

proposals including, but not limited to, S. 475, the Electric Transmission and Reliability Enhancement Act of 2003.

Because of the limited time available for the hearings, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will conduct a hearing on March 26, 2003, in SR-328A at 10 a.m. The purpose of this hearing will be to review the reauthorization of child nutrition programs.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on ballistic missile defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2004.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 18, 2003, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Proposals To Regulate Illegal Internet Gambling."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing on "Diplomacy and the War on Terrorism."

Agenda

Witnesses

Panel 1: The Honorable Marc Grossman, Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC, and The Honorable Grant Green, Undersecretary for Management, Department of State, Washington, DC.

Panel 2: The Honorable J. Cofer Black, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State, Washington, DC; Mr. Jon Pistole, Deputy Assistance Director of the Counter Intelligence Unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, DC; and Juan C. Zarate, Esq., Deputy Assistant Secretary, Executive Office for Terrorist Financing and Financial

Crimes, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, at 4 p.m., to hold a hearing on the current hostage situation in Colombia.

Briefer: The Honorable Marc Grossman, Undersecretary for Political Affairs, Department of State, Washington, DC.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for a hearing entitled "Small Business Continue to Lose Federal Jobs by the Bundle" and other matters on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND WATER

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 18, at 11 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the proposed 2004 Fish and Wildlife Service budget. The meeting will be held in SD 406.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Alisa Blum, Renee Johnson, Mark Kirbabas, Rhonda Sinkfield, Tyler Garrett, Marques Matthews, and Shawn White, all individuals from the Finance Committee staff, be granted the privilege of the floor during the duration of the debate on the budget resolution.

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

COLUMBIA ORBITER MEMORIAL ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 628 which was introduced by Senator STEVENS and is at the desk.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 628) to require construction at Arlington National Cemetery of a memorial to the crew of the Columbia Orbiter.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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 any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 628) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 628

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 "Columbia Orbiter Memorial Act".

SEC. 2. CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL TO CREW OF COLUMBIA ORBITER AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

(a) CONSTRUCTION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Army shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, construct at an appropriate place in Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, a memorial marker honoring the seven members of the crew of the Columbia Orbiter who died on February 1, 2003, over the State of Texas during the landing of space shuttle mission STS-107.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by title II of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 107-248) under the heading "OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY", \$500,000 shall be available for the construction of the memorial marker required by subsection (a).

SEC. 3. DONATIONS FOR MEMORIAL FOR CREW OF COLUMBIA ORBITER.

(a) AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration may accept gifts and donations of services, money, and property (including personal, tangible, or intangible property) for the purpose of an appropriate memorial or monument to the seven members of the crew of the Columbia Orbiter who died on February 1, 2003, over the State of Texas during the landing of space shuttle mission STS-107, whether such memorial or monument is constructed by the Administrator or is the memorial marker required by section 2.

(b) TRANSFER.—(1) The Administrator may transfer to the Secretary of the Army any services, money, or property accepted by the Administrator under subsection (a) for the purpose of the construction of the memorial marker required by section 2.

(2) Any moneys transferred to the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall be merged with amounts in the account referred to in subsection (b) of section 2, and shall be available for the purpose referred to in that subsection.

(c) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Administrator to accept gifts and donations under subsection (a) shall expire five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

COMMEMORATION OF DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 40 and that 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 assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 40) permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without any intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 40) was agreed to.

COMMENDING JERI THOMSON

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 93 submitted earlier today by Senators DASCHLE and FRIST.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 93) commending Jeri Thomson for her service to the U.S. Senate.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 93) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 93

Whereas Jeri Thomson was elected the thirtieth Secretary of the Senate on July 12, 2001;

Whereas Jeri Thomson served the Senate during a truly historic time and ensured that the Senate continued its work for the country despite experiencing the longest dislocation in the history of the Senate due to the largest bioterrorism attack in our Nation's history;

Whereas Jeri Thomson's dedicated service enabled the Senate to break ground for a new Capitol Visitor Center, ensuring future generations will continue to have safe access to "The People's House"; and

Whereas, as an elected officer, Jeri Thomson has continuously upheld the highest standards of professionalism and, in the tradition of the Senate, has extended her exemplary service to all Members of the Senate and their families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Jeri Thomson for her extraordinary contributions to the Senate and her country; and

(2) expresses its deep appreciation for her continuing service.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Jeri Thomson.

COMMENDING ALFONSO C. LENHARDT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 94, submitted earlier today by Senators DASCHLE and FRIST.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 94) commending Alfonso C. Lenhardt for his service to the United States Senate.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD as if read, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 94) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 94

Whereas Alfonso C. Lenhardt ("Al") was elected the thirty-sixth Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper for the United States Senate and began his service on September 4, 2001;

Whereas Al served in the Senate during exceptional circumstances, keeping the Senate community safe during the most devastating terrorist attack on American soil and during the largest bioterrorism attack in our Nation's history, and enabling the business of democracy to continue;

Whereas Al demonstrably improved the Senate's security and ensured that the Senate will continue its operations in the event of an emergency; and

Whereas the Senate has been privileged to have the benefit of Al's 32 years of service to the United States Army and his quiet, steady professionalism during the historic 18 months he has served this institution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the extraordinary contributions of Alfonso C. Lenhardt to the Senate and to his country;

(2) expresses to him its deep appreciation for his faithful and outstanding service; and

(3) extends its very best wishes for his future endeavors.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Alfonso C. Lenhardt.

STAR PRINT—S. 596

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 596 be star printed with the changes that are at the desk.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations: Michael Toner and Ellen Weintraub.

I further ask consent that the Senate proceed to their consideration, the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed en bloc, as follows:

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Michael E. Toner, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2007.

Ellen L. Weintraub, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2007.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

APPOINTMENT

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h-276k, as amended, appoints the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 108th Congress.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2003

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 19. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, the concurrent budget resolution; provided further, that there be 30 hours remaining for debate on the resolution, with 15 hours remaining under the control of the chairman of the Budget Committee and 15 hours remaining under the control of the ranking member.

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

PROGRAM

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of the Boxer amendment No. 272