

Cellucci; William Hagenah; Mark Her-ring.

Truman Scholarship Foundation: Javaid Anwar.

Assistant Secretary of Labor ODEP: Neil Ramano.

Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service and to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services: Joxel Garcia.

Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission: Robert Cohen; Michael Duffy.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CONRAD. 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 an executive business meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Agenda

Bills: S. 2136, Helping Families Save Their Homes in Bankruptcy Act of 2007 [Durbin, Schumer, Whitehouse, Biden, Feinstein]; S. 2133, Home Owners "Mortgage and Equity Savings Act" [Specter, Coleman]; S. 2041, False Claims Act Correction Act of 2007 [Grassley, Durbin, Leahy, Specter, Whitehouse]; S. 2533, State Secrets Protection Act [Kennedy, Specter, Leahy, Feingold, Whitehouse]; and S. 702, State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act [Kohl, Kennedy, Durbin, Biden, Cardin, Leahy].

Resolution: S. Res. 468, designating April 2008 as "National 9-1-1 Education Month" [Clinton, Stevens].

Nominations: Catharina Haynes to be United States Circuit Court Judge for the Fifth Circuit, and Rebecca Ann Gregory to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 13, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. At this hearing, the Committee will hear testimony regarding old-growth forest science, policy and management in the Pacific Northwest region.

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

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 110-15

Mr. REID. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on March 13, 2008, by the President of the United States:

Protocol Amending 1980 Tax Convention with Canada (Treaty Document No. 110-15).

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and Canada with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital done at Washington on September 26, 1980, as Amended by the Protocols done on June 14, 1983, March 28, 1984, March 17, 1995, and July 29, 1997, signed on September 21, 2007, at Chelsea (the "proposed Protocol"). The proposed Protocol would amend the existing income tax Convention between the United States and Canada that was concluded in 1980, as amended by prior protocols (the "existing Treaty"). Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the proposed Protocol.

The proposed Protocol would eliminate withholding taxes on cross-border interest payments. In addition, the proposed Protocol would coordinate the tax treatment of contributions to, and other benefits of, pension funds for cross-border workers. The proposed Protocol also includes provisions related to the taxation of permanent establishments, so-called dual-resident corporations, income derived through certain entities that are considered fiscally transparent, and former U.S. citizens and long-term residents. The proposed Protocol further strengthens the existing Treaty's provisions that prevent the Treaty's inappropriate use by third-country residents. The proposed Protocol also provides for mandatory resolution of certain cases before the competent authorities.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the proposed Protocol and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 13, 2008.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND A CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to H. Con. Res. 316, the adjournment resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

H. Con. Res. 316, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 316) was considered and agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 316

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, March 13, 2008, or Friday, March 14, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2008, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, March 13, 2008, through Friday, March 28, 2008, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, March 31, 2008, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

AUTHORIZING USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 71.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 71) authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 71) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. CON. RES. 71

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

The rotunda of the United States Capitol is authorized to be used on April 23, 2008, for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D. Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

CONGRATULATING X PRIZE FOUNDATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 486.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 486) congratulating the X PRIZE Foundation for their efforts to inspire a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that could help break the addiction of the United States to oil and stem the effects of climate change through the Automotive X PRIZE competition.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit today, on behalf of Senator LUGAR, Senator STABENOW, Senator DOMENICI and others, a resolution recognizing an exciting private-sector effort to encourage breakthrough technology in fuel economy. This effort, patterned on the Ansari X-prize competition that led to the development of spacecraft that is likely to make commercial space travel a reality, seeks to apply the same competitive spirit among the best minds in the United States to the pernicious problem of our outsized dependence on foreign oil.

The competition will launch at the upcoming New York Auto Show and sets an ambitious goal for claiming the prize; the winning entrant must produce a commercially viable vehicle that gets at least 100 miles per gallon fuel efficiency over a series of road trials meant to simulate real world driving conditions. It should be an exciting competition, and it is certainly a worthy goal. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to seeing the innovations they inspire.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, and the motions 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 resolution (S. Res. 486) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 486

Whereas the United States is heavily dependent on foreign sources of oil that are concentrated in tumultuous countries and regions;

Whereas the national security and economic prosperity of the United States demand that the United States moves toward a sustainable energy future;

Whereas the ability of foreign governments to assert great control over oil production allows unfriendly regimes to use energy exports as leverage against the United States and allies of the United States;

Whereas continued reliance on the use of greenhouse gas intensive-fuel may have significant economic and political impacts as the effects of global climate change take hold;

Whereas the transportation sector is heavily dependent on oil, which makes the people of the United States vulnerable to oil price fluctuation and is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas many promising technologies exist that could lead to a breakthrough vehicle that will meet the need for sustainable transportation;

Whereas breakthroughs are often achieved by the free market fueling the entrepreneurial spirit of inventors and investors;

Whereas the Automotive X PRIZE is a private, independent, technology-neutral competition being developed by the X PRIZE Foundation to inspire a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that could help break the addiction of the United States to oil and stem the effects of climate change; and

Whereas the Automotive X PRIZE will award a multi-million dollar purse to teams that can design, build, and demonstrate production-capable vehicles that achieve 100 miles per gallon of fuel or an equivalent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Senate—

(1) commends the leadership of the X PRIZE Foundation for their efforts to inspire a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that could help break the addiction of the United States to oil and stem the effects of climate change through the Automotive X PRIZE competition;

(2) congratulates the X PRIZE Foundation on the innovation and vision of the Foundation to bring together some of the finest minds in government, nongovernment, institutions of higher education, and industry to advise and participate in the Automotive X PRIZE competition; and

(3) applauds the ongoing commitment of the X PRIZE Foundation for encouraging solutions to some of greatest challenges facing humanity, as exemplified in the Automotive X PRIZE.

NATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 487.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 487) designating March 22, 2008, as National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 487) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 487

Whereas rehabilitation counselors conduct assessments, provide counseling, support to families, and plan and implement rehabilitation programs for those in need;

Whereas the purpose of the professional organizations in rehabilitation is to promote the improvement of rehabilitation services available to persons with disabilities through quality education and rehabilitation research for counselors;

Whereas the various professional organizations, including the National Rehabilitation Association (NRA), Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association (RCEA), the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE), the National Rehabilitation Counseling Association (NRCA), the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC), the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), and the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) have stood firm to advocate up-to-date education and training and the maintenance of professional standards in the field of rehabilitation counseling and education;

Whereas on March 22, 1983, Martha Walker of Kent State University, who was President of the NCRE, testified before the Subcommittee on Select Education of the House of Representatives, and was instrumental in bringing to the attention of Congress the need for rehabilitation counselors to be qualified; and

Whereas the efforts of Martha Walker led to the enactment of laws that now require rehabilitation counselors to have proper credentials in order to provide a higher level of quality service to those in need: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 22, 2008, as National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day; and

(2) commends all of the hard work and dedication that rehabilitation counselors provide to individuals in need and the numerous efforts that the multiple professional organizations have made to assisting those who require rehabilitation.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 488.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 488) designating the week beginning March 16, 2008 as "National Safe Place Week."

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, and