

1986. It is a fitting testimony to the quality and importance of her literary work that both States, which she called home, chose to honor her in this fashion.

Grace Paley will be sorely missed, but her work, her passion for peace and justice, and her love of her fellow Vermonters will not be forgotten.●

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 treaty which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the following enrolled bills and joint resolutions, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on September 28, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

H.R. 976. An act to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

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

H.J. Res. 43. Joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

H.J. Res. 52. Joint resolution making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3625. An act to make permanent the waiver authority of the Secretary of Education with respect to student financial assistance during a war or other military operation or national emergency.

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bill was subsequently signed on September 29, 2007, by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BYRD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008" (Rept. No. 110-186).

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

Report to accompany S. 1693, a bill to enhance the adoption of a nationwide interoperable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States (Rept. No. 110-187).

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. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 2119. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DODD, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2120. A bill to authorize the establishment of a Social Investment and Economic Development Fund for the Americas to provide assistance to reduce poverty, expand the middle class, and foster increased economic opportunity in the countries of the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2121. A bill to provide funding and incentives for caregiver support and long-term care assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2122. A bill to amend title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to reduce class size through the use of highly qualified teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. DODD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DOMENICI, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SMITH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 2123. A bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2124. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 19. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per centum of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. Res. 338. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Passport Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. SUNUNU, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 339. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the situation in Burma; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 340. A resolution recognizing the efforts and contributions of outstanding Hispanic scientists in the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 334

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 334, a bill to provide affordable, guaranteed private health coverage that will make Americans healthier and can never be taken away.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from using private debt collection companies, and for other purposes.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 557

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the depreciation classification of motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 667

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 667, a bill to expand programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, including potential mental health concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 741

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 741, a bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to establish a grant program to ensure waterfront access for commercial fishermen, and for other purposes.

S. 759

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for military operations in Iran.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to repeal a provision enacted to end Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor.

S. 1015

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1015, a bill to reauthorize the National Writing Project.

S. 1070

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1120

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1120, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine and public health.

S. 1139

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, a bill to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) 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. 1568

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage private philanthropy.

S. 1577

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1577, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers.

S. 1627

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1627, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and expand the benefits for businesses operating in empowerment zones, enterprise communities, or renewal communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1718, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for reimbursement to servicemembers of tuition for programs of education interrupted by military service, for deferment of students loans and reduced interest rates for servicemembers during periods of military service, and for other purposes.

S. 1733

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1773

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to regulate payroll tax deposit agents.

S. 1791

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1791, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize, and increase funding for, the biodiesel fuel education program.

S. 1843

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1843, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to clarify that an unlawful practice occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes.

S. 1895

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1895, a bill to aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1930, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prevent illegal logging practices, and for other purposes.

S. 1951

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1951, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure that individuals eligible for medical assistance under the Medicaid program continue to have access to prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 1954

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1954, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to pharmacies under part D.

S. 1970

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, a National Resource Center on Children and Disasters, and for other purposes.

S. 2067

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2067, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to recreational vessels.

S.J. RES. 13

At the request of Mr. GREGG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 13, a joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 13, *supra*.

S. RES. 319

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 319, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the United States Transportation Command on its 20th anniversary.

AMENDMENT NO. 2068

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2068 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2905

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2905 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel

strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3024

At the request of Mr. TESTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3024 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3032

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3032 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3058

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3058 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3058 proposed to H.R. 1585, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 3078

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3078 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3082

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3082 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2122. A bill to amend title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to reduce class size through the use of highly qualified teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join my colleague, Senator MURRAY, in introducing legislation—the Facilitating Outstanding Classrooms Using Size Reduction (FOCUS) Act of 2007—that will provide \$2 billion in funding to help, States and school districts hire 100,000 new teachers to reduce class size, particularly in the early grades.

When a teacher is responsible for a classroom of 25, 30, or more students, how can we expect each student to receive enough time and attention? One pillar of our education system should be small classes. The body of research around class size has consistently shown that smaller classes improve student performance, including reading and mathematics, in the early grades as well as in subsequent years when students are placed in larger classes. Research also shows that at the end of fifth grade, students who were in small classes in first through third grades were about half a school year ahead of students from larger classes in all core subjects—reading, language arts, math, and science. Additionally, studies have found that students from small classes earn better grades in high school, take more advanced courses, and are more likely to take college-entrance exams. They are also more likely to graduate from high school than students in larger classes.

Small classes also enable teachers to teach better. Any teacher will tell you that small classes make a difference. Small classes allow teachers to spend more time on instruction, get to know their students better, spend less time on discipline problems, and better identify students who need individually tailored assistance. The difference between teaching large classes and teaching small classes is substantial, and the pedagogy required for each differs.

I have stood with Senator MURRAY on previous legislation to reduce class size in our Nation's schools, and I am proud to stand with her again today in support of a class size reduction bill. The bill we offer today strengthens our earlier efforts to reduce class size. First—the FOCUS Act would provide a dedicated funding stream for class size reduction. The No Child Left Behind Act incorporated the Class Size Reduction Program into title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Murray-Biden FOCUS Act would create a separate funding stream in title V for the class size reduction initiative—ensuring that efforts to reduce class size would not have to compete