

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 Waldseemüller 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 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."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

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

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the comprehensive program under section 1720F of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report shall contain the following:

(A) Information on the status of the implementation of such program.

(B) Information on the time line and costs for complete implementation of the program within two years.

(C) A plan for additional programs and activities designed to reduce the occurrence of suicide among veterans.

(D) Recommendations for further legislation or administrative action that the Secretary considers appropriate to improve suicide prevention programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 327), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

MAKING PERMANENT THE WAIVER AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION WITH RESPECT TO STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3625, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3625) to make permanent the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operations or national emergency.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 3625) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

TMA, ABSTINENCE EDUCATION, AND QI PROGRAMS EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3668, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3668) to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA), the abstinence education program and the qualifying individuals (QI) program.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 3668) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2693

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2693 has been received from the House and is at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2693) to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard regulating worker exposure to diacetyl.

Mr. BROWN. I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

SEQUENTIAL REFERRAL— NOMINATION OF JULIE MYERS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that when the Committee on Homeland Security reports the nomination of Julie Myers, PN 93, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, it be sequentially referred to the Judiciary Committee for up to 30 calendar days; further, that if the nomination is not reported by the completion of that time, the nomination be automatically discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m., Friday, September 28; that on Friday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 1585.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:57 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 28, 2007, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

JAVAD ANWAR, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2007, VICE ELMER B. STAATS, TERM EXPIRED.

JAVAD ANWAR, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2013. (REAPPOINTMENT)

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

MADONNA CYNTHIA DOUGLASS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2013, VICE W. SCOTT RAILTON, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DOUGLAS W. WEBSTER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE SAMUEL T. MOK, RESIGNED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be major

ERNEST VALDEZ, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LAURA M. HUNTER, 0000
DOUGLAS JAMES, 0000
GEORGE W. RYAN, JR., 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

MAX B. BULLEN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

GERALD K. BEBBER, 0000
STEVEN L. BERRY, 0000
GARY W. BROWN, 0000
KENNETH W. BUSH, 0000
ROBERT M. COFFEY, 0000
ROGER D. CRINER, 0000
MICHAEL W. DUGAL, 0000
RODNEY A. LINDSAY, 0000
ROBERT T. MEEK, 0000
DANIEL J. MINJARES, 0000
RICHARD G. MOORE, 0000
DENNIS R. NEWTON, 0000
GARY L. NORRIS, 0000
KENNETH W. STICE, 0000
RONALD H. THOMAS, 0000
PHILLIP F. WRIGHT, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be colonel

JOHN A. MCHENRY, 0000

To be lieutenant colonel

JAMES B. CHAPMAN, 0000

To be major

DAVID P. LAW, 0000
ALAN S. WALLER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064: