

For the past 23 years, the first full week of May is reserved to recognize the men and women of the military and civilian workforces diligently serving our Nation and celebrate their achievements.

Throughout the history of this Nation, public servants have been the first in many fields. Public servants are the first to respond to an emergency. They were the first to walk on the moon, the first to subnavigate the North Pole, and the driving force behind the creation of the Internet. However, there are lesser known achievements of public servants that improve all of our lives. Researchers at NIH were the first to make a discovery that lead to the Human Papillomavirus vaccine. They were the first to create a program allowing States and localities to analyze DNA evidence on thousands of cases. And, they have been the first to discover hormones produced by the heart that have profound benefits in treating many deadly diseases.

Public Service Recognition Week is a time for all Americans to recognize the contributions which public servants make to this country that are often overlooked. We are familiar with the police officers who patrol our streets, the teachers who teach our children, the public officials we elect to govern, and the war fighters so bravely defending our country. However, there are many other public servants who protect and care for our National Parks, provide care to veterans, protect the water we drink, build the roads we drive on, archive American history and the American experience, and curate our public museums that work behind the scenes without much attention or praise. These are just some of the silent servants who are the backbone of America.

Public servants have chosen a career path that does not often exalt or glorify their work. We rarely hear about the support the civilians in the Department of Defense are providing to the military during this time of war or the doctors and nurses at the Veterans' Affairs Administration who provide care to the many men and women returning home from combat while struggling with insufficient resources. PSR week is a time we thank them for their service and recognize their efforts.

This week is not just a time for us to honor their work, but a time for us to get to know the groundbreaking efforts made by the military and civil servants. Across the country, mayors, State governments, Governors, county governments, and many other civic organizations are participating in Public Service Recognition Week through proclamations, honorary events, awards, and exhibits. In Washington, DC, Federal agencies are coming together on the National Mall to demonstrate to the public all that they do for America. The military will show its might with planes, helicopters, tanks, and other machinery located throughout the exhibit. The civil service will

show innovations in scientific research, advances in criminal detection and law enforcement, and ways it is improving the lives of Americans everyday.

We sit on the edge of great change in the Federal workforce. According to the Office of Personnel Management, an estimated 40 percent of the 1.8 million federal employees will retire in the next 10 years as many more become eligible to retire. According to a number of recent reports published by the Partnership for Public Service, we know that young people want meaning in their careers. They can find both meaning and nobility in public service. Our challenge is to show the next generation of employees that public service offers a range of options for meaningful experiences and dynamic opportunities.

As we celebrate the 24th annual Public Service Recognition Week May 5–11, I encourage all Americans to take time out of their busy schedules to learn more about the work of public servants and recognize them for their commitment and dedication.

SENATE RESOLUTION 498—DESIGNATING APRIL 8, 2008, AS “NATIONAL CUSHING’S SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 498

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome affects an estimated 10 to 15 people per 1,000,000 people annually, most of those affected are between the ages of 20 and 50;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome is an endocrine or hormonal disorder caused by the prolonged exposure of the body’s tissue to high levels of the hormone cortisol;

Whereas exposure to cortisol can occur by overproduction of cortisol in the body or by taking glucocorticoid hormones, which are routinely prescribed for asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus, or as an immunosuppressant following organ transplants;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome may also result from pituitary adenomas, ectopic adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) syndrome, adrenal tumors, and Familial Cushing’s Syndrome;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome can cause abnormal weight gain, skin changes, and fatigue and can ultimately lead to diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, osteoporosis, or death;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome is diagnosed through a series of tests, often requiring x-ray examinations of adrenal or pituitary glands to locate tumors;

Whereas many people who suffer from Cushing’s Syndrome are misdiagnosed or go undiagnosed for years because many of the symptoms of Cushing’s Syndrome are also indications of milder diseases, and those errors in diagnoses delay the implementation of important treatment options;

Whereas treatments for Cushing’s Syndrome include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, the use of cortisol-inhibiting drugs, and reducing the dosage of glucocorticoid hormones;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome was discovered by Dr. Harvey Williams Cushing, who was born on April 8, 1869;

Whereas the Dr. Harvey Cushing stamp was part of the United States Postal Service’s “Great American” series of stamps, initiated in 1980 to recognize individuals for making significant contributions to the heritage and culture of the United States;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan spoke on April 8, 1987, in the Rose Garden at a White House ceremony to unveil the commemorative stamp honoring Dr. Harvey Cushing;

Whereas, following the ceremony, President Reagan hosted a reception in the State Dining Room for Mrs. John Hay Whitney, Dr. Cushing’s daughter, and representatives of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons; and

Whereas the Senate is an institution that can raise awareness of Cushing’s Syndrome in the general public and the medical community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 8, 2008, as “National Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that all people in the United States should become more informed and aware of Cushing’s Syndrome;

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the date with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Cushing’s Understanding, Support, and Help Organization.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4384. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4385. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4386. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4384. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . INCREASE IN SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING BENEFITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 2102 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$12,000”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$50,000” and inserting “\$60,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$10,000” and inserting “\$12,000”.

SA 4385. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . STREAMLINING ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVALS FOR CERTAIN EMERGENCY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to Congress a joint report on ways to streamline the environmental approval process for community development block grant housing development in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma of 2005.

SA 4386. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3221, moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

TITLE ____—GO ZONE PROPERTY

SEC. ____ 01. WAIVER OF DEADLINE ON CONSTRUCTION OF GO ZONE PROPERTY ELIGIBLE FOR BONUS DEPRECIATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 1400N(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(B) without regard to ‘and before January 1, 2005’ in clause (i) thereof.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2007.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, “Oversight on the Listing Decision for the Polar Bear Under Endangered Species Act.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on Iraq.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Iraq.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. KENNEDY. 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, April 2, 2008, at 11 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “Nuclear Terrorism: Assessing the Threat to the Homeland.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security” on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

Witness list

The Honorable Michael Chertoff, Secretary, United States Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.

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

READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on Department of Defense contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, at 10 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program; and the proliferation security initiative at the Department of Defense and Nuclear Nonproliferation Programs at the National Nuclear Security Administration in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 and the future years Defense program.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Eric Reither from Senator ENSIGN’s office be granted floor privileges for the duration of the debate on H.R. 3221.

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

NATIONAL CUSHING’S SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 498.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 498) designating April 8, 2008, as “National Cushing’s Syndrome Awareness Day.”

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 498) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 498

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome affects an estimated 10 to 15 people per 1,000,000 people annually, most of those affected are between the ages of 20 and 50;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome is an endocrine or hormonal disorder caused by the prolonged exposure of the body’s tissue to high levels of the hormone cortisol;

Whereas exposure to cortisol can occur by overproduction of cortisol in the body or by taking glucocorticoid hormones, which are routinely prescribed for asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus, or as an immunosuppressant following organ transplants;

Whereas Cushing’s Syndrome may also result from pituitary adenomas, ectopic