

Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.”

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in January, I joined Senator SALAZAR in introducing a bill to include César E. Chávez among the names of the great civil rights leaders we honor in the title of last year’s Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, VRARA. We reported this bill out of committee last week, and I am pleased the Senate was able to take it up and pass it so quickly.

I supported taking this action last year during the Senate Judiciary Committee’s consideration of the VRARA when I offered an amendment on behalf of Senator SALAZAR to add the Hispanic civil rights leader to those for whom the law is named. As Senator SALAZAR reminded us, César Chávez is an American hero who sacrificed his life to empower the most vulnerable in America. Like Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King, for whom the VRARA is named, he believed strongly in the right to vote as a cornerstone of American democracy. I offered the amendment in the Judiciary Committee last year and it was adopted without dissent.

In order not to complicate final passage of the Voting Rights Act, the Senate proceeded to adopt the House-passed bill without amendment. This was done so that the bill could be signed into law without having to be reconsidered by the House. At that time, I committed to work with Senator SALAZAR to conform the law to include recognition of the contribution to our civil rights, voting rights and American society by César Chávez.

I have supported adding César Chávez’s name to the law as an important recognition of the broad landscape of political inclusion made possible by the Voting Rights Act. This bill would not alter the bill’s vital remedies for continuing discrimination in voting but is overdue recognition of the importance of the Voting Rights Act to Hispanic-Americans. Prior to the VRA, Hispanics, like minorities of all races, faced major barriers to participation in the political process, through the use of such devices as poll taxes, exclusionary primaries, intimidation by voting officials, language barriers, and systematic vote dilution.

We amended the bill in committee to add the names of two more great American leaders, Barbara Jordan and William C. Velasquez. Congresswoman Jordan was not only a pioneer as the first African American woman from a southern State to serve in the House of Representatives but also a great leader with an impressive career in public service as a Texas state legislator, a Member of Congress, and a professor at the University of Texas. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton in 1994. Her work on the House Judiciary Committee in 1975 was instrumental in renewing the Voting Rights Act and add-

ing the vital minority language provisions to the VRA. Barbara Jordan’s life and career, not to mention her powerful speeches, have been an inspiration to so many that I am pleased to support adding her name to the bill.

On behalf of Senator SALAZAR, I offered an amendment to add the name of another Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree from Texas, William C. Velasquez. In 1974, Willie Velasquez founded the Southwest Voter Registration and Education Project, the Nation’s largest voter registration project aimed at the Hispanic community. Under his leadership, the SVREP launched hundreds of successful get-out-the-vote and voter registration drives throughout the Southwest, greatly expanding the number of registered Latino voters and increasing Hispanic participation in the political process. Mr. Velasquez, who was also a leader with the United Farm Workers and helped found the Mexican American Youth Organization, MAYO, and la Raza Unida, helped others believe as he did that “Su voto es su voz”, your vote is your voice. When President Clinton posthumously awarded Mr. Velasquez the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995, he was only the second Latino to receive the Nation’s highest civilian honor. We should honor him now by adding his name to the title of the VRARA. I offer this additional amendment on behalf of Senator SALAZAR.

Of course, there are many great leaders we could add to honor their great contributions to the expansion of voting rights to all Americans. Without leaders like Congressman JOHN LEWIS and House Judiciary Chairman JOHN CONYERS, we would not have the Voting Rights Act today. We are indebted to them as we are to so many others for the strides that we have made. Taking up and passing this bill today is a sign of our commitment to ensuring that the great promises of the 14th and 15th amendments are kept for all Americans and that the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act is fully implemented to protect the rights of all Americans.

Mr. REID. I ask consent that the committee-reported amendments be considered and agreed to, the amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to and the bill, as amended, be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The amendment (No. 267) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 267

(Purpose: To add the name of Dr. Hector P. Garcia to a short title)

On page 2, line 3, strike “and William C. Velasquez” and insert “William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

On page 2, line 10, strike “and William C. Velasquez” and insert “William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

On page 2, line 19, strike “and William C. Velasquez” and insert “William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

The bill (S. 188) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 188

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

Section 1 of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-246) is amended by striking “and Coretta Scott King” and inserting “Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 4(a), and section 13(a)(1), of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973b(a), 1973k(a)(1)) are each amended by striking “and Coretta Scott King” and inserting “Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia”.

SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION.

Title I of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 20. A reference in this title to the effective date of the amendments made by, or the date of the enactment of, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, César E. Chávez, Barbara C. Jordan, William C. Velasquez, and Dr. Hector P. Garcia Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 shall be considered to refer to, respectively, the effective date of the amendments made by, or the date of the enactment of, the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.”

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Con. Res. 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 12) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Medal of Honor Day to mark the significance and importance of the Medal of Honor and to celebrate and honor the recipients of the Medal of Honor on the anniversary of the first award of that medal in 1863.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements relating to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 12) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 12

Whereas the Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed to a member of the Armed Forces, is awarded by the President, in the name of Congress, to individuals

who have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty;

Whereas the United States will forever be in debt to the recipients of the Medal of Honor for their bravery and sacrifice in times of war or armed conflict;

Whereas the first Medal of Honor awards were presented to 6 men on March 25, 1863, by the Secretary of War;

Whereas only 3,443 individuals out of the millions of men and women who have served the United States in war, military operations, or other armed conflicts have been awarded the Medal of Honor;

Whereas there are 111 living recipients of the Medal of Honor, as of January 1, 2007;

Whereas it is appropriate to commemorate and honor the recipients of the Medal of Honor and what they represent;

Whereas the people of the United States should always be aware of the significance and meaning of the Medal of Honor;

Whereas the designation of a National Medal of Honor Day would focus the efforts of national, State, and local organizations striving to foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients; and

Whereas March 25, 2007, would be an appropriate date to observe National Medal of Honor Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients;

(2) recognizes the educational opportunity that a National Medal of Honor Day would present to the people of the United States; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of a National Medal of Honor Day to celebrate and honor the contributions of Medal of Honor recipients.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 641

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 641) to express the sense of Congress that no funds should be cut off or reduced for American troops in the field which would result in undermining their safety or their ability to complete their assigned missions.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place this bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, object to my own request.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon tomorrow, February 16; that on Friday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and that the time until 12:30 p.m. be equal-

ly divided and controlled by the two leaders; that beginning at 12:30 p.m., there be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein, with 30-minute blocks of time in an alternating fashion, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:17 p.m., adjourned until Friday, February 16, 2007, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate February 15, 2007:

THE JUDICIARY

RICHARD SULLIVAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE MICHAEL B. MUKASEY, RETIRED.

TIMOTHY D. DEGIUSTI, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA, VICE TIMOTHY D. LEONARD, RETIRED.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. BENJAMIN C. FREAKLEY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. A. SORENSEN JEFFREY, 0000

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be lieutenant colonel

JEFFREY M. KLOSKY, 0000

To be major

ROBERT W. ROSS III, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1203:

To be colonel

MIYAKO N. SCHANLEY, 0000

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

To be major

ANTHONY C. ADOLPH, 0000

NACY J. ALOUISE, 0000

ROBERT E. BARNESBY, 0000

JOSEPH G. BERGEN, 0000

SCOTT S. BRENNEMAN, 0000

THOMAS E. BRZOZOWSKI, 0000

CLINTON M. CAMPION, 0000

GERALDINE CHANEL, 0000

SEAN M. CONNOLLY, 0000

CHRISTOPHER C. COX, 0000

JENNIFER L. CRAWFORD, 0000

JOEL P. CUMMINGS, 0000

GEOFFREY S. DEWESEEE, 0000

KIRSTEN M. DOWDY, 0000

MELINDA S. ECENRODE, 0000

LAWRENCE A. EDELL II, 0000

CHARLOTTE M. EMERY, 0000

JAMES A. EWING, 0000

JENNIFER B. FARMER, 0000

WILLIAM M. FISCHBACH, 0000

JAMES F. FORD, 0000

TIMOTHY A. FURIN, 0000

STEVEN A. GARIEPY, 0000

BRIAN P. GAVULA, 0000
KRISTOF M. GAWIN, 0000
KURT E. GILABERT, 0000
PAUL E. GOLDEN, JR., 0000
DANIEL D. GRIESER, 0000
BENJAMIN K. GRIMES, 0000
VERONICA HANSEN, 0000
MATTHEW R. HOVER, 0000
JOHN L. KIEL, JR., 0000
BENJAMIN J. KINSLEY, 0000
CHRISTOPHER L. KRAFCHEK, 0000
WALTER H. KWON, 0000
JOSEPH B. MACKEY, 0000
SEAN F. MANGAN, 0000
CHRISTOPHER E. MARTIN, 0000
STEPHEN W. MCCAGHA, 0000
WILLIAM E. MULLEE, 0000
KRISTIAN W. MURRAY, 0000
GREGORY S. MUSSelman, 0000
STEVEN C. NEILL, 0000

AMY J. NELSON, 0000
CASEY P. NIX, 0000
AMANDA M. O'NEIL, 0000
SCOTT A. ORAVEC, 0000
SABRA M. OWENS, 0000
PATRICK A. PARSON, 0000
JON D. PAVLOVCAK, 0000
ALEXANDER N. PICKANDS, 0000
TARA E. POLLEYS, 0000
TERESA L. RAYMOND, 0000
SHANE R. REEVES, 0000
KAREN W. RIDDLE, 0000
CYNTHIA RUCKNO, 0000
BRIAN J. RUSH, 0000
CHRISTOPHER C. RYAN, 0000
YVONNE L. SALLIS, 0000
PATRICK R. SHANE, 0000
ROBERT C. STELLE, 0000
JEFFREY S. THURNHER, 0000
SCOTT T. VANSWERINGEN, 0000
MARK A. VETTER, 0000
RUTH M. VETTER, 0000
TROY C. WALLACE, 0000
MARC B. WASHBURN, 0000
GISELA A. WESTWATER, 0000
SEAN M. WILSON, 0000
STEFAN R. WOLFE, 0000
DEBORAH E. WOOLVERTON, 0000
KAIESHA N. WRIGHT, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 1203:

To be colonel

ANDREW W. AQUINO, 0000
STANLEY W. BAMBERG, 0000
WILLIE G. BARNES, 0000
RAYMOND H. BUCON, 0000
DONALD F. DAVIDSON, 0000
JAMES R. DRISCOLL, 0000
DELMAR M. FARNHAM, 0000
JAMES M. FOGLEMILLER, 0000
MALCOLM M. GRIFFITH, 0000
COY J. HALLMARK, 0000
LAWRENCE M. HENDEL, 0000
STEVEN W. HOLLEY, 0000
JOHN J. HOLZHAUSER, 0000
KEVIN J. HOOGLAND, 0000
FRANKLIN D. HUDSON, 0000
DAVID H. JONES, 0000
LARRY E. JONES, 0000
WAYNE D. KIRK, 0000
JONATHAN B. LEACH, 0000
LARRY A. MCCARTY, 0000
RICK E. MORROW, 0000
PATRICK D. NEAL, 0000
WILLIAM J. STANG, 0000
MICHAEL D. TAYLOR, 0000
DAVID A. WHITE, 0000
PAUL J. WILLIS, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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

To be lieutenant colonel

CHARLES E. PARHAM, JR., 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

DONALD E. EVANS, JR., 0000
ELLIOTT J. ROWE, 0000

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

To be lieutenant colonel

JORGE L. MEDINA, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED LIMITED DUTY OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

DOUGLAS M. FINN, 0000
RONALD P. HEFLIN, 0000