

agency. Since 1995, Web has been assigned to SSA's Legislative Affairs Office in Washington. He was selected to serve in his current position as Associate Commissioner of Legislative Development in February 1999.

The staff of the Finance Committee has had the pleasure of working with Web on many issues relating to Social Security during his tenure at SSA. He has always been resourceful, insightful, and forthcoming.

Web will retire from the Social Security Administration on July 3, 2007. He will be sorely missed by his colleagues and his many friends on the Hill. He will leave behind the numerous individuals he has mentored and encouraged over the years and who will now carry on this work.

Both Senator GRASSLEY and I feel that it is important that we in Congress recognize the many women and men who devote their working lives to improving the lives of others. Career civil servants often do their work in quiet anonymity behind the scenes providing vital service to the American people. They are rarely recognized for their many contributions. Webster Phillips is one of those people. His record of leadership at the Social Security Administration and his commitment to providing the American people with effective and compassionate service is a record of which he can be justly proud.

Senator GRASSLEY and I wish Web all the best in his retirement from Federal service and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.●

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. BYRD:

S. 1633. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including the battlefield and related sites of the Battle of Shepherdstown in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, as part of Harpers Ferry National Historical Park or Antietam National Battlefield, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1634. A bill to implement further the Act approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 1635. A bill to provide for the reimbursement of wildland firefighters for the cost of professional liability insurance; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. DOLE (for herself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 1636. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans for individuals called to active duty for at least 179 days; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1637. A bill to establish a geothermal heat pump technology acceleration program relating to General Services Administration facilities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr.

HATCH, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL,

Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1638. A bill to adjust the salaries of Federal justices and judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 57

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 57, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to deem certain service in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts to have been active service for purposes of benefits under programs administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 311

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation.

S. 442

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 442, a bill to provide for loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders.

S. 871

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 871, a bill to establish and provide for the treatment of Individual Development Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Da-

kota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to reduce hunger in the United States.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to end the use of child soldiers in hostilities around the world, and for other purposes.

S. 1233

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1233, a bill to provide and enhance intervention, rehabilitative treatment, and services to veterans with traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

S. 1285

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1285, a bill to reform the financing of Senate elections, and for other purposes.

S. 1432

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1432, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve access to healthy foods, and for other purposes.

S. 1618

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1618, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for the production of a cellulosic biofuel.

S. RES. 215

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 215, a resolution designating September 25, 2007, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day".

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 236, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the National Anthem Project, which has worked to restore America's voice by re-teaching Americans to sing the national anthem.

AMENDMENT NO. 1572

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1572

proposed to H.R. 6, a bill to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1574

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1574 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6, a bill to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1638. A bill to adjust the salaries of Federal justices and judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Federal Judicial Salary Restoration Act of 2007. Since 1969, the salaries of Federal judges have significantly declined when adjusted for inflation. This bill would demonstrate our respect and appreciation for our hardworking Federal judges by authorizing an immediate and substantial increase in judicial salaries. Our bill recognizes the important constitutional role judges play in administering justice, interpreting our laws, and providing the ultimate check and balance in our system of government. It is time Congress treated the Federal judiciary with the respect that a co-equal branch of government deserves.

Eight years ago, in 1999, the President's salary was doubled to \$400,000 a year. We are not proposing to increase judges' salaries by 100 percent, but by half that, by 50 percent. The increase is an important step in ensuring the independence of the judiciary. Judicial independence is critical for preserving our system of government and protecting the rights of all Americans. Surely we can do half as much for the judicial branch of Government as we did for the executive branch 8 years ago.

For too long, judicial salaries have failed even to keep up with inflation while public and private sector salaries have surged ahead. According to information provided by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, judicial salaries have declined by nearly 25 percent in real terms since 1969. Dur-

ing the same time, private sector salaries have increased by more than 15 percent. In 1969, a Federal district court judge earned 20 percent more than a law school dean and about 30 percent more than a senior law professor at a top law school. By contrast, today top law school deans make twice as much as district court judges, and senior law professors at those schools make nearly 50 percent more. Many recent law school graduates will make more in their starting salary at a private law firm than we pay to an experienced district court judge. Those in the executive branch have enjoyed periodic raises that have taken their salaries well above those of judges. For example, SEC trial attorneys now make up to \$180,330, which is significantly higher than the annual salary of our Federal trial judges.

In addition, the workload for Federal judges has increased dramatically. Since 1960, the caseload for district court judges has climbed by almost 60 percent and the caseload of circuit court judges has jumped more than 200 percent. Judges who are working to preserve the rule of law in America and to make equal justice a reality should be respected, and their labor should be compensated.

Paul Volcker, the chair of the National Commission on the Public Service, recently noted in *The Wall Street Journal* that congressional inaction on judicial pay could erode the high professional standards and independence of the Judiciary. Chief Justice Rehnquist repeatedly called for an increase in judicial pay, warning that "[i]nadequate compensation seriously compromises the judicial independence fostered by life tenure" and that "... low salaries might force judges to return to the private sector rather than stay on the bench." Chief Justice Roberts pointed to an increasing trend in early retirement in his last "Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary," noting that many of those retired judges have gone to work in the private sector. Justice Anthony Kennedy testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in February about similar threats to judicial independence.

This bill addresses these concerns by granting a raise for all Federal judges. This bipartisan legislation has broad support. President Bush supports a significant pay raise for judges, as does the American Bar Association, as do the deans of 130 of the Nation's top law schools, civil rights groups, and others.

One of the first bills we passed in the Senate this year, S. 197, authorized cost-of-living adjustments for the salaries of United States judges. Senators SPECTER, FEINSTEIN and CORNYN joined me in cosponsoring this bill. Unfortunately, that bill has failed to move through the House of Representatives. Too often during the last several years our Federal judges have not been given a standard cost-of-living raise. That, too, has contributed to the diminution in their real compensation.

Our democracy and the rights we enjoy depend on a strong and independent judiciary. During the last few years it has been the courts that have acted to protect our liberties and our Constitution. The independence of the judiciary is compromised, however, if judges leave the bench for financial reasons. The quality of the judiciary is threatened if judges' salaries are inadequate to attract and retain our best legal minds. Given the essential role that the judiciary plays in our system of government, we should pass this raise to judicial salaries.

I thank my Judiciary Committee colleagues, Senator HATCH, Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator CORNYN for agreeing to join me in introducing this bill. I also thank Majority Leader REID, as well as Minority Leader MCCONNELL, for their support of this legislation and their commitment to the Federal judiciary.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1610. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REED, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. SNOWE) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, to reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

SA 1611. Mr. COLEMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1612. Mr. COLEMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1613. Mr. COLEMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1614. Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BYRD, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1615. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra.

SA 1616. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. CARPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1617. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1618. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1619. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R.