

SEC. 3. APPEAL OF CLAIMS DENIED BECAUSE OF LOSS OF RECORDS RESULTING FROM 1974 FIRE AT THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement procedures by which veterans may appeal claims denied by the Secretary on the basis that records destroyed in the 1974 fire at the National Personnel Records Center could substantiate such claims.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 403—ENCOURAGING INCREASED INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICE ACTIVITIES TO ASSIST SENIOR CITIZENS

Mr. BAYH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 403

Whereas approximately 13,000,000 individuals in the United States have serious long-term health conditions that may force them to seek assistance with daily tasks;

Whereas 56 percent of the individuals in the United States with serious long-term health conditions are age 65 or older;

Whereas the percentage of the population over the age of 65 is expected to rise from 13 percent in 2004 to 20 percent in 2020;

Whereas 15 percent of all seniors over the age of 65 suffer from depression;

Whereas studies have suggested that 25 to 50 percent of nursing home residents are affected by depression;

Whereas approximately 1,450,000 people live in nursing homes in the United States;

Whereas by 2018 there will be 3,600,000 seniors in need of a nursing home bed, which will be an increase of more than 2,000,000 from 2004;

Whereas as many as 60 percent of nursing home residents do not have regular visitors;

Whereas older patients with significant symptoms of depression have significantly higher health care costs than seniors who are not depressed;

Whereas people who are depressed tend to be withdrawn from their community, friends, and family;

Whereas the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNS) Senior Corps programs currently provide seniors with the opportunity to serve their communities through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, Foster Grandparent Program, and Senior Companion Program;

Whereas through the Senior Companion Program in particular, in the 2002 to 2003 program year, more than 17,000 low-income seniors volunteered their time assisting 61,000 frail elderly and homebound individuals who have difficulty completing daily tasks;

Whereas numerous volunteer organizations across the United States enable Americans of all ages to participate in similar activities;

Whereas Faith in Action, 1 volunteer organization, brings together 40,000 volunteers of many faiths to serve 60,000 people with long-term health needs or disabilities across the country, 64 percent of whom are 65 years of age or older;

Whereas the thousands of volunteers that, through the Senior Companion Program and volunteer organizations nationwide, provide companionship and assistance to frail elderly individuals, nursing home residents, and homebound seniors, deserve to be commended for their work;

Whereas the demand for these services outstrips the number of volunteers, and organi-

zations are seeking to enlist more individuals in the United States in the volunteer effort;

Whereas companionship and assistance programs for seniors with long-term health needs offer many demonstrated benefits, such as: allowing frail elderly individuals to remain in their homes; enabling seniors to maintain independence for as long as possible; providing encouragement and friendship to lonely seniors; and providing relief to home care givers;

Whereas regular visitation and assistance is the best way of assuring seniors that they have not been forgotten, and State and local recognition of regular visitation programs can call further attention to the importance of volunteering on an ongoing basis; and

Whereas a month dedicated to service for seniors and recognized across the United States will call attention to volunteer organizations serving seniors and provide a platform for recruitment efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of August as “Service for Seniors Month”;

(2) recognizes the need for companionship and assistance with daily tasks among seniors with long-term health conditions throughout the year, and encourages the people of the United States to volunteer regularly at a nursing home or long-term care facility;

(3) encourages volunteer organizations that offer companionship and assistance to seniors to incorporate “Service for Seniors Month” in their recruitment efforts;

(4) encourages individuals in the United States to volunteer in these service organizations in order to give back to a generation that sacrificed so much; and

(5) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe “Service for Seniors Month” with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement service for, seniors with long-term health needs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 123—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON ON THE BICENTENNIAL OF HIS DEATH BECAUSE OF HIS STANDING AS ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE UNITED STATES

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

S. CON. RES. 123

Whereas Alexander Hamilton dedicated his life to serving his adopted country as a Revolutionary soldier, aide-de-camp to General George Washington, Representative to the Continental Congress, member of the New York State Assembly, first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and Inspector General of the Army;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was a poor teenage immigrant to New York from the West Indian Islands of Nevis and St. Croix;

Whereas in the early days of the Revolutionary War Alexander Hamilton was commissioned as a captain and raised and trained his own New York artillery regiment and served valiantly in the battles of Long Island and Manhattan;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton quickly captured the attention of General George Wash-

ington who made him his aide-de-camp and confidant throughout the most difficult days of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas in 1781, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton of the Continental Army led a bold attack of New York troops during the siege of Yorktown, the decisive and final battle of the Revolutionary War;

Whereas in 1782, Alexander Hamilton was elected as a member of the Continental Congress from New York;

Whereas as a private citizen Alexander Hamilton served many philanthropic causes and was a co-founder of the New York Manumission Society, the first abolitionist organization in New York and a major influence on the abolition of slavery from the State;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was a strong and consistent advocate against slavery and believed that Blacks and Whites were equal citizens and equal in their mental and physical faculties;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was one of the first members of the founding generation to call for a convention to drastically revise the Articles of Confederation;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton joined James Madison in Annapolis, Maryland in 1786 to officially request that the States call a constitutional convention;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787 from New York, where he played an influential role and was the only delegate from New York to sign the Constitution;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the primary author of the Federalist Papers, the single most influential interpretation of American constitutional law ever written;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the most important individual force in achieving the ratification of the Constitution in New York against the strong opposition of many of the delegates to the ratifying convention;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the leading voice of the founding generation in support of the controversial doctrine of judicial review, which is the backbone for the role of the Supreme Court in the constitutional system of the United States;

Whereas on September 11, 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed by President George Washington to be the first Secretary of the Treasury;

Whereas as Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton salvaged the public credit, created the first Bank of the United States, and outlined the basic economic vision of a mixed agricultural and manufacturing society supported by a strong financial system that would underlie the great economic expansion of the United States for the next 2 centuries;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton was the leading proponent among the Founding Fathers of encouraging a strong manufacturing base for the United States in order to create good paying middle-class jobs and encourage a society built on merit rather than class or skin color;

Whereas in pursuit of this vision Alexander Hamilton founded The Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures which in turn founded the town of Paterson, New Jersey, one of the first industrial centers of the United States;

Whereas Alexander Hamilton proposed and oversaw the creation of the Coast Guard for law enforcement in territorial waters of the United States;

Whereas in 1798, President John Adams called upon Alexander Hamilton to raise an army in preparation for a possible war with France and, as Inspector General of the Army, he trained a powerful force of well-equipped soldiers who were able to help deter war at this vulnerable stage in the founding of the United States;

Whereas throughout the founding era Alexander Hamilton was the leading advocate of a strong national union led by an efficient Federal Government with significant protections for individual liberties;

Whereas on July 11, 1804, Alexander Hamilton was fatally wounded in a duel in Weehawken, New Jersey at the hands of Vice President Aaron Burr; and

Whereas Alexander Hamilton died in Manhattan on July 12, 1804, and was eulogized across the country as one of the leading visionaries of the founding era: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) honors the great importance of the life and legacy of Alexander Hamilton to the United States of America on the bicentennial of his death;

(2) recognizes the tremendous significance of the contributions of Alexander Hamilton to the United States as a soldier, citizen, and statesman; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to share in this commemoration so as to gain a greater appreciation of the critical role that Alexander Hamilton had in defense of America's freedom and the founding of the United States.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 20, 2004 at 10 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2590, a bill to provide a conservation royalty from Outer Continental Shelf revenues to establish the Coastal Impact Assistance Program, to provide assistance to States under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, to ensure adequate funding for conserving and restoring wildlife, to assist local governments in improving local park and recreation systems, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, 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, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Kellie Donnelly at 204-224-9360 or Shane Perkins at 202-224-7555.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Tuesday, July 20, 2004, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 2605, the Snake River, Nez Perce, Water Rights Act of 2004.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on pending Committee matters, to be followed immediately by a hearing on S. 519, the Native American Capital Formation and Economic Development Act of 2003.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, July 22, 2004, at 10 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on pending Committee matters, to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on pending legislation to reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 410, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 410) recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and recognizing the Marshall Islands as a staunch ally of the United States, committed to principles of democracy and freedom for the Pacific region and throughout the world.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 410) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

VITIATION OF APPOINTMENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate's action with respect to the appointment of Clare M. Cotton, of Massachusetts, to serve as a member of the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education, be vitiated.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13. I further ask 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 begin a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and the final 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee; provided that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 40, with the time until 8 p.m. equally divided between the chairman and ranking member or their designees.

I further ask consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party luncheons.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow, following morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the motion to proceed to the marriage amendment. Senators will be speaking on this issue throughout the day tomorrow, and I encourage those Members who have not had a chance to speak to come to the floor during tomorrow's session. I remind my colleagues that moments ago I filed cloture on the motion to proceed to the joint resolution. I felt it necessary to file cloture in order to ensure that we not only be able to bring the legislation up for consideration, but also to ensure the ability to offer amendments. If we are able to reach an agreement, then we would vitiate that scheduled cloture vote.

THE JOBS BILL

Mr. FRIST. One final mention this evening, and it relates to the FSC/ETI or JOBS bill. We believe it is very important for the interests of the United States for us to go to conference on the FSC/ETI or jobs in manufacturing bill. The House-passed measure is here, and we need to act soon to get that bill moving forward. I do encourage Members to allow us to go forward and to proceed to conference and have the will of that conference be expressed on this very important issue.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the