him for his concern and his work on this issue.

Two years have passed since several anthrax letters were sent to a few journalists and, obviously, to public officials, killing inadvertent victims. These are victims whose only sin, apparently, was doing their jobs, and these attacks have left several other people sick and out of work.

The Senate and all who work here—the Senate family—are still adjusting to the aftermath of these attacks 2 years later. We see it in new layers of security. We see it in new mail-handling procedures in which mail to Capitol Hill now is screened and irradiated before it is delivered.

The U.S. Postal Service has had to develop and implement new safety measures to protect its customers and its workers. Meanwhile, nearly two dozen of our fellow Americans who merely came into contact with these anthrax-laden letters have become the forgotten victims of terror. Some have suffered poor health, and some have not been able to return to work.

I am pleased to join with Senator DASCHLE and my other good friends, Senators LAUTENBERG, NELSON of Florida, FEINGOLD, CORZINE, MIKULSKI, SARBANES, and CLINTON, to introduce the Anthrax Victims Fund Fairness Act of 2003. This will allow these forgotten victims of terror and their families to seek help through the September 11 Victims Compensation Fund.

They need this help to pay for medical expenses and to provide for themselves and their families if they have been unable to return to work. They are our fellow citizens, and they were unwittingly on the front lines when our new, shadowy struggle against terrorism began.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, we learned that the United States was not impervious to acts of terrorism of the kinds that have rained death and destruction on other societies far away. The attacks shocked the world and left the American people with the terrible knowledge that we could once again become victims, targets of terrorists at any time.

Only a few days after September 11, our worst fears were confirmed. Between September 22 and November 14, nearly two dozen Americans from five States and the District of Columbia became casualties of a sinister bioterrorism attack. Twenty-two Americans ranging in age from 7 months to 94 years were stricken in these attacks of anthrax. It is a rare disease that had only afflicted a handful of Americans in the last century. We would ultimately learn that 11 people had been infected with cutaneous or skin anthrax, and 11 contracted the more serious form of the disease called inhalation or pulmonary anthrax. Five of our fellow Americans died from these attacks.

The victims of the anthrax attacks vary in gender, race, religion, age, economic status, and locale. But they all have one thing in common: Everyone suffered. The targets were members of the news media, and two Members of the Senate, myself and Senator DASCHLE, but the victims—not the targets, but the victims—who suffered the most were employees of the U.S. Postal Service, the Department of State, news organizations, the Senate, and the aides, the children, and the senior citizens whose mail came in contact with the anthrax-laden letters.

In the fall of 2001, I worked with Speaker HASTERT, Senator DASCHLE, Senator LOTT, Congressman GEPHARDT, Senators HATCH, KOHL, DEWINE, SCHUMER, and CLINTON to establish the September 11 Victims Compensation Fund of 2001. This fund ensured that victims of the September 11 attacks would be eligible for compensation for the horrific losses they suffered. After extensive negotiations with the Bush administration, we established the September 11 fund to provide victims an alternative to what would have been a lengthy battle in court.

Under the stewardship of Ken Feinberg, the Special Master of the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund, and with the supervision of the Department of Justice, more than 1,000 of the 3,016 families of those who died in the September 11 attacks and more than 1,000 of the unknown number who were injured have filed claims.

The fund, which has no cap, had paid out \$633 million by September 10, 2003, with an average award of about \$1.6 million for death claims. It is a dignified way of doing it.

As we reach the 2-year anniversary of the anthrax attacks, Congress should do the same for those whose lives were harmed by these acts of bioterrorism