

SECTION 1. ROSA PARKS STATUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(a) of Public Law 109-116 (2 U.S.C. 2131a note) is amended by—

(1) striking “2 years” and inserting “4 years”; and

(2) adding at the end the following: “The Joint Committee may authorize the Architect of the Capitol to enter into the agreement and related contracts required under this subsection on its behalf, under such terms and conditions as the Joint Committee may require.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of Public Law 109-116.

VETERANS’ COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Veterans’ Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1284, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1284) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2007, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, I am speaking in support of Senate passage of S. 423, the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2007.” This measure, which I introduced earlier this year and which the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs reported on July 24, would direct the Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs to increase, effective December 1, 2007, the rates of veterans’ compensation to keep pace with the rising cost-of-living in this country. The rate adjustment is equal to that provided on an annual basis to Social Security recipients and is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index.

Congress regularly enacts an annual cost-of-living adjustment, “COLA,” for veterans’ compensation in order to ensure that inflation does not erode the purchasing power of the veterans and their families who depend upon this income to meet their needs. This past year Congress passed, and the President signed into law, Public Law 109-361, which resulted in a COLA increase of 3.3 percent for 2007. The cost-of-living adjustment for 2008 will be 2.3 percent.

As I have stated many times, it is important that we view veterans compensation, including the annual COLA, and all benefits earned by veterans, as a continuing cost of war. Unfortunately, it seems highly likely that the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan will continue and this in turn will

result in injuries and disabilities that will yield an increase in claims for compensation. One million, six hundred thousand servicemembers have deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, and studies by VA indicate that the most significant predictor of new claims activity is the size of the active force.

The COLA affects, among other benefits, veterans’ disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Many of the more than 3 million recipients of those benefits depend upon these tax-free payments not only to provide for their own basic needs, but those of their spouses, children and parents as well. Without an annual COLA increase, these veterans and their families would see the value of their hard-earned benefits slowly dwindle, and we, as a Congress, would be in abandonment of our duty to ensure that those who sacrificed so much for this country receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

Disbursement of disability compensation to our nation’s veterans constitutes a core responsibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is a necessary measure of gratitude afforded to those veterans whose lives were irrevocably altered by their service to this country.

I urge all of our colleagues to support passage of this COLA increase. I also ask our colleagues for their continued support for our Nation’s veterans.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statement be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1284) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

ATLANTIC FREEDOM TOUR OF THE FREEDOM SCHOONER AMISTAD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 399, S. Res. 258.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 258) recognizing the historical and educational significance of the Atlantic Freedom Tour of the Freedom Schooner Amistad, and expressing the sense of the Senate that preserving the legacy of the Amistad story is important in promoting multicultural dialogue, education, and cooperation.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 258) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 258

Whereas the Slave Trade Act of the British Parliament in 1807 was the first major legislation to abolish the slave trade and began the march to end slavery;

Whereas, in 1839, 53 Africans were illegally kidnapped from Sierra Leone and sold into the transatlantic slave trade;

Whereas the captives were brought to Havana, Cuba, aboard the Portuguese vessel Tecora, where they were fraudulently classified as native-born Cuban slaves;

Whereas the captives were sold to José Ruiz and Pedro Montez of Spain, who transferred them onto the coastal cargo schooner La Amistad;

Whereas, on the evening of the rebellion, La Amistad was secretly directed to return west up the coast of North America, where after two months the Africans were seized and arrested in New London, Connecticut;

Whereas the captives were jailed and awaited trial in New Haven, Connecticut;

Whereas the trial of the captives became historic when former President John Quincy Adams argued on behalf of the enslaved before the United States Supreme Court and won their freedom;

Whereas, in 2007, the Freedom Schooner Amistad will embark on its first transatlantic voyage to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade; and

Whereas the Amistad case represents an opportunity to call to public attention the evils of slavery and the struggle for freedom and the restoration of human dignity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes the historical and educational significance of the Atlantic Freedom Tour of the Freedom Schooner Amistad;

(2) the Senate encourages the people of the United States to learn about the history of the United States and better understand the experiences that have shaped this Nation; and

(3) it is the sense of the Senate that preserving the legacy of the Amistad should be regarded as a means in fostering multicultural dialogue, education, and cooperation.

REQUIREMENT FOR REPORTS ON ACTS OF TERROR AGAINST AMERICANS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 418, S. 1839.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1839) to require periodic reports on claims related to acts of terrorism against Americans perpetrated or supported by the Government of Libya.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table,

that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (S. 1839) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1839

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

SECTION 1. PERIODIC REPORTS ON CLAIMS RELATED TO ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST AMERICANS PERPETRATED OR SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter until December 31, 2009, or the Secretary of State makes the certification under subsection (b), the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on unresolved claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Libya for acts described in section 1605(a)(7) of title 28, United States Code.

(2) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) information on the status of negotiations between the Government of Libya and the United States claimants;

(B) a description of the specific actions that the United States Government is taking to encourage the Government of Libya to resolve such claims; and

(C) any other information that the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—The certification referred to in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) is a certification submitted by the Secretary of State to the appropriate congressional committees that all claims by nationals of the United States described in such paragraph have been resolved.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “national of the United States” has the meaning given the term in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2198 AND S. 2205

Mr. DURBIN. I understand there are two bills at the desk. I ask for their first reading, en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2198) to require the Architect of the Capitol to permit the acknowledgment of God on flag certificates.

A bill (S. 2205) to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask for their second reading and object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be read a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2007

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Friday, October 19; that on that day, 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, and the Senate then resume consideration of H.R. 3043.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. On behalf of the leader, I wish to reiterate his earlier announcement that there will be no roll-call votes during Friday’s session. However, the bill managers will be here to work with Members who do have amendments. Also, as a reminder, there is a 1 p.m. filing deadline for first-degree amendments on Friday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. If there is no further business, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:24 p.m., adjourned until Friday, October 19, 2007, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD

ALLAN I. MENDELOWITZ, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING FEBRUARY 27, 2014. (REAPPOINTMENT)

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

JOAQUIN F. BLAYA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2008. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JOAQUIN F. BLAYA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2011. (REAPPOINTMENT)

EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2009. (REAPPOINTMENT)

SUSAN M. MCCUE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2010. VICE NORMAN J. PATTI, TERM EXPIRED.

DENNIS M. MULHAUPT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2008. VICE BLANQUITA WALSH CULLUM, TERM EXPIRED.

DENNIS M. MULHAUPT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2011. (REAPPOINTMENT)

STEVEN J. SIMMONS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 13, 2009. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. DONALD L. RUTHERFORD, 0000

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

To be brigadier general

COLONEL JOSEPH CARAVALHO, JR., 0000

COLONEL RHONDA L. S. CORNUM, 0000

COLONEL KEITH W. GALLAGHER, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

To be colonel

CHERYL A. KEARNEY, 0000

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 lieutenant colonel

NOEL P. KORNETT, 0000

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

MICHAEL MAINE, JR., 0000

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

To be lieutenant colonel

MICHAEL T. BUTLER, 0000

ROBERT CANNON, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be captain

GARY TABACH, 0000

To be lieutenant commander

BRADLEY L. KINKEAD, 0000

ERIC E. PERCIVAL, 0000

KELVIN L. REED, 0000