

(Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Allied landing at Normandy during World War II.

S. CON. RES. 81

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 81, a concurrent resolution expressing the deep concern of Congress regarding the failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adhere to its obligations under a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the engagement by Iran in activities that appear to be designed to develop nuclear weapons.

S. RES. 294

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 294, a resolution designating January 2004 as "National Mentoring Month".

S. RES. 299

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 299, a resolution recognizing, and supporting efforts to enhance the public awareness of, the social problem of child abuse and neglect.

AMENDMENT NO. 2623

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2623 proposed to S. 1805, a bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 2150. A bill to promote better health for young people through Federal matching awards for physical education programs of excellence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, as we have all heard, childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions in our country. 30 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 11 are overweight, and 15 percent are obese. The same is true for kids between the ages of 12 and 19. And the number of overweight children has increased 382 percent in 6-11 year olds and 258 percent in 12-19 years old since 1974.

According to a 2001 report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services, a poor diet and sedentary lifestyle are estimated to cause 310,000 to 580,000 deaths a year due to cancer, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Obesity is second only to the 418,000 smoking-related fatalities as the leading cause of preventable deaths in the United States.

And unfortunately, this obesity epidemic hits our country at the same time that state governments are cash-strapped and education programs are being cut. In my State of Florida, that means that physical education programs, among other programs, are discarded as non-essential. Specifically, in Duval County, where Jacksonville is, 29 elementary schools have no formal physical education programs. Five years ago, there were just five schools with no programs.

To stem this horrible trend, I'm introducing legislation to encourage State, school districts and schools to provide physical fitness programs in their schools. Through the President's Council on National Fitness those schools that receive recognition either as Physical Fitness State Champions, Active Lifestyle Model Schools or Physical Activity and Fitness Demonstration Programs, will be eligible for Federal matching funds. This will encourage other schools and other school districts to strive for these distinctions because the Federal Government will reward them for their efforts.

It is imperative that we continue to provide our children physical well-being instruction so that our teachers are teaching alert and fit students each day.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit a wonderful elementary school in Duval County named the Alimacani Elementary School. The physical education instructor, Jan Tipton, showed me their facilities and they were marvelous. I even rolled up my sleeves and did some pull-ups.

The enthusiasm I encountered in that school for physical education was amazing. All of our young people should be given the opportunity to build strong minds and bodies at school through regular physical activity.

For these reasons, I hope that my colleagues will support passage of this legislation this Congress.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 2151. A bill to encourage the development and integrated use by the public and private sectors of remote sensing and other geospatial information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I proudly introduce the Remote Sensing Applications Act of 2004. Remote sensing technology is utilized to map and monitor the surface of the globe. The data we recover through remote sensing equipment contributes to our ability to evaluate and measure a wide scope of variables. The Federal Govern-

ment incorporates remote sensing data to accomplish many critical tasks from monitoring global food supply and environmental developments to enhancing our national security initiatives.

The Landsat program, for example, has collected and distributed a 32-year continuous record of the land surfaces of the world. The program has become so successful that a significant portion of the program's budget is recovered through outside data-sales.

Despite the overwhelming success of our remote sensing programs, many state, local, and tribal government may not be familiar with the data or how to apply the data to meet local needs. In addition, there remains significant opportunities for private industry to develop specialized and profit making adaptations based on remote sensing data.

The Remote Sensing Applications Act directs the United States Geological Survey to invest in pilot projects to explore the integrated use of sources of remote sensing information to address State, local, regional and tribal needs. This legislation emphasizes the need to develop greater commercial applications for this data and provides the USGS important opportunities to develop public-private partnerships.

The Remote Sensing Applications Act of 2004 will build upon the many successes of our remote sensing mission. By investing in adequate infrastructure and by making the appropriate tools available, we can firmly preserve our nation's leadership in remote sensing technologies. By enhancing opportunities to use this technology to more fully address the needs of State, regional, local, and tribal governments, as well as the needs of private industry, we may maximize the global effectiveness of our remote sensing programs. Accomplishing these goals through public-private partnerships has the added benefits of creating new jobs and new markets that may ultimately reduce or replace the need for federal financing or remote sensing policies.

I encourage the Senate to fully consider this important legislation and to work expeditiously to enact it into law.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2634. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2635. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. T4CorzineT1) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2634. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. ____ . PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF GUN OWNERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 922(t) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“(7)(A) No tax or fee may be implemented in connection with the implementation of this subsection.

“(B) A system to implement this subsection shall require the destruction of any identifying information submitted by or on behalf of any person who has been determined not to be prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm not more than 24 hours after the system advises a Federal firearms licensee that possession or receipt of a firearm by the prospective transferee would not violate subsection (g) or (n) of this section.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2635. Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. CORZINE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1805, to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; as follows:

On page 9, strike lines 1 and 2, and insert the following:

product, when used as intended or when used in a manner that is reasonably foreseeable, provided that the term “reasonably foreseeable” means the reasonable anticipation that harm or injury is likely to result.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following bills are added to the agenda for the Subcommittee on National Parks hearing for Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC:

S. 1430, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Baranov Museum in Kodiak, Alaska, for potential inclusion in the National Park System; and S. 1687, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the preservation and interpretation of the historic sites of the Manhattan Project for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

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, SD-364, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie at (202) 224-5161 or Sarah Creachbaum at (202) 224-6293.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, THE BUDGET, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs', Subcommittee on Financial Management, the Budget, and International Security be authorized to meet on Monday, March 1, 2004, at 11 a.m., for a hearing entitled, “Oversight of the Thrift Savings Plan: Ensuring the Integrity of Federal Employee Retirement Savings.”

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Anjali Chaturvedi, a detailee in my office, be allowed floor privileges for the duration of the debate on the gun immunity legislation today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to Ross Baker, a fellow with the office of Senator LEAHY, for the remainder of the debate on S. 1805.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that James G. Flood, a detailee from the Department of Justice, who is an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this session.

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

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 306 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 306) designating March 2, 2004, as “Read Across America Day.”

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; that 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 resolution (S. Res. 306) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. RES. 306

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress, through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) and the new Reading First, Early Reading First, and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries programs, has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and additional resources for reading assistance; and

Whereas more than 40 national associations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2, the anniversary of the birth of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, to celebrate reading: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 2, 2004, as “Read Across America Day”;

(2) honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(3) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of Dr. Seuss and in celebration of reading; and

(4) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 93-642, appoints the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS, to be a member of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation Board of Trustees, vice the Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 2. I further ask unanimous consent 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 then resume consideration of S. 1805, the gun liability bill, as provided under the previous order. I further ask unanimous consent that just before the vote on passage, the Senate proceed to a vote in relation to the Levin amendment No. 2631, with no second degree amendments in order, and that following that vote, the Senate proceed with the order as previously entered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I will not object because I think everyone has been very straightforward in the presentations on this issue, I hope I would