

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet on October 26 2:30 p.m. to hold its second hearing on Eco-terrorism specifically examining Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty ("SHAC").

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing on Nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Habeas Reform: The Streamlined Procedures Act" on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 9 a.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room 226.

Witness List: Seth Waxman, Esq., Former Solicitor General of the United States, Partner, Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr, Washington, DC; Ronald Eisenburg, Esq., Deputy District Attorney, Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, Philadelphia, PA; Stephen Saltzburg, Esq., Wallace and Beverly Woodbury University Professor of Law, George Washington University School of Law, Washington, DC; Kent Scheidegger, Esq., Legal Director, Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, Sacramento, CA.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 26, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND THE COURTS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Revisiting Proposals to Split the Ninth Circuit: An Inevitable Solution to a Growing Problem" on Wednesday, October 26, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness List

Panel I: Circuit Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit Portland, OR; Circuit Judge Richard Tallman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Seattle,

WA; Chief Judge Mary Schroeder U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Phoenix, AZ; and Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Pasadena CA.

Panel II: Circuit Judge Andrew Kleinfeld U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Fairbanks, AK; District Judge John Roll, U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, Tucson, AZ; Circuit Judge Sidney T. Thomas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Billings, MT; and Chief Judge Emeritus Marilyn Huff, U.S. District Court, Southern District, CA, San Diego, CA.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. for a hearing regarding "Uncollected Taxes: Can We Reduce the \$300 Billion Tax Gap?"

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Terrorism: Emergency Preparedness," on Wednesday, October 26, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness List

Panel I: Former Senator Slade Gorton, 9/11 Public Discourse Project, Seattle, WA; Wayne Thomas, Vice-President of Homeland Security, Innovative Emergency Management, Inc., Baton Rouge, LA; Henry Renteria, Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Mather, CA; Matt Bettenhausen, Director, California Office of Homeland Security, Sacramento, CA; Michael O'Hanlon, Senior Fellow and co-holder of Sydney Stein chair, Foreign Policy Studies Program, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jacob Cilek of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

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

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to two fellows in my office, Elizabeth Hoffman and Regan Fitzgerald, during consideration of this legislation.

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

Mr. HARKIN. I ask unanimous consent that Matt Ryno of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 370, 371, and 373. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and finally the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Robert Joseph Henke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Management).

William F. Tuerk, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs.

Lisette M. Mondello, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs).

NOMINATION OF LISETTE MONDELLO

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a friend and fellow Texan, Ms. Lisette Mondello, who is being confirmed to be Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs. She is one of the finest and most qualified individuals for this position.

Ms. Mondello has been serving as the senior advisor to the Secretary of Education. This experience is invaluable and has provided exceptional training for the position of Assistant Secretary.

Prior to her position with the Department of Education, Ms. Mondello was the director of communications in my office for 4 years. During that time I valued her counsel and commitment. In fact, her husband Joe Mondello, was my legislative director for several years. Prior to that, she worked for our colleague, Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

Additionally, Ms. Mondello has held several positions in the private sector and with grassroots organizations. These experiences have contributed to an understanding of political and public relations from two distinctive viewpoints. She will bring an enormous wealth of knowledge and understanding to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ms. Mondello received bachelor of arts degree from Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. She obtained a Certificate in Finance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX.

Given Ms. Mondello's rich and diverse background, she is ideally suited

to serve as the department's lead in public and intergovernmental affairs. She has earned an impressive record of accomplishment and will bring great enthusiasm and honor to this position.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WELLINGTON MARA OF NEW YORK

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 288 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 288) recognizing the life and accomplishments of Wellington Mara of New York.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating thereto be printed in the RECORD as if read, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 288) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 288

Whereas Tim Wellington Mara was born on August 14, 1916 in New York City;

Whereas Wellington Mara became a ball boy for the New York Giants at the age of 9;

Whereas Wellington Mara was made co-owner of the New York Giants in 1930 at the age of 14;

Whereas Wellington Mara graduated from Loyola High School, a Jesuit institution in Manhattan, and then attended Fordham University;

Whereas the only interruption in Wellington Mara's 81 years with the New York Giants organization occurred during World War II, when he served with distinction for more than 3 years in the Navy, seeing action in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters aboard aircraft carriers;

Whereas Wellington Mara was instrumental in crafting an agreement in which larger market teams shared television revenue with smaller market teams, thereby allowing football to thrive throughout the United States;

Whereas under nearly 80 years of Wellington Mara's leadership, the New York Giants made 26 postseason appearances, the second highest in league history, including 18 National Football League Divisional championships, and 6 National Football League championships;

Whereas Wellington Mara displayed an unwavering commitment to his players and coaches by finding doctors for former players, paying for medical expenses, and arranging help for their families;

Whereas Wellington Mara was an invaluable contributor to the National Football

League as a member of many ownership committees and has been recognized for always putting the interests of the game ahead of what was best for the New York Giants;

Whereas, in 1997, Wellington Mara was elected to the Professional Football Hall of Fame, joining his father, Tim Mara, who was a charter member of the Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, at the end of a life dedicated to the great game of football, its fans, and players, Wellington Mara passed away on October 25, 2005, at the age of 89: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its most sincere condolences to the family of Wellington Mara, the former Ann Mumm, whom he married in 1954, their 11 children, and 40 grandchildren; and

(2) recognizes the life and accomplishments of Wellington Mara, who, for more than 8 decades, dedicated his life to the New York Giants and their millions of fans and supporters.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 282 and that the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 282) supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 282) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 282

Whereas 2005 marks the 11th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-322, 108 Stat. 1902);

Whereas since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, communities have made significant progress in reducing domestic violence such that between 1993 and 2001, the incidents of nonfatal domestic violence fell 49 percent;

Whereas the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 cost \$15.50 per woman to implement, and has been estimated to save \$159 per woman, totaling a savings of nearly \$14,800,000,000 since its creation in averted costs of victimization;

Whereas since it was created by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, the National Domestic Violence Hotline has been used to answer over 1,000,000 calls;

Whereas States have passed over 660 State laws pertaining to domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault;

Whereas the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 has helped make strides toward breaking the cycle of violence, but there remains much work to be done;

Whereas the Senate recently passed the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 which reauthorized critical components of the original Act and established additional protections for battered immigrants and victims of human trafficking in order to further combat domestic violence and sexual assault;

Whereas domestic violence affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas protecting the economic security of victims can help break the cycle of domestic violence;

Whereas abusers frequently seek to control their partners by actively interfering with the ability of their partners to work, including by preventing their partners from going to work and harassing their partners at work;

Whereas only 28 States and the District of Columbia have laws that explicitly provide unemployment insurance to victims of domestic violence under certain circumstances;

Whereas, on average, more than 3 women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day;

Whereas women who have been abused are much more likely to suffer from chronic pain, diabetes, depression, unintended pregnancies, substance abuse, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

Whereas only about 10 percent of primary care physicians routinely screen for domestic violence during new patient visits, and 9 percent routinely screen during periodic checkups;

Whereas each year, about 324,000 pregnant women in the United States are battered by the men in their lives, leading to pregnancy complications, such as low-weight gain, anemia, infections, and first and second trimester bleeding;

Whereas every 2 minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted;

Whereas almost 25 percent of women surveyed had been raped or physically assaulted by a spouse or boyfriend at some point in their lives;

Whereas in 2002 alone, 250,000 women and girls older than the age of 12 were raped or sexually assaulted;

Whereas 64 percent of women have reported being raped, physically assaulted, or stalked since age 18 by their current or former intimate partner;

Whereas 1 out of every 12 women has been stalked in her lifetime;

Whereas approximately 503,000 women are stalked by an intimate partner annually in the United States;

Whereas the influence of cultural norms, economics, language barriers, and limited access to legal services and information may render some immigrant women particularly vulnerable to abuse;

Whereas 1 in 5 adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse, or both, in a dating relationship;

Whereas 40 percent of girls ages 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend;

Whereas approximately 8,800,000 children in the United States witness domestic violence each year;

Whereas witnessing domestic violence increases the risk of developing long-term physical and mental health problems, future struggles with substance abuse, and experiencing domestic abuse as a victim;