

*W. Douglas Buttrey, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2008.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Coast Guard nominations beginning Michael P. Guldin and ending Felicia K. Raybon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on November 17, 2003.

Coast Guard nomination of Larry L. Jones. Coast Guard nominations beginning Catherine A. Abella and ending Bradley G. Winans, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on February 5, 2004.

Coast Guard nominations beginning Susan J. Blood and ending Heather L. Morrison, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on February 11, 2004.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on Finance.

*Brian Carlton Roseboro, of New Jersey, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

*Mark J. Warshawsky, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

*Mark B. McClellan, of the District of Columbia, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

*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.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. CORZINE:

S. 2177. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from October 1, 2008, to October 1, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2178. An original bill to make technical corrections to laws relating to certain units of the National Park System and to National Park programs; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2179. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Reverend Oliver L. Brown; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 2180. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to exchange certain lands in the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 2181. A bill to adjust the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2182. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to permit the planting of chicory on base acres; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. DODD):

S. 2183. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to create team nutrition networks to promote the nutritional health of school children; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina):

S. 2184. A bill to amend title 10 United States Code, to increase the rates of educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS:

S. 2185. A bill to simplify the process for admitting temporary alien agricultural workers under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, to increase access to such workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. KERRY):

S. 2186. A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, through May 15, 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. SARBANES):

S. Res. 312. A resolution commending the bravery of the initial responders in the Baltimore Harbor water taxi accident of March 6, 2004; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. HAGEL):

S. Res. 313. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate encouraging the active engagement of Americans in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to coordinate with implementing partners in creating an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. BIDEN):

S. Res. 314. A resolution commemorating and honoring President Boris Trajkovski; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Res. 315. A resolution designating March 8, 2004, as "International Women's Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. KOHL, Mr. THOM-

AS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 316. A resolution designating April 2004 as "Financial Literacy Month."; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. Con. Res. 97. A concurrent resolution recognizing the 91st annual meeting of The Garden Club of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 623

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 1093

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1093, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the transportation fringe benefit to bicycle commuters.

S. 1222

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1222, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in determining eligibility for payment under the prospective payment system for inpatient rehabilitation facilities, to apply criteria consistent with rehabilitation impairment categories established by the Secretary for purposes of such prospective payment system.

S. 1765

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1765, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 1888

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1888, a bill to halt Saudi support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage, or in any other way aid and abet terrorism, and to secure full Saudi cooperation in the investigation of terrorist incidents.

S. 1916

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1916, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving

spouses age 62 and older, to provide for a one-year open season under that plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2020

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2020, a bill to prohibit, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, the interference by the government with a woman's right to choose to bear a child or terminate a pregnancy, and for other purposes.

S. 2049

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2049, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to reauthorize collection of reclamation fees, revise the abandoned mine reclamation program, promote remining, authorize the Office of Surface Mining to collect the black lung excise tax, and make sundry other changes.

S. 2132

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2132, a bill to prohibit racial profiling.

S. 2143

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2143, a bill to extend trade adjustment assistance to service workers.

S. 2157

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2157, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to extend the trade adjustment assistance program to the services sector, and for other purposes.

S. 2158

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2158, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the supply of pancreatic islet cells for research, and to provide for better coordination of Federal efforts and information on islet cell transplantation.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2175, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to support the planning, implementation, and evaluation of organized activities involving statewide youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 28

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor 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 Louisiana

(Mr. BREAUX) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) 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. 308

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 308, a resolution designating March 25, 2004, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy".

S. RES. 309

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 309, a resolution designating the week beginning March 14, 2004 as "National Safe Place Week".

S. RES. 311

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 311, a resolution calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Father Thadeus Nguyen Van Ly, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2639

At the request of Mr. EDWARDS, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2639 intended to be proposed to S. 1637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with the World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2697

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2697 intended to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 95, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORZINE:

S. 2177. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from October 1, 2008, to October 1, 2004; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Military Sur-

vivors' Fairness Act of 2004, legislation to eliminate a major inequity that has existed for several years among certain year-groups of military retirees already enrolled in the Survivors' Benefit Plan.

In the interest of a strong national defense, it is critical that we keep faith with the men and women who serve in our military. This applies both while military members are serving, and as they move beyond their working years. Our military retirees and their families have made significant sacrifices in the defense of their country. They deserve benefits commensurate with those sacrifices.

In 1972, Congress created the Survivors' Benefit Plan (SBP), giving career military members the option of taking less retirement pay in their own lifetime in return for the continuation of that pay to the surviving spouse, in the event the retiree pre-deceased his or her spouse.

SBP was a wise and important decision by the Congress; hundreds of thousands of military members have enrolled in SBP since 1972, and the program has given much-deserved security and peace of mind to those spouses who, along with military members, share the burdens of a military career.

Congress expanded the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) in 1999, by creating the "Paid-Up Provision." Under that provision, retirees who are at least seventy years old and have already been paying into SBP for at least thirty years are considered "paid up" and do not have to continue paying in to receive benefits.

This change provides a modest but frequently important boost to retirees' income at a stage in their lives, in their 70's, when they may be less able to supplement their retirement income from other employment.

However, there is a major caveat, and a significant inequity here. The "Paid-Up Provision", under the 1999 legislation, does not take effect until October 2008. As a result, those who enrolled before 1978 will continue under the current law to have to pay in as much as six years longer than enrollees from 1978 or after.

The SBP program was created in 1972. An effective date of 2008 for the SBP's "Paid-Up Provision" means that those who enrolled in the first six years of the program, i.e., between 1972 and 1977, must, in order to get the same retirement benefits, pay in longer, as much as six years longer, than those who enrolled in 1978 or later.

In other words, those who signed up before 1978 get the same benefits but have to pay a much higher price. This arrangement is unfair on its face and should be corrected.

My bill, the Military Survivors' Fairness Act of 2004, simply takes the "Paid-Up Provision"—already established by Congress in 1999, and moves its effective date ahead four years, from October 1, 2008 to October 1, 2004. That is the only change it makes.