

Dalai Lama, in recognition of his many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, non-violence, human rights, and religious understanding; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 2785. A bill to amend title 38, United States code, to provide for the payment of a monthly stipend to the surviving parents (known as "Gold Star Parents") of members of the Armed Forces who die during a period of war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 2786. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to permit access to databases maintained by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for purposes of complying with sex offender registry and notification laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 2787. A bill to permit United States persons to participate in the exploration for and the extraction of hydrocarbon resources from any portion of a foreign maritime exclusive economic zone that is contiguous to the exclusive economic zone of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2788. A bill to direct the exchange of certain land in Grand, San Juan, and Uintah Counties, Utah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURNS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2789. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to rural primary health providers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 2790. A bill to repeal the fossil fuel energy tax incentives contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BURNS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. TALENT, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KERRY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 2791. A bill to amend title 46 and 49, United States Code, to provide improved maritime, rail, and public transportation security, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 2792. A bill to revise and extend certain provisions of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 2793. A bill to enhance research and education in the areas of pharmaceutical and biotechnology science and engineering, including therapy development and manufacturing, analytical technologies, modeling,

and informatics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2794. A bill to ensure the equitable provision of pension and medical benefits to Department of Energy contractor employees; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARTINEZ:

S. 2795. A bill to exclude from admission to the United States aliens who have made investments contributing to the enhancement of the ability of Cuba to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 474. A resolution thanking Joyce Rechtschaffen for her service to the Senate and to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. Res. 475. A resolution proclaiming the week of May 21 through May 27, 2006, as "National Public Works Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Con. Res. 94. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the needs of children and youth affected or displaced by disasters are unique and should be given special consideration in planning, responding, and recovering from such disasters in the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 483

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 483, a bill to strengthen religious liberty and combat government hostility to expressions of faith, by extending the reach of The Equal Access Act to elementary schools.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, 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. 859

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 859, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an income tax credit for the provision of homeownership and community development, and for other purposes.

S. 910

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies, lumpectomies, and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer and coverage for secondary consultations.

S. 914

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 914, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

S. 932

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to provide for paid sick leave to ensure that Americans can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

S. 985

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to establish kinship navigator programs, to establish kinship guardianship assistance payments for children, and for other purposes.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the presentation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1214

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 1214, a bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

S. 1948

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2025

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2025, a bill to promote the national security and stability of the United States economy by reducing the dependence of the United States on oil through the use of alternative fuels and new technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2035, a bill to extend the time required for construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

S. 2556

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2556, a bill to amend title 11, United States Code, with respect to reform of executive compensation in corporate bankruptcies.

S. 2563

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2563, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require prompt payment to pharmacies under part D, to restrict pharmacy co-branding on prescription drug cards issued under such part, and to provide guidelines for Medication Therapy Management Services programs offered by prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans under such part.

S. 2566

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2566, a bill to provide for coordination of proliferation interdiction activities and conventional arms disarmament, and for other purposes.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2568, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

S. 2607

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2607, a bill to establish a 4-year small business health insurance information pilot program.

S. 2642

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2642, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to add a provision relating to reporting and recordkeeping for positions involving energy commodities.

S. 2643

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2643, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine.

S. 2658

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2658, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 2679

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2679, a bill to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigative Office in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2679, *supra*.

S. 2760

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2760, a bill to suspend the duty on imports of ethanol, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 270

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 270, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the International Monetary Fund should investigate whether China is manipulating the rate of exchange between the Chinese yuan and the United States dollar.

S. RES. 398

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 398, a resolution relating to the censure of George W. Bush.

S. RES. 431

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 431, a resolution designating May 11, 2006, as "Endangered Species Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to become educated about, and aware of, threats to species, success stories in species recovery, and the opportunity to promote species conservation worldwide.

S. RES. 472

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 472, a resolution commemorating

and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

AMENDMENT NO. 3867

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3867 intended to be proposed to S. 1955, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace.

AMENDMENT NO. 3914

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3914 intended to be proposed to S. 1955, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace.

AMENDMENT NO. 3915

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3915 intended to be proposed to S. 1955, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace.

AMENDMENT NO. 3917

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3917 intended to be proposed to S. 1955, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace.

AMENDMENT NO. 3924

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3924 intended to be proposed to S. 1955, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. TALENT, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2784. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama, in recognition of his many enduring and outstanding contributions to peace, non-violence, human rights, and religious understanding; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Dalai Lama Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2006.

This legislation would convey upon the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, one of Congress' most prestigious awards for his advocacy of peace, tolerance, human rights, non-violence, and compassion throughout the globe.

I am deeply honored to be joined today by my colleague, Senator THOMAS, and wish to express my appreciation to him for his willingness to be the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation.

Senator THOMAS has long been an advocate for addressing the plight of the Tibetan people, and in 2001 joined with me in introducing the Tibetan Policy Act, the first piece of legislation outlining U.S. policy toward Tibet and its people. He was truly instrumental in helping to advance its passage in the Congress.

In fact, one of my proudest days as a U.S. Senator was on September 30, 2002, when President George W. Bush signed the Tibetan Policy Act into law.

Both Senator THOMAS and I are also grateful that 73 of our Senate colleagues have agreed to be original cosponsors of this legislation honoring the Dalai Lama.

Under the rules, Congressional Gold Medals need the support of at least two-thirds, or 67 Senators, in order for the Senate Banking Committee to consider such authorizing legislation.

I look forward to working closely with Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member SARBANES to ensure that the Dalai Lama Congressional Gold Medal Act can be taken up and passed out of the Banking Committee in a timely and efficient manner.

In my view, there is no international figure more deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal than His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

This is a man who has dedicated his life to the betterment of humanity as a whole. As one of the most respected religious figures in the world today, the Dalai Lama's teachings on peace, non-violence and ecumenical openness have been embraced by millions.

One of his greatest contributions has been his promotion of harmony and respect among the different religious faiths of the world.

In his own words: "I always believe that it is much better to have a variety of religions, a variety of philosophies, rather than one single religion or philosophy. This is necessary because of the different mental dispositions of each human being. Each religion has certain unique ideas or techniques, and learning about them can only enrich one's faith."

As the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, he has worked arduously for nearly 50 years to increase understanding between China and the people of Tibet.

He has also dedicated his life to the preservation of the Tibetan culture, religion, and language.

The Dalai Lama's story is a fascinating one.

In 1959, as a teenager, he fled his Tibetan homeland for neighboring India, where he established a government-in-exile that eventually settled at Dharmasala—in the Himalayan foothills.

While he admittedly once espoused independence for Tibet—particularly in the face of the heavy-handed oppression of the Tibetan people by the Chinese Communists—the Dalai Lama foreswore this position nearly two decades ago.

Alternatively, he began to pursue a reasonable and flexible "Middle Way Approach" that would provide for cultural and religious autonomy for Tibetans, within the People's Republic of China.

In 1989, the Dalai Lama was the recipient of the Noble Peace Prize for his consistent and unfailing advocacy for the rights of the Tibetan people, along with his promotion of non-violence and peace throughout the globe.

In their recommendation, the Nobel Committee wrote:

The Committee wants to emphasize the fact that the Dalai Lama in his struggle for the liberation of Tibet consistently has opposed the use of violence. He has instead ad-

vocated peaceful solutions based upon tolerance and mutual respect in order to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of his people.

In April 1991, when the Congress welcomed the Dalai Lama in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda that was attended by the entire Congressional leadership, he offered a moving anecdote about receiving a small gift from President Franklin Roosevelt when he was a young boy.

That gift—a gold watch showing phases of the moon and the days of the week—became very special to him.

"I marveled at the distant land which could make such a practical object so beautiful," he said.

"But what truly inspired me were your ideas of freedom and democracy. I felt that your principles were identical to my own, the Buddhist beliefs in fundamental human rights freedom, equality, tolerance and compassion for all."

I have been blessed to be able to call the Dalai Lama a friend for almost three decades. I first met him through my husband Richard during a trip to India and Nepal in the fall of 1978.

Incidentally, our first stop was in Dharmasala, where we met with His Holiness and invited him to visit San Francisco where I was mayor.

The Dalai Lama was grateful for the invitation. At that time, he had never even been to the United States.

For political reasons, the Chinese objected to his visiting the United States, and our government, which at that time was in the process of normalizing relations with the People's Republic of China, was sensitive to these concerns.

While the trip was postponed temporarily, as mayor I was delighted to receive the Dalai Lama and present him with a key to the city upon his arrival in San Francisco in September 1979.

During our many conversations over the years, His Holiness has often reiterated that, at its core, Buddhism espouses reaching out to help others, particularly the less fortunate. And it encourages us all to be more kind and compassionate.

The Dalai Lama's persona exudes these qualities. He has a great sense of humor, responds quite spontaneously, and his philosophies cross all religions, cultures, and ethnic lines.

I have visited with him many times since 1978, and while his principled beliefs have never wavered, his teachings have become more expansive. His message has never been more relevant in our troubled world.

At the same time, I also had the opportunity as mayor of San Francisco to become acquainted with several of China's future leaders through the San Francisco-Shanghai Sister City Relationship that I started with Mayor Wang Daohan in 1980.

Mayor Wang's immediate successors, Jiang Zemin and Zhu Rongji, were both later promoted to high-level positions in the Chinese Communist Party and Central Government after leaving Shanghai.