

United States Code, for a combat-related injury (as defined in subsection (d) of such section 904) shall cease.

(c) RETROACTIVE PAYMENT OF BONUSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall pay to each member of the Armed Forces retired or separated under chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code, for a combat-related injury (as defined in subsection (d) of section 904 of title 37, United States Code (as so added)) during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, an amount equal to the amount of any continued payment of bonus or bonuses to which such member would have been entitled at the time of retirement or separation under applicable provisions of such section 904 if such section 904 had been in effect as of September 11, 2001.

(2) AUDIT.—The Secretary shall identify the former members of the Armed Forces to be paid amounts under this subsection, and shall determine the amounts to be paid such members under this subsection, through a financial audit or such other mechanisms as the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes of this subsection.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—S. 2483

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand that S. 2483 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2483) to authorize certain programs and activities in the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard, and the bill is placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TAX CONVENTION WITH BELGIUM

PROTOCOL AMENDING TAX
CONVENTION WITH GERMANY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 2 and 5, the Tax Convention With Belgium and the Protocol Amending the Tax Convention With Germany; that the Treaty and Protocol be advanced through their various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions for ratification; and that there now be a division vote on the resolutions en bloc.

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

The treaty and protocol will be considered to have passed through their various parliamentary stages, up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification.

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

TREATIES

[Tax Convention with Belgium (Treaty Doc. 110-3); Protocol Amending Tax Convention with Germany (Treaty Doc. 109-20)]

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, and accompanying Protocol, signed at Brussels on November 27, 2006 (Treaty Doc. 110-3).

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol Amending the Convention between the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Germany for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital and to Certain Other Taxes, signed at Berlin on June 1, 2006 and an Exchange of Notes dated August 17, 2006 (EC-2046) (Treaty Doc. 109-20).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested. The question is on the resolutions of ratification. Senators in favor of the ratification of the treaty and protocol, please rise.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification are agreed to.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now return to legislative session.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER
17, 2007

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Monday, December 17; that on Monday, following the prayer and the 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 the motion to proceed to S. 2248; with the time until 12 noon equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or

their designees, with Senator DODD controlling 35 minutes and Senator FEINGOLD controlling 15 minutes of the opponents' time.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDING THE ARIZONA WATER
SETTLEMENTS ACT

Mr. REID. I think this will be the last thing for this week.

I now ask unanimous consent the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3739.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3739) to amend the Arizona Water Settlements Act to modify the requirements for the statement of findings.

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

Mr. REID. Before I ask this matter be completed, I want to say here is an example of cooperation between two Senators. Senators DORGAN and KYL have worked on this for some time. There were some problems that were initially identified, but they have been able to work through this. This is a very important piece of legislation for Senator KYL. For Senator DORGAN, it is an issue that is in his committee. I think it is terrific that this matter is done.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 3739) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
DECEMBER 17, 2007, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:20 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 17, 2007, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID J. KRAMER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR, VICE BARRY F. LOWENKRON.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

THOMAS M. BECK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A

TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2010, VICE WAYNE CARTWRIGHT BEYER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MATT MICHAEL DUMMERMUTH, OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHARLES W. LARSON, SR., RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Friday, December 14, 2007:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JAMES B. PEAKE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

CHARLES E. F. MILLARD, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

THE JUDICIARY

JOSEPH N. LAPLANTE, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

THOMAS D. SCHROEDER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive message transmitted by the President to the Senate on December 14, 2007, withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

WAYNE CARTWRIGHT BEYER, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 1, 2010, VICE OTHONIEL ARMENDARIZ, TO WHICH POSITION HE WAS APPOINTED DURING THE LAST RECESS OF THE SENATE, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 9, 2007.

THOMAS M. BECK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JULY 29, 2012, VICE DALE CABANISS, TERM EXPIRING, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 28, 2007.