

U.S. Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Christopher Caple and Monica Thurmond from Senator BILL NELSON's staff and David Pozen of my staff be accorded the privileges of the floor.

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

Mr. BAUCUS. I ask unanimous consent that George Serletis, Mollie Lane, Tim Kehrer, Sam Anderson, Amanda Mitchell, and Travis Cossitt of my Finance Committee staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the floor debate on the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

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

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STEPHEN JOEL TRACHTENBERG AS PRESIDENT OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. JAMES HADLEY BILLINGTON AS LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 210 and S. Res. 336, en bloc.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 210) honoring the accomplishments of Stephen Joel Trachtenberg as president of the George Washington University in Washington, DC, in recognition of his upcoming retirement in July 2007.

A resolution (S. Res. 336) recognizing and honoring the 20 years of service and contributions of Dr. James Hadley Billington as Librarian of Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 210 and S. Res. 336) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

S. RES. 210

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg has served since 1988 as the 15th president of The George Washington University;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg served as the third president of the University of Hartford in Hartford, Connecticut, from 1977 to 1988;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, a native of Brooklyn, New York, was an accomplished author, scholar, and educator, and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, peers, and students;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg earned a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University in 1959, a juris doctor degree from Yale University in 1962, and a master of public administration degree from Harvard University in 1966;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was selected as a Winston Churchill Traveling Fellow for study in Oxford, England, in 1968;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was celebrated by the Connecticut Region of Hadassah with the Myrtle Wreath Award in 1982, was presented with The Mt. Scopus Award from Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1984, and received the Human Relations Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1987;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was honored with the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Connecticut Bar Association in 1988, and was recognized by the Hartford branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for his contributions to the education of minority students;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received the International Salute Award in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1992, and the Hannah G. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was awarded the John Jay Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement in 1995 by Columbia University, the Newcomen Society Award, and the Spirit of Democracy Award from the American Jewish Congress;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received an honorary doctor of medicine degree from the Odessa State Medical University in Ukraine in 1996, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of University Administrators, and the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received the Department of State Secretary's Open Forum Distinguished Public Service Award in 1997, and the Grand Cross, the highest honor of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry;

Whereas "Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Day" was declared by resolution of the Council of the District of Columbia on January 22, 1998, in honor of his commitments to minority students, scholarship programs, public school partnerships, and community service;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was honored by Boston University in 1999, where he previously served as a vice president and as an academic dean, with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was named a Washingtonian of the Year 2000 by Washingtonian Magazine, was decorated as a Grand Officier Du Wissam Al Alaoui by King Mohammed VI of Morocco in 2000, and was awarded the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knight Grand Cross for Distinguished Service to Freemasonry and Humanity;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received honorary doctor of laws degrees from Southern Connecticut State University, the University of New Haven, Mount Vernon College, and Richmond College in London;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was named a Fellow of the American Academy of

Arts and Sciences, and was awarded the Department of the Treasury's Medal of Merit;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received the Humanitarian Award from the Albert B. Sabin Institute, and the District of Columbia Business Leader of the Year Award from the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg performed public service as an attorney with the Atomic Energy Commission, as an aide to former Indiana Representative John Brademas, and as a special assistant at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg authored "Reflections on Higher Education", published in 2002, "Thinking Out Loud", published in 1998, and "Speaking His Mind", published in 1994;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg serves on the boards of the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel and the International Association of University Presidents, and as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, as president of The George Washington University, opened new buildings for the School of Business and the Elliott School of International Affairs and a new hospital, and added the Mount Vernon Campus, formerly the Mount Vernon College for Women, to the university;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, as president of The George Washington University, created 5 new schools, the School of Public Health and Health Services, the School of Public Policy and Public Administration, the College of Professional Studies, the Graduate School of Political Management, and the School of Media and Public Affairs;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, as president of The George Washington University, "reinvented" the university's position and positive reputation as Washington, DC's center of scholarship;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg will continue, after retiring as the third-longest-serving president of The George Washington University, as University Professor of Public Service and President Emeritus; and

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and his wife, Francine Zorn Trachtenberg, have 2 sons, Adam and Ben: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and salutes the accomplishments of Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and recognizes his deeds throughout his 19 years of service as president of The George Washington University in Washington, DC;

(2) recognizes the accomplishments and achievements of Stephen Joel Trachtenberg in higher education, as an author, as an attorney, and as a public official; and

(3) based upon his service, extends its appreciation to Stephen Joel Trachtenberg in recognition of his retirement as president of The George Washington University.

S. RES. 336

Whereas Dr. James H. Billington was nominated to be the 13th Librarian of Congress by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, and was confirmed by the Senate and sworn in as Librarian of Congress on September 14, 1987;

Whereas the world renowned collections of the Library of Congress, the largest and most comprehensive in history, have grown by almost 50,000,000 items since Dr. Billington became Librarian, totaling more than 135,000,000 today;

Whereas, during Dr. Billington's tenure, the Library of Congress modernized its collection through the creation of the National Digital Library Program, the American Memory program, THOMAS, and the World Digital Library;

Whereas the Librarian created the first ever private sector philanthropic and advisory group, The Madison Council, to spearhead countless programs for the Library and assist in its funding efforts;

Whereas the Library of Congress has successfully acquired the 1507 Martin Waldseemuller map, the Martin Carson collection of early Americana, the Jay Kislak early Americas collection, and has also continued the preservation of Library collections and promoted cultural and educational outreach programs through the added assistance of private contributions and in-kind gifts collected during Dr. Billington's tenure;

Whereas, during James Billington's Librarianship, the Library of Congress has displayed its treasures and those of other Nations in more than 300 spectacular and enriching exhibitions at the Library and on its Internet website;

Whereas, during Dr. Billington's tenure, the Library of Congress has been a leader in the library world in establishing systems to protect vast collections such as the National Recording Registry and the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, developing cutting edge preservation developments to maintain and protect multiple format collections for future generations, and also ensuring the security of staff, researchers, and visitors;

Whereas the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress was established during the Librarian's tenure to foster mutually enriching interaction between the scholarly world and policy makers and supports the \$1,000,000 Kluge Prize honoring lifetime achievements in the humanities;

Whereas the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson and John Adams buildings were restored by Congress over a multi-year period and reopened to the public in 1997, restoring in particular the century-old Jefferson Building to its former glory as one of the most beautiful buildings in America;

Whereas Dr. Billington has overseen the consolidation of the Library's recorded sound and moving images in a large-scale digital storage archive at the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation, which was constructed through a unique private-public partnership with the Packard Humanities Institute;

Whereas the Library of Congress and First Lady Laura Bush instituted and have co-sponsored the very popular National Book Festival annually since 2001, celebrating the joy of reading and the creativity of America's writers and illustrators;

Whereas the programs of the Library of Congress, including the National Digital Library which processed over 5,000,000,000 transactions in 2006 alone, have made freely available to the American people millions of historical items in the Library's incomparable collection through online databases, including 11,000,000 rare primary source materials from its collection, to invigorate and promote lifelong learning in every locality in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and honors the 20 years of service and contributions of Dr. James Hadley Billington as Librarian of Congress.

JOSHUA OMVIG VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 327 and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 327) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill as amended be read a third time, passed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without further intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 3111) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) suicide among veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (in this section referred to as "PTSD") is a serious problem; and

(2) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should take into consideration the special needs of veterans suffering from PTSD and the special needs of elderly veterans who are at high risk for depression and experience high rates of suicide in developing and implementing the comprehensive program under this Act.

SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AMONG VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AMONG VETERANS.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1720F. Comprehensive program for suicide prevention among veterans

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall develop and carry out a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans incorporating the components described in this section.

“(b) STAFF EDUCATION.—In carrying out the comprehensive program under this section, the Secretary shall provide for mandatory training for appropriate staff and contractors (including all medical personnel) of the Department who interact with veterans. This training shall cover information appropriate to the duties being performed by such staff and contractors. The training shall include information on—

“(1) recognizing risk factors for suicide; (2) proper protocols for responding to crisis situations involving veterans who may be at high risk for suicide; and

“(3) best practices for suicide prevention.

“(c) HEALTH ASSESSMENTS OF VETERANS.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall direct that medical staff offer mental health in their overall health assessment when veterans seek medical care at a Department medical facility (including a center established under section 1712A of this title) and make referrals, at the request of the veteran concerned, to appropriate counseling and treatment programs for veterans who show signs or symptoms of mental health problems.

“(d) DESIGNATION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNSELORS.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall designate a suicide prevention counselor at each Department medical facility other than centers established under section 1712A of this title. Each counselor shall work with local emergency rooms, police departments, mental health organizations, and veterans service organizations to engage in outreach to veterans and improve the coordination of mental health care to veterans.

“(e) BEST PRACTICES RESEARCH.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for research on best practices for suicide prevention among veterans. Research shall be conducted under this subsection in consultation with the heads of the following entities:

“(1) The Department of Health and Human Services.

“(2) The National Institute of Mental Health.

“(3) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“(4) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(f) SEXUAL TRAUMA RESEARCH.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for research on mental health care for veterans who have experienced sexual trauma while in military service. The research design shall include consideration of veterans of a reserve component.

“(g) 24-HOUR MENTAL HEALTH CARE.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for mental health care availability to veterans on a 24-hour basis.

“(h) HOTLINE.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary may provide for a toll-free hotline for veterans to be staffed by appropriately trained mental health personnel and available at all times.

“(i) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for outreach to and education for veterans and the families of veterans, with special emphasis on providing information to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and the families of such veterans. Education to promote mental health shall include information designed to—

“(1) remove the stigma associated with mental illness;

“(2) encourage veterans to seek treatment and assistance for mental illness;

“(3) promote skills for coping with mental illness; and

“(4) help families of veterans with—

“(A) understanding issues arising from the readjustment of veterans to civilian life;

“(B) identifying signs and symptoms of mental illness; and

“(C) encouraging veterans to seek assistance for mental illness.

“(j) PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING PROGRAM.—(1) In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary may establish and carry out a peer support counseling program, under which veterans shall be permitted to volunteer as peer counselors—

“(A) to assist other veterans with issues related to mental health and readjustment; and

“(B) to conduct outreach to veterans and the families of veterans.

“(2) In carrying out the peer support counseling program under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide adequate training for peer counselors.

“(k) OTHER COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary may provide for other actions to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans that the Secretary considers appropriate.”