

Those blessings were secured by our military personnel. Every year, the United States Treasury loses about \$80 million on individuals who decide that they would prefer to have their cake and eat it too. They want American markets, they want American prestige, they want American stability, but they do not want the obligations that accrue to American citizenship. All the Senate was saying is if you benefited from this nation's security, you should be willing to pay for it.

When the Senate first considered this legislation, I had hoped to include a tax credit for the private sector employers of our National Guard and Reserve. When our Guard and Reserves answer the call to serve they leave jobs, homes, and most of all, their families behind. Many employers continue to pay all or part of the salaries of those employees who get called up. My legislation would provide those patriotic employers with a tax credit for paying up to 50 percent of the salaries for their Guard and Reserve employees.

I understand that my legislation cannot be included in this bill. So I am introducing a sense of the Senate resolution to put us on record as supporting these employers. The resolution states that we should pay for this tax credit by closing the expatriation loophole.

The facts are simple, and they are laid out in this resolution. Since 2001, the President has signed tax cuts amounting to \$1.75 trillion. Today, military families will get their first taste at direct relief. Yet, this bill amounts to less than .1 percent of the tax relief that the Government has doled out. No one could justify this to voters. So it's been happening behind closed doors—in conference reports, and parliamentary maneuvering. This resolution is a first step to putting a bright, hot spotlight on the truth. The leadership of the House Ways and Means Committee is more interested in protecting expatriate corporations, than it is in providing meaningful tax benefits to the men and women of our Armed Forces.

I am glad for what we are doing in this bill, but there is so much more that can be done and should be done. Personally, I believe that a military tax vehicle should be used to discuss military tax issues. However, the Senate cannot stand in the way of immediate relief to the families of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in battle. For that reason, we are passing this resolution today to send a signal that this imbalance must come to an end.

I appreciate the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee for agreeing to this resolution in conjunction with the underlying bill. I look forward to working with them in the future on giving this tax relief to America's employers.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, that the motion to reconsider be

laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 257) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 257

Whereas Congress is responsible for providing United States military personnel with the equipment, supplies, and other resources needed to preserve our freedom;

Whereas Congress is responsible for providing United States military personnel with a comprehensive compensation package;

Whereas, since 2001, Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation providing for \$1,750,000,000,000 in tax relief;

Whereas the Senate has passed legislation providing for \$1,100,000,000 in additional tax relief for United States military personnel and their families;

Whereas United States citizens benefit from economic opportunities which arise from the liberty protected by United States military personnel;

Whereas the United States loses approximately \$80,000,000 per year in tax revenue from individuals who renounce United States citizenship;

Whereas the Senate has unanimously passed legislation which prevents individuals from avoiding taxes by renouncing United States citizenship as an offset to the cost of providing tax relief for the 1,400,000 active duty military personnel and the 1,200,000 members of the National Guard and Reserves; and

Whereas Congress has asked the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the total compensation package provided for United States military personnel in order to ensure that the unique needs of military personnel are addressed: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) Congress should give priority to passing legislation to provide tax relief for—

(A) United States military personnel, including those serving in the National Guard and Reserves; and

(B) the employers of active duty members of the National Guard and Reserves; and

(2) the cost of such tax relief should be offset by legislation which prevents individuals from avoiding taxes by renouncing United States citizenship.

FIFTY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE BY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S.J. Res. 22, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 22) recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research.

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

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, on November 3, 2003, the Agricultural Research Service, the primary research agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will celebrate its 50th anniversary. To commemorate this special anniversary, I, along with Senator HARKIN, am offering a Senate joint resolution to recognize the important contributions the Agricultural Research Service provides to the agriculture community and to the Nation. Although ARS can trace its heritage back to early 19th century seed collection activities in the U.S. Patent Office, it was officially organized on November 2, 1953, when USDA consolidated most of its research functions into the newly named Agricultural Research Service. Today, ARS is a public institution that conducts agricultural research exclusively for the public good. The research is often long-term and costly, and unlikely to be undertaken by the private sector. The ARS discoveries and innovations touch the lives of every American through the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the environment in which we live.

I am very proud of the accomplishments ARS has made in my State. For example, ARS established the Lower Mississippi Delta Nutrition Intervention Research Initiative in 1995 to improve the health of residents of the Mississippi Delta through nutrition intervention research. ARS has partnered with, among others, the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and Alcorn State University in Lorman to identify food and nutrition problems in communities and to design nutrition interventions to determine how and why people make food choices, and how those choices could be improved. Another fine example of the partnership between the ARS and our Mississippi universities is the Southern Horticultural Laboratory in Poplarville. This ARS small fruit research facility, in cooperation with Mississippi State University, has led in the establishment of a vibrant blueberry industry in South Mississippi and other Gulf Coast States and has now expanded to include research on ornamentals and vegetables.

The ARS Catfish Genetics Research Unit at Stoneville, in partnership with Mississippi State University, bred a new catfish variety, NWAC 103, and released it in February 2001. This marks one of the few times genetic research has improved catfish since the industry started in the United States in the late 1950s. Since then, catfish has become one of the most successful aquacultural enterprises, thereby guaranteeing a plentiful supply of high-quality fish to consumers. Also, ARS scientists, in partnership with the University of Mississippi scientists, invented a new natural product-based algacide for use in catfish aquaculture, thus providing an alternative to synthetic herbicides.

A special ARS project in the late 1990s in Mississippi showed that farm runoff is not damaging Mississippi

groundwater. Data from the 7,320-acre Mississippi Delta Management Systems Evaluation Areas in Sunflower and LeFlore counties showed contamination by farm chemicals is not a problem. The Mississippi Delta MSEA also focused on farmland erosion control and preventing sediment and chemical runoff into three oxbow lakes: Beasley, Thighman and Deep Hollow. Technology being tested in the Delta MSEA not only enhances the health of the lakes, thus increasing fish and duck numbers, but may also help growers reduce costs.

To mark its five decades of public service and, in recognition of the local and national partnerships that are the foundation of much of their research, ARS will celebrate with various events throughout the next year following a kick-off celebration on November 3, 2003.

I commend the Agricultural Research Service on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and look forward to many more years of its important service to the Nation.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, 50 years ago, James Watson and Francis Crick were identifying the double-helix molecule of DNA. The first embryo transfers from donor cows to recipients were made. The Korean War ended. And the Agricultural Research Service was created.

The creation of ARS was not the beginning of the Department of Agriculture's efforts in agricultural research. President Abraham Lincoln signed the act creating the department, which included the charge to "acquire and diffuse among the people of the United States useful information . . . and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants." The Department's commitment to agricultural research reaches back nearly 150 years. The ARS itself was created by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson through a reorganization of the former Agricultural Research Administration, on November 2, 1953.

In its 50 years of service, the ARS has discovered dozens of ways to protect crops and livestock from pests and disease. It has improved the quality and safety of agricultural products. It has played a critical role in developing nutrition standards and carrying out nutrition research. It has also developed techniques to maintain the quality of our soil, perhaps our greatest renewable natural resource. Its research has helped farmers work more efficiently and profitably. And it has worked to develop ways to keep food affordable for consumers.

My State has been one of the greatest beneficiaries of ARS research, and the National Animal Disease Center at Ames, Iowa has played a vital role over the years in carrying out the mission of ARS.

Hog cholera was one of the greatest problems faced by hog farmers in this country for more than 130 years, since

it was first reported in Ohio in 1833. Outbreaks occurred frequently over the years, some resulting in the loss of more than one in 10 hogs in the U.S. In the early 1960's, hog cholera was still costing farmers \$50 million per year.

Agricultural research at USDA on hog cholera, much of it carried out in Ames, IA, dates back to the 1903 discovery of the hog cholera virus. ARS large scale studies starting in 1961 developed and tested a program to immunize hogs against cholera using killed virus. On the advice of ARS, USDA regulatory officials banned interstate shipment of live virus or animals vaccinated with live virus. In January 1978, Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland announced that, as a result of an aggressive campaign that employed the treatment techniques developed by ARS, that hog cholera had been entirely eradicated.

ARS has had many similar successes. The eradication of screwworm in cattle and Marek's disease in chickens has saved an untold amount of money by preventing livestock losses. It is estimated that the savings from the Marek's disease program is 44.3 times its cost for every dollar spent on immunization, \$44.30 is saved. For those who suggest that domestic government spending does not help the economy, the work of ARS stands as a great example of a program that works and helps American farmers be the best in the world.

So I salute the scientists of ARS for their 50 years of service to agriculture, and wish them 50 more. There are still many challenges to agriculture, and ARS will be there working to solve them.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be read the third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 22) was read the third time and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

The joint resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S.J. RES. 22

Whereas the Agricultural Research Service is the primary research agency of the Department of Agriculture and provides the Department of Agriculture and other Federal offices with objective research that is critical to the missions of those offices;

Whereas the agricultural research conducted by the Agricultural Research Service has an enormous impact on the economic viability of agriculture in the United States and around the world;

Whereas people around the world, especially rural Americans, enjoy a higher quality of life due in part to the work of the Agricultural Research Service to expand scientific knowledge;

Whereas the Agricultural Research Service has achieved major scientific breakthroughs that have benefited farmers, ranchers, agribusiness, and consumers;

Whereas the Agricultural Research Service has made scientific discoveries and techno-

logical developments that address agricultural problems of broad scope and high national priority, ensure safe and high quality food and other agricultural products that meet nutritional needs, and maintain a quality environment and natural resource base; and

Whereas the Agricultural Research Service continues to play a vital role in maintaining the global competitiveness and leadership of the United States in the next millennium: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) recognizes the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service to the Nation through agricultural research; and

(2) acknowledges the promise of the Agricultural Research Service to continue to perform outstanding agricultural research in the next 50 years and beyond.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 1828

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the minority leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1828, the Syria accountability bill, under the following limitations: That the debate be limited to 90 minutes, with 30 minutes under the control of Senator LUGAR or his designee, 30 minutes under the control of Senator BIDEN or his designee, and 30 minutes under the control of Senator SPECTER; that the Lugar-Boxer-Santorum amendment be the only amendment in order and that the amendment be agreed to; further, that upon disposition of the Lugar amendment and use or yielding back of time, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and a vote be scheduled at that time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the minority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator does not have the floor, so that is inappropriate.

Mr. REID. I object then.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. I withdraw my objection.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I renew my request.

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