

The hearing will examine the weather and environmental satellite programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including the role of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in developing such satellites.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "Carried Interest, Part 1."

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at 10 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Strengthening the Unique Role of the Nation's Inspectors General."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Preserving Prosecutorial Independence: Is the Department of Justice Politicizing the Hiring and Firing of U.S. Attorneys?—Part VI" on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at 10 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building, room 226.

Witness list

Sara M. Taylor, Formerly Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Political Affairs, The White House.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 11, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Review of EPA's Proposed Revision to the Ozone NAAQS."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent that Julie Blanks, a legislative fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor during the remainder of the debate on H.R. 1585.

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

NATIONAL HOMELESS YOUTH AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 226 and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 226) recognizing the month of November as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month."

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the title amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 2128) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3 line 5 after "November," strike the period and insert "2007."

The resolution (S. Res. 226), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2129) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title to read:

Recognizing the month of November 2007 as "National Homeless Youth Awareness Month".

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

(The resolution will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 240.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 240) designating October 21 through October 27, 2007, as "National Save for Retirement Week."

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 240) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 240

Whereas the cost of retirement continues to rise, in part, because people in the United States are living longer than ever before, the number of employers providing retiree health coverage continues to decline, and retiree health care costs continue to increase at a rapid pace;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States, but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States, less than 3% of workers or their spouses are currently saving for retirement and that the actual amount of retirement savings of workers lags far behind the amount that is realistically needed to adequately fund retirement;

Whereas many employees have available to them through their employers access to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to assist them in preparing for retirement;

Whereas many employees may not be aware of their retirement savings options and may not have focused on the importance of and need for saving for their own retirement;

Whereas many employees may not be taking advantage of workplace defined contribution plans at all or to the full extent allowed by the plans or under Federal law; and

Whereas all workers, including public- and private-sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from increased awareness of the need to save for retirement and the availability of tax-advantaged retirement savings vehicles to assist them in saving for retirement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 21 through October 27, 2007, as "National Save for Retirement Week";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week, including raising public awareness about the importance of adequate retirement savings and the availability of employer-sponsored retirement plans; and

(3) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing the retirement savings of all the people of the United States.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2007

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m., tomorrow morning, July 12; that on Thursday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved

to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for 30 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that at the close of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1585, the Department of Defense authorization bill, and then proceed to the McCain or designee amendment, as provided for under a previous order.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion or yielding back of the time controlled by Senator SALAZAR, Senator WARNER be recognized for up to 10 minutes, and that at the conclusion of Senator WARNER's remarks, the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I appreciate the consideration of my colleagues for letting me squeeze in time to complete the Senate's work for today and to say a few nice things about the great Lady Bird Johnson.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, and the Senator from Colorado, Mr. SALAZAR, in control of the first 60 minutes.

The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, let me first say I join with the majority leader in sending our condolences to the Johnson family and in remembering the great life Lady Bird Johnson lived and the contributions she made to our Nation.

During this period of morning business we will be speaking in the following order: First, Senator COLLINS, and then I will follow her; following my statement, Senator ALEXANDER; following Senator ALEXANDER's statement, Senator PRYOR; and then following his statement, if he is able to get here from another commitment, we will have Senator NELSON from Florida also speak on this issue.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from Maine, Senator COLLINS.

NEW IRAQ STRATEGY

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, let me start by thanking the Senator from Colorado for his courtesy to me this evening as well as my friend from Tennessee.

I rise today to join my distinguished colleagues from both sides of the aisle in discussing a bipartisan way forward on what is the greatest challenge facing our country; that is, the war in Iraq. I commend the two leaders of this effort, Senator SALAZAR and Senator ALEXANDER, for their leadership in crafting a well-grounded strategy based on the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group.

I have repeatedly expressed my strong opposition to the President's strategy of sending tens of thousands of additional troops to Iraq. Despite that opposition and the opposition of many others, the administration pushed forward with its plan, arguing that the surge would give the Iraqi Government the time and space necessary to make the political compromises that are necessary to end the continued sectarian violence. Unfortunately, my initial concerns about the surge strategy have proven to be well-founded.

First, there has been a terrible loss of life among our troops over the past few months. In fact, 331 American soldiers were killed from April to June—the highest 3-month level of the war. One such soldier was SGT Joel House, a brave and patriotic Mainer whose funeral I attended in Lee, ME, just last week. Our troops have sacrificed so much.

Second, the fact is that the Iraqi Government has utterly failed to pursue the political reforms necessary to quell the sectarian violence. Our troops have done their part, but the fact is virtually all the experts agree that a solution to the sectarian violence is found in political reforms, not in military action. When you combine the increased sacrifice of our troops and the unwillingness or inability of the Iraqi leaders to act, it is not surprising that more and more Americans are questioning the President's strategy in Iraq.

It is clear our country needs a new direction in Iraq. We need a new strategy that will redefine our mission and set the stage for a significant but gradual withdrawal of our troops over the next year. We do not have to search far and wide for this new policy. It is right before us. It has already been mapped out in the unanimous recommendations of the bipartisan Baker-Hamilton Iraq Study Group. The Iraq Study Group's recommendations chart the path forward and remain just as viable today as they were when they were first released in December.

The Baker-Hamilton report sets forth three core principles for salvaging a measure of stability for Iraq and the surrounding region.

First, the report says the United States must shift the primary mission of its military forces in Iraq from combat to training, with the goal of removing all combat brigades not necessary for training, force protection, and counterterrorism activities against al-Qaida and other foreign jihadists by

March of 2008. Shifting the mission of our troops to a new and more defined and narrower set of goals will ultimately encourage the Iraqi military to step up to the plate while lowering U.S. casualty rates, relieving our service-members of heavy deployment schedules, and improving the long-term readiness of our military.

Second, the Iraq Study Group Report states that U.S. support for the Iraqi Government should be conditioned on Iraq making progress in meeting specific benchmarks.

In May, Senator WARNER and I authored legislation to require the President to provide two reports to Congress—one which will be released tomorrow and the other on September 15—on whether the Iraqis are meeting 18 benchmarks essential to achieving political reconciliation. Although we have not yet seen the report that is scheduled to be released tomorrow, from everything I have heard, the Iraqi Government is extremely unlikely to have met any of the benchmarks we have laid out. The Warner-Collins proposal also included a provision to condition the release of reconstruction funds to progress made by the Iraqi Government. Surely, if the Iraqis are not passing the political reforms that are necessary, the United States should not continue to provide reconstruction funds. This requirement which is in the law now is also consistent with the Iraq Study Group's recommendations.

Third, the Iraq Study Group says the United States must launch a new diplomatic effort in the region to ensure Iraq's long-term stability, or to help ensure its stability. Iraq cannot be addressed effectively in isolation from other major regional issues and interests. Both the international community and Iraq's immediate neighbors are clearly not doing enough to foster its stability, and it is long past time for that to change. Senator SALAZAR and Senator ALEXANDER have incorporated these recommendations into legislation I have cosponsored and into the amendment we will be offering to the Defense authorization bill. How significant it is that this amendment enjoys widespread, bipartisan support because it is long past time for a new bipartisan approach to the war in Iraq.

Iraqi leaders must reach political agreements in order to achieve reconciliation, and their failure to do so is unfair to our American troops who are making such grave sacrifices. The responsibility for Baghdad's internal security and for halting the sectarian violence must rest primarily with the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi security forces. At the same time, it is important we continue the mission of fighting al-Qaida and the counterterrorism mission. But an open-ended commitment of American forces in Iraq simply does not provide the Iraqi Government with the incentives it needs to adopt the political reforms that give Iraq the best chance of quelling the sectarian violence. Ultimately,