

and sustain viable populations of marine turtles in the wild by assisting efforts in foreign countries to implement marine turtle conservation programs.

(e) **PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY.**—To the maximum extent practicable, in determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to conservation projects that are designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of marine turtles and their nesting habitats.

(f) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—In determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to projects for which matching funds are available.

(g) **PROJECT REPORTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary periodic reports (at such intervals as the Secretary may require) that include all information that the Secretary, after consultation with other government officials, determines is necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of ensuring positive results, assessing problems, and fostering improvements.

(2) **AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.**—Reports under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to projects for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

SEC. 5. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund a separate account to be known as the "Marine Turtle Conservation Fund", consisting of—

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund under subsection (e);

(2) amounts appropriated to the Fund under section 6; and

(3) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under subsection (c).

(b) **EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), on request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to carry out section 4.

(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**—Of the amounts in the account available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than 3 percent, or up to \$80,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) **INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals. Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(2) **ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.**—For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired—

(A) on original issue at the issue price; or

(B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

(3) **SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.**—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(4) **CREDITS TO FUND.**—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

(d) **TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this section shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund

on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) **ADJUSTMENTS.**—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

(e) **ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.**—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the Fund.

SEC. 6. ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To assist in carrying out this Act, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of marine turtles.

(b) **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**—

(1) **MEETINGS.**—The Advisory Group shall—

(A) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(B) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

(2) **NOTICE.**—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group.

(3) **MINUTES.**—Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(c) **EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

AMENDING TITLE XXI OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3288, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3288) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to make technical corrections with respect to the definition of qualifying State.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3288) was read the third time and passed.

DECLARING EMPORIA, KANSAS, TO BE THE FOUNDING CITY OF THE VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 159 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 159) declaring Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday and recognizing the contributions of Alvin J. King and Representative Ed Rees to the enactment into law of the observance of Veterans Day.

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

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the city of Emporia, KS, for its significant role in the establishment of Veterans Day. The people of Emporia take great pride in their city's contribution to the founding of this national holiday, and, while they may be modest, I would like to trumpet the work of my fellow Kansans.

As all of us in this Chamber are aware, Veterans Day was once Armistice Day, a day set apart by this Congress to commemorate the end of World War I, which our Nation once hoped would be "the war to end all wars." Just a few years after Armistice Day was made a legal holiday, our Nation was engulfed in the Second World War. Shortly thereafter our soldiers were fighting bravely to repel the communist advance on the Korean Peninsula. These two conflicts added millions to the number of war veterans in the United States. Certainly, it seemed appropriate that these new veterans, like the veterans of World War I, should be honored for their service to our country.

The man who initiated the effort to honor all of these veterans was a Kansan. Congressman Ed Rees, a native of Emporia, acted on the call of his constituents, particularly that of his fellow Emporian, Alvin J. King, to introduce legislation to officially change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, another Kansan, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed this legislation into law.

Since 1954, Veterans Day has been a day set apart to honor the valor and sacrifice of all America's veterans. At all times our Nation relies on the courage and selflessness of the members of our Armed Forces, so I am thankful that Congressman Ed Rees, at the behest of his fellow Emporians, worked so diligently to establish one special day when all our veterans are recognized for their faithful service to the United States. I thank the people of Emporia, and I thank the millions of war veterans who inspired them.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, this resolution declares Emporia, KS, to be the founding city of Veterans Day. In addition, the resolution recognizes the contributions of Alvin J. King and Representative Ed Rees from Emporia, KS, to the enactment into law of the observance of Veterans Day.

On October 8, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, also a Kansan, signed

into law a bill changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. President Eisenhower stated, "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain."

With the soon-to-be return of our service men and women from the war in Iraq, Veterans Day takes on a new meaning. These men and women who serve in Iraq today, join the other millions that have come before them. I am proud that President Eisenhower, Representative Rees, and Alvin King, all from the great state of Kansas, took the idea for the celebration of Veterans Day from conception to fruition.

Emporia, KS, organized and celebrated Veterans Day in 1953, one year before the rest of the United States. Alvin J. King, the man behind the idea, was a shoe cobbler in Emporia. Mr. KING befriended many veterans, thus realizing that we needed a national holiday to commemorate all veterans of all wars, not just those of World War I. With support from the community of Emporia, Mr. KING took his idea to Washington. There, he found a close ally in Representative Ed Rees, who introduced a bill to change the holiday. Mr. Rees said, "The United States has now been involved in many great military efforts, and each has produced its number of veterans. We all realize that it would not be feasible to establish a national holiday to commemorate the closing of each war. This legislation does not establish a new holiday. Rather it expands an existing holiday so that we may honor all veterans at the same time."

On November 11 of each year, we pay tribute to our veterans. Americans, as in all wars have rallied behind the men and women who went off to defend the American way of life. And, as some of those soldiers returned, we embraced and thanked them for their sacrifice. And for those that did not come home we remembered them in somber ceremonies, silent prayers, and grieving moments. On November 11 we pay reverence to anyone that has wore the uniform. We should, also, recognize the shoe cobbler from Emporia, who had a vision for a national holiday; a representative, who listened to his hometown; and a President, who a veteran himself, saw the completion of this idea.

I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 159) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

VETERANS' BENEFITS ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 2003

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar item No. 316, S. 1132.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1132) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance certain benefits for survivors of veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)

S. 1132

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 "Veterans' Survivors Benefits Enhancements Act of 2003".]

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

[(a) SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 3532 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

[(1) in subsection (a)—

[(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "at the monthly rate of" and all that follows and inserting "at the monthly rate of \$985 for full-time, \$740 for three-quarter-time, or \$492 for half-time pursuit."; and

[(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "at the rate of" and all that follows and inserting "at the rate of the lesser of—

[(A) the established charges for tuition and fees that the educational institution involved requires similarly circumstanced non-veterans enrolled in the same program to pay; or

[(B) \$985 per month for a full-time course.";

[(2) in subsection (b), by striking "\$670" and inserting "\$985"; and

[(3) in subsection (c)(2), by striking "shall be" and all that follows and inserting "shall be \$795 for full-time, \$596 for three-quarter-time, or \$398 for half-time pursuit.".

[(b) CORRESPONDENCE COURSES.—Section 3534(b) of that title is amended by striking "\$670" and inserting "\$985".

[(c) SPECIAL RESTORATIVE TRAINING.—Section 3542(a) of that title is amended—

[(1) by striking "\$670" and inserting "\$985"; and

[(2) by striking "\$210" each place it appears and inserting "\$307".

[(d) APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING.—Section 3687(b)(2) of that title is amended by striking "shall be \$488 for the first six months" and all that follows and inserting "shall be \$717 for the first six months, \$536 for the second six months, \$356 for the third six months, and \$179 for the fourth and any succeeding six-month period of training.".

[(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—(1) The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2003, and shall apply with respect to

educational assistance allowances payable under chapter 35 and section 3687(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, for months beginning on or after that date.

[(2) No adjustment in rates of monthly training allowances shall be made under section 3687(d) of title 38, United States Code, for fiscal year 2004.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF DURATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

[Section 3511(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "45 months" and all that follows and inserting "45 months, or 36 months in the case of a person who first files a claim for educational assistance under this chapter after the date of the enactment of the Veterans' Survivors Benefits Enhancements Act of 2003, or the equivalent thereof in part-time training.".

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

[(a) ADDITIONAL DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.—Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

[(e)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), if there is a surviving spouse with one or more children below the age of eighteen, the dependency and indemnity compensation paid monthly to the surviving spouse shall be increased by \$250, regardless of the number of such children.

[(2) Dependency and indemnity compensation shall be increased for a month under this subsection only for months occurring during the five-year period beginning on the date of death of the veteran on which such dependency and indemnity compensation is based.

[(3) The increase in dependency and indemnity compensation of a surviving spouse under this subsection shall cease beginning with the first month commencing after the month in which all children of the surviving spouse have attained the age of eighteen.

[(4) Dependency and indemnity compensation under this subsection is in addition to any other dependency and indemnity compensation payable by law.".

[(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF SURVIVING SPOUSES WHO REMARRY FOR BURIAL IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2402(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "(which for purposes of this chapter includes an unremarried surviving spouse who had a subsequent remarriage which was terminated by death or divorce)" and inserting "(which for purposes of this chapter includes a surviving spouse who had a subsequent remarriage)".

[(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2000.

SEC. 6. BENEFIT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPINA BIFIDA OF VETERANS OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN KOREA.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

[(1) by redesignating subchapter III, and sections 1821, 1822, 1823, and 1824, as subchapter IV, and sections 1831, 1832, 1833, and 1834, respectively; and

[(2) by inserting after subchapter II the following new subchapter III:

["SUBCHAPTER III—CHILDREN OF CERTAIN KOREA SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA

["§1821. Benefits for children of certain Korea service veterans born with spina bifida

[(a) BENEFITS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may provide to any child of a veteran