

broad coalition of veterans service organizations, and Congress should take care before carving out exceptions to this policy. This does not mean, however, that just any lease will do. The VA must incorporate the views of local veterans groups whenever it makes decisions about how to utilize its property and any lease must preserve the integrity of the VA grounds.

This bill includes over \$1 billion for National Guard and Reserve construction. For too long, the needs of the National Guard and Reserve have not been adequately funded even while their responsibilities at home and abroad have grown exponentially. This bill increases funds for the National Guard and Reserve commensurate with their growing responsibilities.

I am concerned that the Department of Defense, according to the report of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has "yet to provide a comprehensive plan detailing the scope and cost of the total military construction requirement" associated with the increase in end strength of the Army and Marine Corps. Nor has the Defense Department properly accounted for the tremendous increase in the cost of realigning its force structure. And I am concerned that the Defense Department is proceeding with major new construction at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti even before the new AFRICOM commander has been confirmed, thereby undermining the stated goal of creating a more cohesive and coordinated approach to security in Africa. As chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am committed to ongoing oversight of the role of our Armed Forces in the overall U.S. strategy towards the African continent.

In conclusion, I am pleased that the Senate voted today to support the needs of members of the Armed Forces, the Reserves, veterans and their families. They have served our Nation selflessly and deserve our enduring support.

#### RETIREMENT OF ALEXIS T. LUM

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a great American and a remarkable man, who has an exceptional record of public service. He has honorably served our country with distinction for over 43 years of active duty and National Guard Service, as well as 16 years of service as my executive assistant.

GEN Alexis Lum retired in February 1991 as the adjutant general for the State of Hawaii Army National Guard. His military service began in 1945, when he was drafted shortly after graduating from Roosevelt High School in Honolulu. He served as an enlisted man in the Pacific, attaining the rank of staff sergeant. When discharged in 1947, he became a student at the University of Hawaii where he received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and a ROTC commission as a second lieutenant.

He was recalled to active duty in April 1951 for the Korean conflict and served as an infantry platoon leader. Released from active duty in 1954, he then joined the Hawaii Army National Guard as a first lieutenant. As a major, he was part of the National Guard call-up in 1968 and served in the Republic of Vietnam, initially as the executive officer of an engineer battalion. Promoted to lieutenant colonel while on this tour, he served his last 4 months in Vietnam as commander of the same battalion.

His National Guard service included varied command and staff positions. He was promoted to brigadier general in 1980 and was assigned as the assistant adjutant general, Army. In 1982 he was appointed as the adjutant general, Hawaii by Governor George Ariyoshi and was promoted to the rank of major general. He attended many military service schools including the Army's Command, General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, and numerous service medals.

In his civilian life, between tours of active duty, he was an engineer with the Navy Civil Service at the Naval Ammunition Depot, Lualualei, Oahu. He started as a junior engineer in 1954 when he was released from active duty. He progressed to the director of the engineering division and deputy public works officer for the Naval Ammunition Depot. He retired from Federal civil service in 1982, when he was appointed the adjutant general.

His wife is Leimomi—Momimookini Lum. She served for 32 years with the Honolulu Police Department, as a police investigator, and retired in 1982. Her last 20 years of police service involved working in the juvenile crime prevention division of the Police Department. Together they have three children, Mrs. Angela Thomas, Mrs. Alexia Carvalho, and Mr. Oliver Lum, and four granddaughters.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1692. A bill to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated.

#### 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. SANDERS:

S. 2031. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide grants and flexibility through demonstration projects for States to provide universal, comprehensive, cost-effective systems of health care coverage, with simplified administration; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2032. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a competitive grant program for the Puget Sound area to provide comprehensive conservation planning to address water quality; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2033. A bill to provide for greater disclosure to, and empowerment of, consumers who have entered into a contract for cellular telephone service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. Res. 310. A resolution commending the city of Lafayette, Louisiana, for engaging in a year-long celebration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert Du Motier, commonly known as the Marquis de Lafayette; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 311. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 206

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 415

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 415, a bill to amend the Revised Statutes of the United States to prevent the use of the legal system in a manner that extorts money from State and local governments, and the Federal Government, and inhibits such governments' constitutional actions under the first, tenth, and fourteenth amendments.

S. 940

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 940, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the subpart F exemption for active financing income.

S. 988

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 1145

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1145, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

S. 1150

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1150, a bill to enhance the State inspection of meat and poultry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1161

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the expansion of medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy services.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to end the use of child soldiers in hostilities around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1316

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1316, a bill to establish and clarify that Congress does not authorize persons convicted of dangerous crimes in foreign courts to freely possess firearms in the United States.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1621

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1621, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain farming business machinery and equipment as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 1944

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Rhode Is-

land (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1944, a bill to provide justice for victims of state-sponsored terrorism.

S. RES. 292

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 292, a resolution designating the week beginning September 9, 2007, as "National Assisted Living Week".

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 1692. A bill to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2032. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a competitive grant program for the Puget Sound area to provide comprehensive conservation planning to address water quality; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2032

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Puget Sound Watershed Comprehensive Conservation Project Act of 2007".

#### SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR PUGET SOUND AREA.

##### (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall carry out a competitive grant program for the Puget Sound area to provide comprehensive conservation planning to address water quality.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with State and local governments, Indian tribes, or nongovernmental entities with a history of working with agricultural producers to carry out projects under the program.

(b) ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary may—

(1) provide project demonstration grants and technical assistance and carry out information and education programs to improve water quality in the Puget Sound area by reducing soil erosion and improving sediment control; and

(2) provide a priority for projects and activities that directly reduce soil erosion or improve water quality.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to carry out the program.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 310—COMMENDING THE CITY OF LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, FOR ENGAGING IN A YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MARIE-JOSEPH-PAUL-YVES-ROCH-GILBERT DU MOTIER, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 310

Whereas the Marquis de Lafayette was born on September 6, 1757, and occupies an important place in the history of the United States;

Whereas Lafayette demonstrated considerable military skill, valor, and dedication as he fought alongside American revolutionary fighters during their struggle for independence, and was voted by Congress the rank and commission of major general in the Continental Army;

Whereas Lafayette's military service was invaluable to General George Washington during many Revolutionary War battles, earning him his reputation as "the soldier's friend";

Whereas Lafayette's leadership and military ingenuity during the Battle of Yorktown, Virginia, led to the defeat of British General Lord Charles Cornwallis and subsequently the successful end to the American Revolutionary War;

Whereas Lafayette's advocacy in France on behalf of the United States fostered positive diplomatic relations and allowed for the Louisiana Purchase;

Whereas Lafayette's status as a native French speaker, in combination with his dedication to democracy in America, prompted Thomas Jefferson to request that the Marquis serve as the Governor of Louisiana;

Whereas Lafayette symbolizes the assistance America received from Europe during the struggle for independence;

Whereas United States aid to France during the World Wars of 1917-1918 and 1941-1945 stemmed in part from shared values of democracy and freedom, which Lafayette strongly supported;

Whereas the friendship between the people of the United States and France has not diminished;

Whereas continued relationships between the United States and France are important to the success of our global partnerships;

Whereas the town of Vermilionville, Louisiana, was renamed Lafayette in 1884 in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette; and

Whereas the city of Lafayette, Louisiana, in the heart of the Acadiana region, exhibits a rich French heritage: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the Marquis de Lafayette on the 250th anniversary of his birth; and

(2) commends the city of Lafayette, Louisiana, for engaging in a year-long celebration of this anniversary.

SENATE RESOLUTION 311—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mrs. DOLE, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. MENENDEZ,