

service. The EAS Marketing and Community Flexibility Programs would provide communities new resources and tools to implement locally developed plans to improve their air service. By providing communities the ability to design their own air service proposals, a community has the ability to develop a plan that meets its locally determined needs, improves air service choices, and gives the community a greater stake in the EAS program.

Specifically, these new EAS pilot programs include authorization for the use of smaller planes to decrease cost or increase frequency, communities to cost-share for service above base EAS subsidy level, alternative service at up to 3 EAS points if a community applies, an opt out of the EAS program with a one-time infusion of funding to assist in transition out of the program, and DOT to mandate multiple code-sharing arrangements for EAS providers.

A pilot program added at the request of Senator LOTT would allow DOT to require a cost-share for up to 10 communities within 100 miles of a hub. I have significant reservations about forcing communities to pay for a service the Federal Government promised them.

In addition, the communities that participate in EAS are small and isolated and have lower than average per capita incomes than urban or suburban communities. Cash-strapped communities will have to provide anywhere between \$50,000 and \$120,000 in local funds to continue their EAS service. I worked with Senator LOTT to make sure DOT considers a variety of relevant factors when selecting communities, to provide communities appeal rights, and to make sure they have access to all other pro-active pilot programs. I will monitor DOT's implementation of this pilot program closely.

Small and rural communities are the first to bear the brunt of bad economic times and the last to see the benefits of good times. The general economic downturn and the dire straits of the aviation industry have placed exceptional burdens on air service to our most isolated communities. The Federal Government must provide additional resources and tools for small communities to help themselves attract adequate air service. The Federal Government must make sure that our most vulnerable towns and cities are linked to the rest of the Nation. My legislation builds on existing programs and strengthens them. If these bills are enacted, our constituents will have the tools and resources necessary to attract air service, related economic development, and most importantly expand their connections to the national and global economy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 126—COM-
MENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS
FOR WINNING THE 2002-2003 NA-
TIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION DIVISION I NA-
TIONAL COLLEGIATE MEN'S ICE
HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. DAYTON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 126

Whereas on Saturday, April 12, 2003, the defending NCAA Division I National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Champions, the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers, won the National Championship for the second straight year;

Whereas the University of Minnesota defeated the University of New Hampshire in the championship game by the score of 5 to 1, having defeated the University of Michigan 3 to 2 in overtime in the semifinals;

Whereas the Golden Gophers reached the 56th Annual Frozen Four by defeating Mercyhurst College 9 to 2 and Ferris State University 7 to 4;

Whereas the University of Minnesota received an automatic bid to the 2002-2003 NCAA Division I National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Tournament by defeating Colorado College 4 to 2 in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association Tournament Championship;

Whereas the Golden Gophers became the first repeat NCAA National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Champion in 31 years;

Whereas the University of Minnesota won their fifth NCAA National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey title;

Whereas the team displayed academic excellence by maintaining an average grade point average above the university-wide average; and

Whereas all the team's players showed dedication throughout the season toward the goal of winning the National Championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers for winning the 2002-2003 NCAA Division I National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and support staff; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to the University of Minnesota for appropriate display, and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to every coach and member of the 2002-2003 NCAA Division I National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Championship Team.

SENATE RESOLUTION 127—EX-
PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
SENATE THAT THE SECRETARY
OF AGRICULTURE SHOULD RE-
DUCE THE INTEREST RATE ON
LOANS TO PROCESSORS OF
SUGAR BEETS AND SUGARCANE
BY 1 PERCENT TO A RATE
EQUAL TO THE COST OF BOR-
ROWING TO CONFORM TO THE
INTENT OF CONGRESS

Mr. COLEMAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred

to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 127

Whereas section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7283) established the monthly Commodity Credit Corporation interest rate applicable to loans provided for agricultural commodities by the Corporation at 100 basis points greater than the rate determined under the applicable interest rate formula in effect on October 1, 1995;

Whereas the interest rate formula in effect on October 1, 1995, for agricultural commodity loans reflected the interest rate charged to the Commodity Credit Corporation by the Treasury for the applicable month;

Whereas the interest rate charged to the Commodity Credit Corporation by the Treasury for a month is based on the 4- to 5-week average price of 1-year constant maturity securities sold on the market by the Treasury in the previous month;

Whereas the Commodity Credit Corporation had used such cost of borrowing interest rates for all commodity loans since January 1, 1982, and this practice was understood by Congress when enacting section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996;

Whereas section 1401(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171) amended section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to provide that raw cane sugar, refined beet sugar, and in-process sugar eligible for a loan under section 156 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 7272) shall not be considered an agricultural commodity for the purposes of section 163 of that Act;

Whereas Congress intended that loans to processors of sugar be exempted from the 100-basis point surcharge and that the loans should be subject to interest at the rate that is charged to the Commodity Credit Corporation by the Treasury for the applicable month;

Whereas, during deliberations on the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the cost of eliminating the interest rate surcharge on loans to processors of sugar at \$5,000,000 per year in reduced revenues and Congress enacted the amendment to section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 with this understanding of its purpose and effect;

Whereas the final regulations of the Commodity Credit Corporation to implement the sugar loan program recognized that the amendment of section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 by section 1401(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 eliminated the requirement that the Commodity Credit Corporation add 1 percentage point to the interest rate as calculated by the procedure in place prior to October 1, 1995; and

Whereas the Commodity Credit Corporation regulations require that a loan to a processor of sugar beets or sugarcane be subject to interest at rates equal to those applicable to all other agricultural commodities, including the 100-basis point surcharge, notwithstanding the clear intent of Congress in enacting section 1401(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture should reduce the interest rate on loans to processors of sugar beets and sugarcane by 100 basis points to a rate equal to the cost of borrowing from the Treasury to conform to the

intent of Congress in enacting the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171).

SENATE RESOLUTION 128—TO COMMEND SALLY GOFFINET ON THIRTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 128

Whereas Sally Goffinet became an employee of the United States Senate in 1972, and has ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the staff of the United States Senate;

Whereas Sally Goffinet created the position of Parliamentary Assistant in the Parliamentarian's Office in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas Sally Goffinet has ably assisted the last four Senate Parliamentarians in a host of clerical, administrative and substantive matters;

Whereas Sally Goffinet has faithfully discharged the difficult duties and responsibilities of Parliamentary Assistant of the United States Senate with great pride, energy, efficiency, dedication, integrity, and professionalism;

Whereas she has earned the respect, affection, and esteem of the United States Senate; and

Whereas Sally Goffinet will retire from the United States Senate on April 30, 2003, with 31 years of Service to the United States Senate; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate commends Sally Goffinet for her exemplary service to the United States Senate and the Nation, and wishes to express its deep appreciation and gratitude for her long, faithful, and outstanding service.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Sally Goffinet.

SENATE RESOLUTION 129—RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE MEMBERS OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS WHO SERVED IN THE U.S.S. "ABRAHAM LINCOLN" AND WELCOMING THEM HOME FROM THEIR RECENT MISSION ABROAD

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 129

Whereas the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) is the fifth Nimitz-class aircraft carrier of the United States and has its homeport at Naval Station Everett in Washington;

Whereas the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln serves as home to 5,000 brave members of the Navy and Marine Corps and carries approximately 70 combat and support aircraft;

Whereas the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln is scheduled to return to its homeport on May 6, 2003, after nearly ten months on deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Southern Watch;

Whereas the deployment of the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln was the longest for a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier since 1973;

Whereas in December 2002, the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln completed a six-month deploy-

ment in the Persian Gulf conducting operations in support of the Global War on Terrorism and was returning to its homeport when it was ordered back to the Persian Gulf in January 2003 to support what was to become Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas during the nearly ten-month deployment of the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, there were 12,700 takeoffs and trap landings and 16,500 sorties from the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln, 265,118 pounds of ordinance were expended from the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Southern Watch, and 1,600,000 pounds of ordinance were expended from U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln during Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the deployment of the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln featured numerous firsts, including the first use of the Super Hornet and the first operational availability of the "Man Overboard Indicator" onboard the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln; and

Whereas the citizens of the City of Everett, the County of Snohomish, the State of Washington, and the United States are proud of the members of the Navy and Marine Corps who serve on the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and commends the members of the Navy and Marine Corps who serve on the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72) and welcomes them home from their recent mission abroad.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 40—DESIGNATING AUGUST 7, 2003, AS "NATIONAL PURPLE HEART RECOGNITION DAY"

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 40

Whereas the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit, commonly known as the Purple Heart, is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use;

Whereas the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to members of the Armed Forces who are wounded in conflict with an enemy force, or while held by an enemy force as a prisoner of war, and posthumously to the next of kin of members of the Armed Forces who are killed in conflict with an enemy force, or who die of a wound received in conflict with an enemy force;

Whereas the Purple Heart was established on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington issued an order establishing the Honorary Badge of Distinction, otherwise known as the Badge of Military Merit, or the Decoration of the Purple Heart;

Whereas the award of the Purple Heart ceased with the end of the Revolutionary war, but was revived out of respect for the memory and military achievements of George Washington in 1932, the 200th anniversary of his birth; and

Whereas the designation of August 7, 2003, as "National Purple Heart Recognition Day" is a fitting tribute to General Washington, and to the over 1,535,000 recipients of the Purple Heart Medal, approximately 550,000 of whom are still living: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) designates August 7, 2003, as "National Purple Heart Recognition Day";

(2) encourages all Americans to learn about the history of the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit and to honor its recipients; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for the Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41—DIRECTING CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION BY OCTOBER 2005 THAT PROVIDES ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. CORZINE, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 41

Whereas the United States has the most expensive health care system in the world in terms of absolute costs, per capita costs, and percentage of gross domestic product (GDP);

Whereas despite being first in spending, the World Health Organization has ranked the United States 37th among all nations in terms of meeting the needs of its people;

Whereas 42,000,000 Americans, including 8,000,000 children, are uninsured;

Whereas tens of millions more Americans are inadequately insured, including medicare beneficiaries who lack access to prescription drug coverage and long term care coverage;

Whereas racial, income, and ethnic disparities in access to care threaten communities across the country, particularly communities of color;

Whereas health care costs continue to increase, jeopardizing the health security of working families and small businesses;

Whereas dollars that could be spent on health care are being used for administrative costs instead of patient needs;

Whereas the current health care system too often puts the bottom line ahead of patient care and threatens safety net providers who treat the uninsured and poorly insured; and

Whereas any health care reform must ensure that health care providers and practitioners are able to provide patients with the quality care they need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress shall enact legislation by October 2005 to guarantee that every person in the United States, regardless of income, age, or employment or health status, has access to health care that—

(1) is affordable to individuals and families, businesses and taxpayers and that removes financial barriers to needed care;

(2) is as cost efficient as possible, spending the maximum amount of dollars on direct patient care;

(3) provides comprehensive benefits, including benefits for mental health and long term care services;

(4) promotes prevention and early intervention;

(5) includes parity for mental health and other services;

(6) eliminates disparities in access to quality health care;

(7) addresses the needs of people with special health care needs and underserved populations in rural and urban areas;

(8) promotes quality and better health outcomes;

(9) addresses the need to have adequate numbers of qualified health care caregivers, practitioners, and providers to guarantee timely access to quality care;