

standing commitment to our Nation's veterans. This bipartisan measure contains key provisions from both S. 904, the Veterans Small Business Opportunity Act of 2007, which I introduced in March, and Senator KERRY's S. 1005, Military Reservist and Veteran Small Business Reauthorization Act of 2007. It is truly critical that all of our fellow Senators, on both sides of the aisle, continue to collaborate on our veterans' behalf and support swift passage of this legislation.

In October 2003, I requested a Congressional Budget Office Report entitled "The Effects of Reserve Call-Ups on Civilian Employers." That report, issued in May 2005, highlighted the problems that our nation's small businesses face when their owners or key employees are "called up" to serve in defense of our Nation. In response to that report's findings, I offered two bills to improve the resources and programs targeted to these veterans and small businesses. Those bills, S. 1014, the Supporting our Patriotic Businesses Act, and S. 3122, the Patriot Loan Act of 2006, were the genesis of S. 904 that I introduced earlier this year. Similarly, Senator KERRY has an established history of working on these issues, and the Small Business Committee on January 31 held its first hearing of the 110th Congress regarding programs to assist veterans and reservists.

In recent years, our Nation's Guard and Reserve forces, which I collectively refer to as reservists, have selflessly answered the call to duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, there have been over 425,000 reservist deployments, including nearly 3,000 from my home State of Maine, to those two countries since September 11, 2001. With the majority of nongovernmental reservists either being self-employed or working for small businesses, it is easy to see that veteran entrepreneurs and small businesses are profoundly and disproportionately impacted by these deployments.

As our reservists answer our Nation's call to duty, we must similarly fulfill our obligations to help protect their livelihood back home. In addition to addressing this responsibility, our legislation includes other broad provisions to help our Nation's veteran entrepreneurs across the board.

First, our bill makes vast improvements to the Small Business Administration's, SBA, Military Reservist Economic Disaster Loan, MREIDL, program. The MREIDL program provides funds to businesses to meet ordinary and necessary business expenses that they could have made, if not for the deployment of a reservist who is one of their essential employees.

Specifically, the bill establishes a preapplication process so businesses can be prepared, in advance, to apply for an MREIDL and includes a provision allowing a businesses up to 1 year, as opposed to 90 days, to apply. The legislation increases, from \$1.5 million

to \$2 million, the maximum MREIDL loan a business can take and raises, from \$5,000 to \$50,000, the level of uncollateralized MREIDL loans available to businesses. Finally, our changes to the MREIDL program would allow the SBA Administrator to defer the payment of principal and interest while the employee is deployed.

Second, the measure also includes a national reservist enterprise transition and sustainability provision. This provision would allow the SBA to award grants to entities that assist businesses with preparing and implementing a business strategy to cover the period of time that the owner is called-up on active duty through 6 months after that owner's date of return.

Third, our bill would create a new Interagency Task Force to coordinate the efforts of Federal agencies necessary to increase capital and business development opportunities for, and increase the award of Federal contracting opportunities to, small businesses owned and controlled by veterans. This type of coordinated and targeted effort by our Federal Government is long overdue.

Finally, today's legislation would increase funding for the SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development, and permanently extend the duties and responsibilities of the SBA Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs. It would also allow small businesses owned and operated by veterans to extend their SBA program participation time limitations by the duration of their owner's deployment.

While I have not provided an exhaustive list of this bill's provisions and all that it would do, a simple review of the legislation will reveal that it goes far toward helping our nation's veteran entrepreneurs and our patriotic small businesses that employ reservists, despite the risk that deployments entail. Our legislation is not a silver bullet, but it is certainly a step in the right direction. To that end, I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this bill.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 269—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE CITIZENS' STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHOULD RECOMMEND TO THE POSTMASTER GENERAL THAT A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP BE ISSUED IN HONOR OF FORMER UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA JORDAN**

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DODD, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

#### S. RES. 269

Whereas, in 1966, Barbara Jordan became the first African American since 1883 to serve in the Texas Senate, where she served with distinction until 1972;

Whereas Barbara Jordan became the first African American United States Representative from Texas when she won election to represent Texas's 18th District in the United States House of Representatives in 1972;

Whereas, from 1979 to 1996, Barbara Jordan served as a distinguished professor at the University of Texas Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, where she also held the Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy;

Whereas President Bill Clinton awarded Barbara Jordan the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, in August 1994; and

Whereas Barbara Jordan was a pioneer whose devotion to civil rights for all people in the United States resonates to this day; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that a commemorative postage stamp be issued in honor of former United States Representative Barbara Jordan.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I submit today a resolution calling on former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan to be honored with a commemorative stamp. Congresswoman Jordan was the first African American and the first woman to deliver a keynote address at the Democratic National Convention, which was delivered exactly 31 years ago today.

Congresswoman Barbara Jordan was a pioneer whose devotion to civil rights certainly warrants recognition. She was born in Houston on February 21, 1936, educated in Houston's public schools, and received a B.A. in political science and history from Texas Southern University in 1956. Congresswoman Jordan graduated from Boston University School of Law in 1959, after which she was admitted to the Massachusetts and Texas bars.

In 1966, Congresswoman Jordan became the first African American since 1883 to serve in the Texas Senate, where she served with distinction until 1972. That year, she won election to represent Texas' 18th District in the U.S. House of Representatives and became the State's first African-American Representative. In August 1994, President Bill Clinton awarded Congresswoman Jordan the Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor.

Overcoming some of the most difficult odds imaginable, Congresswoman Jordan always fought hard for what she believed in, devoting herself to improving the quality of life for all Americans. I am pleased that the Senate is considering this resolution which is co-sponsored by 14 other Senators, including the 2 distinguished Senators from Texas, Congresswoman Jordan's home State.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 270—HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN

Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. DORGAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 270

Whereas the International Peace Garden was conceived in 1928 by Dr. Henry J. Moore, a Canadian member of the National Association of Gardeners, who said the garden would be “a memorial to international friendship that shall endure to all time”;

Whereas the International Peace Garden, a National Park affiliate, was dedicated in 1932, with 50,000 people in attendance, on the border between the State of North Dakota and the Province of Manitoba as a symbol of the long-standing peace, friendship, and cooperation between the United States and Canada;

Whereas a cairn of native stone was constructed on the international border and inscribed “To God in His Glory. . . We two nations dedicate this garden and pledge ourselves that as long as men shall live we will not take up arms against one another”;

Whereas in 1934 the Civilian Conservation Corps helped plant and construct the garden on the 2,339 acres of land donated by the State of North Dakota and Province of Manitoba;

Whereas the first building built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Lodge, made of North Dakota granite and timber from the Duck Mountains in Manitoba, still remains in the garden today;

Whereas more than 150,000 flowers grace the garden each year and another 2,000 to 5,000 plants and flowers comprise a large working floral clock, a centerpiece of the garden;

Whereas symbols of peace appear throughout the garden, including the 120 foot Peace Tower honoring early immigrants, the Peace Poles donated by the Japanese government that declare “May Peace Prevail” in 28 different languages, and the Peace Chapel, the only building to straddle the international border;

Whereas the garden’s bell tower has a set of Sifton chimes, cast by Gillett and Johnston of Croydon, England, that are 1 of only 4 sets that exist in the world today;

Whereas more than 150,000 visitors travel to the International Peace Garden every year to view the floral displays, fountains, sunken garden, and other scenic vistas;

Whereas the International Peace Garden hosts the International Music Camp, which offers musical opportunities and instruction for students and adults from around the world, and the Legion Athletic Camp, one of the top student athletic training camps;

Whereas the State of North Dakota proudly declares itself the Peace Garden State in recognition and honor of the International Peace Garden;

Whereas the State of North Dakota, the Province of Manitoba, the United States, and the Canadian Governments have each contributed to the garden and its continued preservation;

Whereas the International Peace Garden is undertaking numerous restoration efforts of existing facilities and the addition of a stone-and-glass interpretive center, a tropical plant observatory, and a conflict resolution center; and

Whereas on July 14, 2007, the International Peace Garden will commemorate its 75th Anniversary: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the International Peace Garden on its 75th anniversary;

(2) honors the International Peace Garden for sharing its history, beautiful gardens, and a message of peace with the public; and

(3) urges support for continued restoration and expansion efforts at the International Peace Garden.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2131. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2019 proposed by Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. McCRAIN) to the amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

SA 2132. Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WEBB) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra.

SA 2133. Mr. McCRAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2134. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2135. Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, and Mr. SALAZAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra.

SA 2136. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2137. Mr. BINGAMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2138. Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2139. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2140. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2141. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2142. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2143. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2144. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2145. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2146. Mr. BYRD (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2147. Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Mr. SHELBY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2148. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2149. Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2150. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. HAGEL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2151. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2152. Mr. BIDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2153. Mr. BIDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2154. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra.

SA 2155. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2019 proposed by Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. McCRAIN) to the amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2156. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2019 proposed by Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. McCRAIN) to the amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2157. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2019 proposed by Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. McCRAIN) to the amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2158. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska to the bill H.R. 1585, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2159. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2019 proposed by Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. McCRAIN) to the amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra.

SA 2160. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2019 proposed by Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. McCRAIN) to the amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, supra.