

S. 929. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for security improvements to over-the-road bus operations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 108-104).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Thomas W. O'Connell, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

*Paul Morgan Longworth, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. REID:

S. 1418. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to allow workers who attain age 65 after 1981 and before 1992 to chose either lump sum payments over four years totaling \$5,000 or an improved benefit computation formula under a new 10-year rule governing the transition to the changes in benefits computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 1419. A bill to support the establishment or expansion and operation of programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1420. A bill to establish terms and conditions for use of certain Federal land by outfitters and to facilitate public opportunities for the recreational use and enjoyment of such land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1421. A bill to authorize the subdivision and dedication of restricted land owned by Alaska Natives; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. Res. 196. A resolution designating December 14, 2003, as "National Children's Me-

morial Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 197. A resolution to authorize testimony, document production, and legal representation in *State of Colorado v. Carrie Ann Hoppes*, Andrew M. Bennett, Christopher J. Friedman, Andrew Jonathan Tirman, Carolyn Elizabeth Brinski, Melissa Noelle Rossman, Rachael Esther Kaplan; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 59

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 59, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

S. 253

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 253, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to promote elder justice, and for other purposes.

S. 517

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 517, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war.

S. 610

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand coverage of medical nutrition therapy services under the medicare program for beneficiaries with cardiovascular disease.

S. 661

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 661, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to equalize the

exclusion from gross income of parking and transportation fringe benefits and to provide for a common cost-of-living adjustment, and for other purposes.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 678, a bill to amend chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, to include postmasters and postmasters organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs, and for other purposes.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to ensure the independence and nonpartisan operation of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration.

S. 844

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, a bill to subject the United States to imposition of fees and costs in proceedings relating to State water rights adjudications.

S. 893

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 893, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to establish provisions with respect to religious accommodation in employment, and for other purposes.

S. 894

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 230th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 913

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 913, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to provide for the return of excess amounts in Federal deposit insurance funds to financial institutions for use in their communities, with such distributions allocated according to the historical basis of contributions made to the funds by such institutions.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to provide for the issuance of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. REID, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve localism,

to foster and promote the diversity of television programming, to foster and promote competition, and to prevent excessive concentration of ownership of the nation's television broadcast stations.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, *supra*.

S. 1250

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1250, a bill to improve, enhance, and promote the Nation's homeland security, public safety, and citizen activated emergency response capabilities through the use of enhanced 911 services, to further upgrade Public Safety Answering Point capabilities and related functions in receiving E-911 calls, and to support the construction and operation of a ubiquitous and reliable citizen activated system and other purposes.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1283, a bill to require advance notification of Congress regarding any action proposed to be taken by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the implementation of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1296

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1296, a bill to exempt seaplanes from certain transportation taxes.

S. 1331

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1331, a bill to clarify the treatment of tax attributes under section 108 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for taxpayers which file consolidated returns.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a deduction for qualified long-term care insurance premiums, use of such insurance under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, and a credit for individuals with long-term care needs.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 1400

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to develop a system that provides for ocean and coastal observations, to implement a research and development program to enhance security at United States ports, to implement a data and information system required by all components of an integrated ocean observing system and related research, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 25, a concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring America's Jewish community on the occasion of its 350th anniversary, supporting the designation of an "American Jewish History Month", and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 40

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 40, a concurrent resolution designating August 7, 2003, as "National Purple Heart Recognition Day".

S. CON. RES. 41

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 41, a concurrent resolution directing Congress to enact legislation by October 2005 that provides access to comprehensive health care for all Americans.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID:

S. 1418. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to allow workers who attain age 65 after 1981 and before 1992 to choose either lump sum payments over four years totaling \$5,000 or an improved benefit computation formula under a new 10-year rule governing the transition to the changes in benefits computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I believe Social Security is one of the greatest success stories of our government.

Social Security is the only program in the history of our Nation that has

provided dignity and respect for our senior citizens, regardless of their income or backgrounds.

For almost 70 years, Social Security has been there for our citizens when they need it. It has provided seniors with independence and economic security in their retirement years.

In addition to helping millions of senior citizens, Social Security has provided economic security for surviving spouses and children and to countless Americans with disabilities.

It is easy to see why people believe Social Security is the most successful social program our country has ever adopted.

I rise today to reintroduce legislation that would correct a problem that plagues a special population of Social Security recipients. I am speaking on behalf of those affected by Social Security notch.

The Social Security notch causes more than nine million Social Security recipients born between the years of 1917 and 1926 to receive fewer Social Security benefits than Americans born outside the notch years due to changes made in 1977 to the Social Security benefit formula.

I have continued to speak out on this issue and the injustice it imposes on millions of seniors. The notch issue has been discussed, studied and reviewed, yet to date, Congress has not corrected this wrong. Because of this, many older Americans born during this period cannot afford the most basic necessities.

Congress must accept responsibility for any error that was made. We should not ask notch Seniors to accept less because of our mistake. While we must preserve and protect Social Security for future generations, we have an obligation to those, who through no fault of their own, receive less than those that were fortunate enough to be born just days before and after the notch period.

The notch situation has its origins in 1972, when Congress decided to create automatic cost-of-living-adjustments to help Social Security keep pace with inflation. Prior to 1972, each adjustment had to await legislation, causing beneficiaries' monthly payments to lag behind inflation. When Congress took this action, it was acting under the best of intentions.

Unfortunately, this new benefit adjustment method was flawed. To function properly, it required that the economy behave in much the same fashion that it had in the 1950s and 1960s, with annual wage increases outpacing prices, and inflation remaining relatively low. As we all know, that did not happen. The rapid inflation and high unemployment of the 1970s generated rapid increases in benefits.

In 1977, Congress revised the way that benefits were computed. In making its revisions, Congress decided that it was not proper to reduce benefits for persons already receiving them. It did, however, decide that benefits for all future retirees should be reduced.