

their country. These youth are the children of our national heroes and their perseverance, patriotism and achievements make them heroes in their own right.

Despite all the obstacles they face, military children continue to succeed. I commend Senator BAYH for his leadership in offering this important resolution and urge the Senate to support it.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF IDAHO

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 100th anniversary of the Children's Home Society of Idaho.

For the past century this organization has served Idaho's abandoned, abused and neglected children, first as an orphanage, and now as a counseling and foster care support system. Through the efforts of this remarkable organization, tens of thousands of lives have been touched and changed for the better.

Over the past 4 years, I have become acquainted with the society's newest program, "The Bridge." This program is a partnership with the Junior League of Boise, Inc., and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. It was created to address the crisis Idaho and the rest of the nation are facing with an abundance of children entering foster care, and a lack of homes providing the care those children so desperately need and deserve.

"The Bridge" is now helping Idaho to meet its obligation to these children by bringing the State into compliance with federal mandates and by leading the way for significant foster care reform.

As an adoptive father who is familiar with the trials and challenges of the foster care system, I commend the Children's Home Society of Idaho for its contribution to America's children and families and am honored today to mark this important milestone.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AMY STOUT

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I honor a courageous and dedicated young West Virginian: Ms. Amy Stout.

Before Amy even graduated high school, she joined the National Guard to help finance her college education. Shortly after Amy started her freshman year at Wesleyan, pursuing a degree in psychology, the events of September 11 took place. Within hours of that terrible event, Amy found herself guarding the wreckage of United Flight 93, near Shanksville, PA.

Amy remained activated with the National Guard for a year, serving Stateside in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania while working to complete her first semester of school.

Then, in the fall of 2002, Amy was once again activated, but this time she was sent to Camp Anaconda, north of Baghdad.

At a time when her fellow Wesleyan students were enjoying college life, Amy was serving her country as a gunner, providing security for 300-mile convoys. After her 12-month deployment, Amy returned to Wesleyan, determined to help people in as direct a way as possible. She changed her major to nursing.

Amy continued to pursue her nursing degree until, once again, the military called and Amy was sent back to Iraq, this time for 18 months. Amy's tour of duty ended on September 10, 2007, and she was back at Wesleyan the very next day, September 11, exactly 6 years after she was first activated by the National Guard.

In May 2008, Amy Stout will graduate with her nursing degree. She is a testament to the incredible bravery of our soldiers who sacrifice so much to protect this country. Her determination is an inspiration to her fellow students and her fellow West Virginians. She has served this nation with great honor and dignity and soon she will be a tremendous asset to the nursing profession.

It is with great pride that I congratulate her on her upcoming graduation and thank her for her service to this Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5665. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Debt Management" (7 CFR Part 3) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5666. A communication from the Acting General Counsel of the Department of Defense, transmitting legislative proposals for the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2009; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5667. A communication from the National Executive Secretary, Navy Club of the

United States of America, transmitting, pursuant to law, the organization's national financial statement for the year ending July 31, 2007; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5668. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting proposed legislation relative to the passenger aviation security fee; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5669. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting proposed legislation entitled, "The Rural Housing Section 502 Guaranteed Loans Enhancements Act of 2007"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5670. A communication from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Priorities and Allocations System" (RIN1991-AB69) received on March 4, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5671. A communication from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a recommendation entitled, "Safety Classification of Fire Protection Systems"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5672. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cross-Subsidization Restrictions on Affiliate Transactions" (Docket No. RM07-15-000) received on February 26, 2008; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5673. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a legislative proposal intended to implement an important new treaty for the protection of aquatic life and the marine environment; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5674. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled, "Federal Employees Short-Term Disability Security Act of 2008"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5675. A communication from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "The General Services Enhancement Act of 2008"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5676. A communication from the Acting Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of San Antonio International Airport to List of Designated Landing Locations for Certain Aircraft" (Docket No. USCBP-2007-0017) received on March 6, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5677. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Federal Information Security Management Act"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5678. A communication from the Director, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tribal Energy Resource Agreements under the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act" (RIN1076-AE80) received on March 12, 2008; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5679. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Visas: Documentation of Immigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended" (22 CFR Part 42) received on March 10, 2008; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5680. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, a draft bill intended to improve veterans' health care benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 357. A bill to improve passenger automobile fuel economy and safety, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-278).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1667. A bill to establish a pilot program for the expedited disposal of Federal real property (Rept. No. 110-279).

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. DEMINT:

S. 2823. A bill to empower States with authority for most taxing and spending for highway programs and mass transit programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. MURRAY):

S. 2824. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the collective bargaining rights and procedures for review of adverse actions of certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2825. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a minimum disability rating for veterans receiving medical treatment for a service-connected disability; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 2826. A bill to establish the 8/29 Investigation Team to examine the events beginning on August 29, 2005, with respect to the failure of the flood protection system in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2827. A bill to repeal a requirement with respect to the procurement and acquisition of alternative fuels; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BIDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BYRD, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 504. A resolution condemning the violence in Tibet and calling for restraint by the Government of the People's Republic of China and the people of Tibet; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 450

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 582

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 616

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 616, a bill to promote health care coverage parity for individuals participating in legal recreational activities or legal transportation activities.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 789, a bill to prevent abuse of Government credit cards.

S. 843

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to provide for the establishment of a national mercury monitoring program.

S. 881

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1130

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to restore, increase, and make permanent the exclusion from gross income for amounts received under qualified group legal services plans.

S. 1675

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1738, a bill to establish a Special Counsel for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute predators.

S. 1888

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1888, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to add National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day to the list of days on which the flag should especially be displayed.

S. 1995

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1995, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 2002

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2002, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify certain provisions applicable to real estate investment trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 2035

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2035, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to amend the National Dam Safety Program Act to establish a program to provide grant assistance to States for the rehabilitation and repair of deficient dams.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Michigan