

intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 852, to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 72, line 18, strike “TLC or FVC” and insert “TLC, FVC, or DLCO”.

On page 123, line 3, strike “TLC or FVC” and insert “TLC, FVC, or DLCO”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been rescheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider the President's Proposed Budget for FY 2007 for the Department of Energy.

The hearing originally scheduled for Thursday, February 9 at 10 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building will now be held at 9:30 a.m. on the same day, in the same room.

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, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Abrams at 202-224-0537.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

The hearing will be held on Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1870, a bill to clarify the authorities for the use of certain National Park Service properties, within Golden Gate National Recreation Area and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and for other purposes; S. 1913, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to lease a portion of the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center for use as a visitor center for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes; S. 1970, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to update the feasibility and suitability study originally prepared for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail and provide for the inclusion of new trail segments, land components, and campgrounds associated with that trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 562, a bill to

authorize the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the manmade famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932-1933; and H.R. 318, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating Castle Nugent Farms located on St. Croix, Virgin Islands, as a unit of the National Park System, 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, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Tom Lillie at (202) 224-5161 or David Szymanski at (202) 224-6293.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 7, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony from combatant commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements, in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2007 and the Future Years Defense Program.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, at 10 a.m., on Net Neutrality.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., on Nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on “The President's Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Proposal.” The following witness is scheduled to testify: The Honorable John W. Snow, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 2 p.m., to hold a hearing on NATO.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on “Judicial Nominations” on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 4 p.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Panel I: The Honorable Luis G. Fortuno, United States Representative, Puerto Rico, Resident Commissioner.

Panel II: Timothy C. Batten, Sr. to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, Thomas E. Johnston to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, Leo Maury Gordon to be a Judge of the United States Court of the International Trade, Aida M. Delgado Colon to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, at 3 p.m., for a field hearing regarding “Federal Agencies and Conference Spending.”

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 7, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on contracting issues in Iraq, in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years Defense program.

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

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Armed Services Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 355, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate 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. 355) honoring the service of the National Guard and requesting consultation by the Department of Defense with Congress and the chief executive officers of the States prior to offering proposals to change the National Guard force structure.

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

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for this opportunity to speak on S. Res. 355 regarding the budget for the National Guard, a resolution which Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I have cosponsored.

Last week, a total of 75 Senators, including myself, signed a letter to Defense Secretary Rumsfeld opposing the plan that proposes changes to the standing force structure of the National Guard. This plan has raised serious concerns.

Senator FRIST, the majority leader, said last week on a national morning news program that he would oppose cuts to the National Guard.

Nebraska National Guard General Roger Lempke, president of the Adjunct Generals Association, has aggressively questioned the proposed changes to the Guard. General Lempke and I share another concern about the Guard; that is, the increasing problem it has with equipment shortages as a result of the war, damage, total destruction, and the fact that much of the equipment is most likely going to be left in Iraq.

Earlier this year, General Lempke briefed me on equipment shortages faced by the Nebraska National Guard. I learned firsthand that the Guard in Nebraska is facing shortages of \$35 million in equipment, from trucks to body armor, from humvees to night-vision goggles.

This prompted me, along with my colleague, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, to introduce a resolution on the National Guard that essentially does two things: First, it asks the Pentagon to fully fund the Guard to restore lost and destroyed equipment; second, it seeks consultation with Congress and the Nation's Governors on any potential force structure changes. In a briefing today before the Senate Committee on Armed Services, General Schoomaker assured members he has already begun this process of talking to the Nation's Governors and seeking more consultation with affected Members of the Congress.

This resolution was cleared by the Committee on Armed Services and sent to the Senate last week. It has 54 co-sponsors, including myself. It is bipartisan. It is direct. I urge my colleagues and the majority leader to ensure that this resolution be passed today. We cannot wait any longer. We must assure the Department of Defense, that Congress has spoken, and that we will be heard on this issue.

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 re-

lating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 355) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 355

Whereas the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the United States, representing all 50 States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia, have played an indispensable role in the defense of our country;

Whereas during one phase of the Global War on Terrorism, Army National Guard soldiers comprised nearly half of the United States combat forces in Iraq;

Whereas National Guard personnel are currently deployed in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, and more than 40 other countries around the world;

Whereas 90 percent of the troops on the ground in Louisiana and Mississippi responding to Hurricane Katrina were members of the National Guard;

Whereas while performing these critical missions, the National Guard continues to experience significant equipment shortages, especially vehicle and radio shortages;

Whereas members of the National Guard are not "weekend warriors", but citizen-soldiers and airmen who serve full-time when their country needs them to do so;

Whereas the National Guard is a resource shared by the chief executive officers of the States and the President;

Whereas the National Guard is America's militia;

Whereas deployment to fight terrorism on two fronts overseas, while protecting our homeland, has stretched the National Guard thin;

Whereas the future of the National Guard could be determined by the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) currently underway;

Whereas the Army and Air Force could recommend changes in the force structure of the National Guard;

Whereas reductions in force structure could impact numerous Army National Guard armories and Air National Guard wings;

Whereas reductions in force structure combined with the lack of adequate equipment for the National Guard threaten its capacity to discharge its missions and its ability to respond in emergencies;

Whereas homeland defense is the most important mission of the Department of Defense; and

Whereas the National Guard is the force best suited to defend the homeland and therefore the element from which resources should not be cut: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the vital Federal and State missions of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States, including support of ongoing missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and homeland defense and disaster assistance and relief efforts;

(2) recommends that the Department of Defense propose fully funding the equipment needs of the National Guard;

(3) believes that the Department of Defense should, as soon as possible, consult with the chief executive officers of the States, as well as Congress, on any proposed changes to the National Guard force structure;

(4) requests that any plan of the Department of Defense regarding the National

Guard force structure take into account the role of the National Guard role in homeland defense and other State missions as defined by the chief executive officers of the States;

(5) requests that the Department of Defense prepare budget projections that detail cost savings from any changes in National Guard force structure, as well as projected costs in the event large personnel increases are necessary to respond to a national emergency; and

(6) requests that the Department of Defense assure Congress and the chief executive officers of the States that potential changes in the National Guard force structure will not impact the safety and security of the United States people.

DAY OF HEARTS, CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate proceed to S. Con. Res. 69.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 69) supporting the goals and ideals of a Day of Hearts, Congenital Heart Defect Day in order to increase awareness about congenital heart defects.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 69) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 69

Whereas congenital heart defects are structural problems with the heart that are present at birth;

Whereas such defects range in severity from simple problems, such as "holes" between chambers of the heart, to very severe malformations, such as the complete absence of one or more chambers or valves of the heart;

Whereas more than one million Americans have some form of a congenital heart defect and such defect is the number one cause of death in infants;

Whereas out of 1000 births, eight babies will have some form of a congenital heart disorder, and approximately 35,000 babies are born with such defects each year;

Whereas twice as many children die each year from congenital heart disease compared with childhood cancers, yet funding for pediatric cancer research is five times higher than such funding for congenital heart disease;

Whereas cardiovascular disease is the Nation's leading killer in both men and women among all racial and ethnic groups;

Whereas the United States has a severe shortage of cardiac centers that are fully equipped to provide care for adults living with complex heart defects;