

S. 333

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

S. 968

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 968, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide capital gain treatment under section 631(b) of such Code for outright sales of timber by landowners.

S. 983

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 983, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 1101

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1101, a bill to provide for a comprehensive Federal effort relating to early detection of, treatments for, and the prevention of cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 1103

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1103, a bill to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to prescribe performance standards for the reduction of pathogens in meat, meat products, poultry, and poultry products processed by establishments receiving inspection services and to enforce the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) System requirements, sanitation requirements, and the performance standards.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) 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. 1431

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1431, a bill to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, and for other purposes.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Mis-

issippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax for expenditures for the maintenance of railroad tracks of Class II and Class III railroads.

S. 1781

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1781, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 1786

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1786, a bill to revise and extend the Community Services Block Grant Act, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, and the Assets for Independence Act.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 1813, a bill to prohibit profiteering and fraud relating to military action, relief, and reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1906, a bill to provide for enhanced Federal, State, and local enforcement of the immigration laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1916

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1946

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1946, a bill to establish an independent national commission to examine and evaluate the collection, analysis, reporting, use, and dissemination of intelligence related to Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

S. 1961

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1961, a bill to provide for the revitalization and enhancement of the American passenger and freight rail transportation system.

S. 2018

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Kentucky

(Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to extend the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include additional sites associated with the preparation or return phase of the expedition, and for other purposes.

S. 2038

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2038, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for influenza vaccine awareness campaign, ensure a sufficient influenza vaccine supply, and prepare for an influenza pandemic or epidemic, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage vaccine production capacity, and for other purposes.

S. 2047

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to include certain former nuclear weapons program workers in the Special Exposure Cohort under the compensation program established by that Act.

S. 2049

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) 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.J. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 26, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage.

S. CON. RES. 80

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 80, a concurrent resolution urging Japan to honor its commitments under the 1986 Market-Oriented Sector-Selective (MOSS) Agreement on Medical Equipment and Pharmaceuticals, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. COLEMAN:

S. 2055. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill I introduce today, the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2055

*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 "Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act".

#### SEC. 2. CREDIT FOR HEARING AIDS FOR SENIORS AND DEPENDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to nonrefundable personal credits) is amended by inserting after section 25B the following new section:

##### "SEC. 25C CREDIT FOR HEARING AIDS.

"(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter an amount equal to the amount paid during the taxable year, not compensated by insurance or otherwise, by the taxpayer for the purchase of any qualified hearing aid.

"(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount allowed as a credit under subsection (a) shall not exceed \$500 per qualified hearing aid.

"(c) QUALIFIED HEARING AID.—For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified hearing aid' means a hearing aid—

"(1) which is described in section 874.3300 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, and is authorized under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act for commercial distribution, and

"(2) which is intended for use—

"(A) by the taxpayer, but only if the taxpayer (or the spouse intending to use the hearing aid, in the case of a joint return) is age 55 or older, or

"(B) by an individual with respect to whom the taxpayer, for the taxable year, is allowed a deduction under section 151(c) (relating to deduction for personal exemptions for dependents).

"(d) ELECTION ONCE EVERY 5 YEARS.—This section shall apply to any individual for any taxable year only if such individual elects (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe) to have this section apply for such taxable year. An election to have this section apply may not be made for any taxable year if such election is in effect with respect to such individual for any of the 4 taxable years preceding such taxable year.

"(e) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any expense for which a deduction or credit is allowed under any other provision of this chapter."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 25B the following new item:

"Sec. 25C. Credit for hearing aids."

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2003.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 2057. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the United States Armed Forces for certain transportation expenses incurred by the members in connection with leave under the Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave Program before the program was expanded to include domestic travel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2057

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. REIMBURSEMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSPORTATION COSTS INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ON REST AND RECUPERATION LEAVE.

The Secretary of Defense shall reimburse a member of the United States Armed Forces for transportation expenses incurred by such member for one round trip by such member between two locations within the United States in connection with leave taken under the Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave Program during the period beginning on September 25, 2003, and ending on December 18, 2003.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 297—CONGRATULATING THE SAINT JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA, FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2003 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION III FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

S. RES. 297

Whereas Saint John's University defeated Mount Union College of Alliance, Ohio, by a score of 24-6 in Stagg Bowl XXXI on Saturday, December 20, 2003;

Whereas Saint John's University finished the season 14-0, with the football program holding the all-time record for victories in Division III at 508-213-24 in 93 seasons;

Whereas the 2003 Championship is the first National Championship won by the Saint John's University football team since 1976 and the fourth in the history of the school;

Whereas the 2003 Championship capped a season in which Coach John Gagliardi of Saint John's University became the winningest football coach in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association;

Whereas Blake Elliott, the senior wide receiver of Saint John's University, was the recipient of the 2003 Gagliardi Trophy as the most outstanding Division III football player in the United States in 2003;

Whereas the Saint John's University Johnnies, by winning the championship game, cracked Mount Union's National Collegiate Athletic Association-record winning streak of 55 games in a row;

Whereas loyal fans of Saint John's University, enough to fill 3 chartered planes, were among the crowd of 5,073 who attended the 2003 Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl in the freezing cold of Salem, Virginia, with many more watching the nationally televised game; and

Whereas all of the players of the Saint John's University team showed tremendous dedication throughout the season to realize the goal of winning the National Championship: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Saint John's University football team for winning the 2003 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Football Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all of the players, coaches, and support staff of the team and invites them to the United States Capitol Building to be honored; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Saint John's University for appropriate display.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 88—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PARITY BETWEEN THE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PAY OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THE ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PAY OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 88

Whereas members of the uniformed services of the United States and civilian employees of the United States make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining the Nation's defenses;

Whereas civilian employees of the United States play a crucial role in the fight against terrorism, as exemplified by—

(1) the civilian employees of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense who are working to ensure the security of the United States;

(2) the civilian employees of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation who are investigating the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and working to prevent further terrorist attacks;

(3) the numerous skilled trade and craft civilian employees of the Federal Government who work side-by-side with the men and women of the armed forces to maintain and deploy our air and sea fleet safely and swiftly; and

(4) the employees of the Centers For Disease Control within the Department of Health and Human Services who work every day protecting Americans from bioterrorism and those at the Department of Agriculture who strive to keep the Nation's food supply safe;

Whereas civilian employees of the United States will continue to support and defend the United States during this difficult time;

Whereas in fiscal year 2004 Congress again reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to parity in pay adjustments for members of the uniformed services and all civilian employees in both the annual budget resolution and the Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004; and

Whereas for fiscal year 2005, the Administration proposed a 3.5 percent pay raise for members of the uniformed services but only a 1.5 percent pay raise for the dedicated civilian employees of the United States, a disparity in adjustments that violates the traditional principle of parity of pay adjustments: Now, therefore, be it