

EC-5970. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement the 2006 and 2007 Fishing Quotas for Ocean Quahogs" (RIN0648-AT85) received on March 7, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5971. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement the 2006 Specifications for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries and to Amend the Black Sea Bass Regulations" (RIN0648-AT27) received on March 7, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5972. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clarification to the Export Administration Regulations; General Order to Implement the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act" (RIN0694-AD68) received on March 7, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5973. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Change in Definition of Head of the Contracting Activity" (RIN2700-AD21) received on March 7, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ENZI for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Kent D. Talbert, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Education.

*Michell C. Clark, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Education.

*Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

*Richard Stickler, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

*Jean B. Elshtain, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for the remainder of the term expiring January 26, 2010.

*Allen C. Guelzo, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012.

*Arlene Holen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring August 30, 2010.

*George Perdue, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for a term expiring November 5, 2006.

*Anne-Imelda Radice, of Vermont, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

*Craig T. Ramey, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term of two years.

*Sarah M. Singleton, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the

Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2008.

*Horace A. Thompson, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2011.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD 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.

*Public Health Service nomination of Leah Hill to be Senior Assistant Surgeon.

*Public Health Service nominations beginning with Gregory A. Abbott and ending with Carl A. Huffman III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 28, 2005.

*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.

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. LOTT (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. 2384. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to offer the 181 Area of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leasing and provide a portion of the revenues from that leasing to producing States and coastal political subdivisions; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2385. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2386. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-Flouro-2-nitrobenzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 2387. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Pikes Peak Region of Colorado; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2388. A bill to establish a National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. VITTER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. MARTINEZ, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2389. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit the unlawful acquisition and use of confidential customer proprietary network information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2390. A bill to provide a national innovation initiative; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. Nelson of Florida:

S. 2391. A bill to improve the security of the United States borders and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2392. A bill to promote the empowerment of women in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LUGAR

S. Res. 392. A resolution designating March 8, 2006, as "International Women's Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. Res. 393. A resolution designating March 8, 2006, as "International Women's Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 239

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 239, a bill to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to prohibit the expulsion, return, or extradition of persons by the United States to countries engaging in torture, and for other purposes.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to improve the national program to register and monitor individuals who commit crimes against children or sex offenses.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the activities of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute with respect to research on pulmonary hypertension.

S. 1860

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1860, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to improve energy production and reduce energy demand through improved use of reclaimed waters, and for other purposes.

S. 1915

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1915, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 2253

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2253, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to offer the 181 Area of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leasing.

S. 2302

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2302, a bill to establish the Federal Emergency Management Agency as an independent agency, and for other purposes.

S. 2338

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2338, a bill to extend the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

S. 2362

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2362, a bill to establish the National Commission on Surveillance Activities and the Rights of Americans.

S.J. RES. 28

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 28, a joint resolution approving the location of the commemorative work in the District of Columbia honoring former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

S. RES. 224

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 224, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate supporting the establishment of September as Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 359

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 359, a resolution concerning the Government of Romania's ban on intercountry adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania.

S. RES. 383

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 383, a resolution calling on the President to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, Sudan, with an emphasis on civilian protection.

AMENDMENT NO. 2932

At the request of Mr. KERRY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2932 proposed to S. 2349, an original bill to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

At the request of Mr. KOHL, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2932 proposed to S. 2349, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID:

S. 2385. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, along with many of my colleagues, I have been fighting for sometime to end the ban on Concurrent Receipt, so disabled veterans can get the fair benefits they deserve. We have made some progress over the last few years, but as everyone knows, we still have work to do.

Let's remember what Concurrent Receipt is. It is an unfair and outdated policy that prevents disabled veterans from collecting both their military retirement pay and disability compensa-

tion. It requires a retired disabled veteran to deduct from his retirement pay, dollar for dollar, the amount of any disability compensation he receives.

Our veterans have given so much to our country. We owe it to them to get rid of this policy, and to make sure they get the full benefits they have earned and deserve.

I'm proud to say we have been able to chip away at this unfair practice in recent years.

In 2003, we passed my bill to allow—after a ten year waiting period—concurrent receipt for veterans with at least a 50 percent disability rating.

In 2004, I proposed legislation to eliminate that ten-year period and also to provide full concurrent receipt of military and disability pay to veterans with 100 percent service-related disability.

In November, 2005, we passed another amendment to expand concurrent receipt to cover America's most severely disabled veterans, and to implement the new policy immediately instead of phasing it in over a decade.

I was pleased with the passage of that amendment last year, but disappointed that the conference committee chose not to enact this valuable legislation for veterans rated as "unemployable" until 2009.

Today, concurrent receipt remains one of my highest priorities. We need to continue to chip away at this policy, and I am committed to that goal 100 percent.

With that in mind, today I am introducing the Combat-Related Special Compensation Act of 2006. This legislation will take care of soldiers who had hoped to make the military a career, but were discharged prematurely for an injury sustained in combat and forced to retire medically before attaining 20 years of service.

Right now, these soldiers receive combat-related disability benefits, but are not eligible to get retirement benefits because they cannot serve out the required 20 years. That is unfair, and this legislation will make sure they can get both.

This is the right thing to do. These veterans have been forced into retirement, and we need to take care of them.

I would note this legislation is especially important given the injuries we are seeing in Iraq. Improvised Explosive Devices have created numerous amputees and therefore, an increase in medically discharged veterans.

I have visited military hospitals on several occasions and have seen first hand the injuries sustained by military personnel. Many of the members have reached the 10, 12, 14-year marks of their military careers and have been forced to retire medically before the 20 year retirement norm. They'll get medical benefits, but they won't receive legitimate retirement compensation because they have been injured and are unable to serve until retirement, as they had planned.