

SENATE RESOLUTION 528—DESIGNATING APRIL 25, 2008, AS “GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY”

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 528

Whereas Global Youth Service Day is an annual public awareness and education campaign that highlights the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities;

Whereas the goals of Global Youth Service Day are to—(1) mobilize the youth of the United States to identify and address the needs of their communities through service and service-learning; (2) support young people in embarking on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement; and (3) educate the public, the media, and policymakers about contributions made by young people as community leaders throughout the year;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day, a program of Youth Service America, is the largest service event in the world and in 2008 is being observed for the 20th consecutive year in the United States and for the 9th year globally in more than 100 countries;

Whereas young people in the United States and in many other countries are volunteering more than in any other generation in history;

Whereas children and youth not only represent the future of the world, but also are leaders and assets today;

Whereas children and youth should be valued for the idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspectives that they use when addressing critical global issues such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, education, gang activity, natural disasters, climate change, and myriad others;

Whereas a fundamental and conclusive correlation exists between youth service, lifelong adult volunteering, and philanthropy;

Whereas service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with mastery of academic curricula by helping young people make important connections between what they are studying and the challenges that they see in their communities;

Whereas several private foundations and corporations in the United States support service-learning as a means for young people to build character and develop the leadership and career-preparedness skills that are necessary for the United States to be competitive in the 21st century, including time management, decision-making, teamwork, and problem solving;

Whereas a report by Civic Enterprises found that 47 percent of high school dropouts reported boredom as a primary reason for dropping out;

Whereas high quality, semester-long service-learning has been found to increase students’ academic engagement and achievement, motivation to learn, school attend-

ance, civic participation, character development, and career aspirations;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day engages millions of young people worldwide with the support of 75 lead agencies, 45 international organizations, and 120 national partners;

Whereas a growing number of Global Youth Service Day projects involve youth working collaboratively across national and geographic boundaries, increasing intercultural understanding and promoting the sense that they are global citizens; and

Whereas both young people and their communities will benefit greatly from expanded opportunities for youth to engage in volunteer service and service-learning: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends the significant contributions of the youth of the United States and encourages the cultivation of a civic bond among young people dedicated to serving their neighbors, their communities, and the Nation;

(2) designates April 25, 2008, as “Global Youth Service Day”; and

(3) calls on the citizens of the United States to—

(A) observe the day by encouraging youth to participate in civic and community service projects and by joining them in such projects;

(B) recognize the volunteer efforts of the young people of the United States throughout the year; and

(C) support the volunteer efforts of young people and engage them in meaningful learning and decision-making opportunities today as an investment in the future of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4559. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4560. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4561. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4562. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4563. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4564. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

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SA 4566. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4567. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4568. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4569. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4559. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 78, after line 4, add the following:

SEC. 808. AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR ENHANCEMENT OF OUTREACH OF ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 5 is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER IV—OUTREACH

“§ 561. Outreach activities: funding

“(a) SEPARATE ACCOUNT FOR OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall establish a separate account for the funding of the outreach activities of the Department, and shall establish within such account a separate subaccount for the funding of the outreach activities of each element of the Department specified in subsection (c).

“(b) BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.—In the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the Department budget for any fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31), the Secretary shall include a separate statement of the amount requested for such fiscal year for activities as follows:

“(1) For outreach activities of the Department in aggregate.

“(2) For outreach activities of each element of the Department specified in subsection (c).

“(c) COVERED ELEMENTS.—The elements of the Department specified in this subsection are as follows:

- “(1) The Veterans Health Administration.
- “(2) The Veterans Benefits Administration.
- “(3) The National Cemetery Administration.

“§ 562. Outreach activities: coordination of activities within Department

“(a) PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTIVE COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall establish and maintain procedures for ensuring the effective coordination of the outreach activities of the Department between and among the following:

- “(1) The Office of the Secretary.
- “(2) The Office of Public Affairs.
- “(3) The Veterans Health Administration.
- “(4) The Veterans Benefits Administration.
- “(5) The National Cemetery Administration.

“(b) REVIEW AND MODIFICATION.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) periodically review the procedures maintained under subsection (a) for the purpose of ensuring that such procedures meet the requirement in that subsection; and

“(2) make such modifications to such procedures as the Secretary considers appropriate in light of such review in order to better achieve that purpose.

“§ 563. Outreach activities: cooperative activities with States; grants to States for improvement of outreach

“(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to assist States in carrying out programs that offer a high probability of improving outreach and assistance to veterans,

and to the spouses, children, and parents of veterans who may be eligible to receive veterans' or veterans'-related benefits, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about, and assisted in applying for, any veterans' and veterans'-related benefits and programs (including under State veterans' programs).

“(b) LOCATION OF PROVISION OF OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall ensure that outreach and assistance is provided under programs referred to in subsection (a) in locations proximate to populations of veterans and other individuals referred to in that subsection, as determined utilizing criteria for determining the proximity of such populations to veterans health care services.

“(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH STATES.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements and arrangements with veterans agencies of the States in order to carry out, coordinate, improve, or otherwise enhance outreach by the Department and the States (including outreach with respect to State veterans' programs).

“(d) GRANTS.—(1) The Secretary may award grants to veterans agencies of States in order to achieve purposes as follows:

“(A) To carry out, coordinate, improve, or otherwise enhance outreach, including activities pursuant to cooperative agreements and arrangements under subsection (c).

“(B) To carry out, coordinate, improve, or otherwise enhance activities to assist in the development and submittal of claims for veterans' and veterans'-related benefits, including activities pursuant to cooperative agreements and arrangements under subsection (c).

“(2) A veterans agency of a State receiving a grant under this subsection—

“(A) may, except as provided in subparagraph (B)—

“(i) use the grant amount for purposes described in paragraph (1); and

“(ii) award all or any portion of such grant amount to nonprofit organizations of such State, for such purposes; and

“(B) if such State has a county or local government with a veterans agency, shall award all or any portion of such grant amount to not less than one veterans agency of a county or local government of such State, for such purposes.

“(e) FUNDING.—Amounts available for the Department for outreach in the account under section 561 of this title shall be available for activities under this section, including grants under subsection (d).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 is amended by adding at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER IV—OUTREACH

“561. Outreach activities: funding.

“562. Outreach activities: coordination of activities within Department.

“563. Outreach activities: cooperative activities with States; grants to States for improvement of outreach.”

SA 4560. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. LUGAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 604. REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN ADDRESSING CAUSES FOR VARIANCES IN COMPENSATION PAYMENTS FOR VETERANS FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter through 2012, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the congressional veterans affairs committees a report describing the progress of the Secretary in addressing the causes of variances in compensation payments for veterans for service-connected disabilities.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description of the efforts of the Veterans Benefits Administration to coordinate with the Veterans Health Administration to improve the quality of examinations of veterans with service-connected disabilities that are performed by the Veterans Health Administration and contract clinicians, including efforts relating to the use of approved templates for such examinations and of reports on such examinations that are based on such templates prepared in an easily-readable format.

(2) An assessment of the current personnel requirements of the Veterans Benefits Administration, including an assessment of the adequacy of the number of personnel assigned to each regional office of the Administration for each type of claim adjudication position.

(3) A description of the differences, if any, in current patterns of submittal rate of claims to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding service-connected disabilities among various populations of veterans, including veterans living in rural and highly rural areas, minority veterans, veterans who served in the National Guard or Reserve, and veterans who are retired from the Armed Forces military retirees, and a description and assessment of efforts undertaken to eliminate such differences.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “congressional veterans affairs committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) HIGHLY RURAL.—The term “highly rural”, in the case of an area, means that the area consists of a county or counties having a population of less than seven persons per square mile.

SA 4561. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 703. PLOT ALLOWANCE FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF CERTAIN VETERANS WHO ARE BURIED IN STATE CEMETERIES.

(a) PLOT ALLOWANCE.—Section 2303 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c)(1) In the case of an individual described in paragraph (2) who is buried in a cemetery that is owned by a State or by an agency or political subdivision of a State, the Secretary shall pay to such State, agency, or political subdivision the sum of \$300 as a plot or interment allowance for such individual.

“(2) An individual described in this paragraph is a spouse, surviving spouse (which

for purposes of this chapter includes a surviving spouse who had a subsequent remarriage), minor child (which for purposes of this chapter includes a child under 21 years of age, or under 23 years of age if pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution), or, in the discretion of the Secretary, unmarried adult child of any of person described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), or (7) of section 2402 of this title.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (c) of section 2303 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to an individual who dies on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4562. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 604. PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OF ROUND DOWN OF RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION ROUNDED DOWN DURING COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OF ROUND DOWN.—In any month in which a rate of disability compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation specified in subsection (b) that is payable to an individual under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is rounded down to the next lower whole dollar amount by reason of an Act requiring such a rounding down in the course of a cost-of-living adjustment to such rate by the Secretary authorized by such Act, the individual shall be paid for such month an additional amount equal to the rounded down amount of such rate.

(b) COVERED RATES OF COMPENSATION.—The rates of compensation specified in this subsection are the rates of compensation and other allowances as follows:

(1) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

(4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

(5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such title.

(6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(c) and 1311(d) of such title.

(7) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The dollar amounts in effect under section 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) TREATMENT AS COMPENSATION.—Any amount paid an individual under subsection (a) shall be treated as disability compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation, as applicable, for all purposes.

SA 4563. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 802 and insert the following:

SEC. 802. AUTOMOBILE ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE.

(a) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCE.—Subsection (a) of section 3902 is amended by striking “\$11,000” and inserting “\$22,500 (as adjusted from time to time under subsection (e))”.

(b) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e)(1) Effective on October 1 of each year (beginning in 2009), the Secretary shall increase the dollar amount in effect under subsection (a) to an amount equal to 80 percent of the average retail cost of new automobiles for the preceding calendar year.

“(2) The Secretary shall establish the method for determining the average retail cost of new automobiles for purposes of this subsection. The Secretary may use data developed in the private sector if the Secretary determines the data is appropriate for purposes of this subsection.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2008.

SA 4564. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 205 and insert the following:

SEC. 205. INCREASE IN SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING BENEFITS FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 2102 is amended—

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

(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”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e)(1) Effective on October 1 of each year (beginning in 2009), the Secretary shall increase the amounts described in subsection (b)(2) and paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (d) in accordance with this subsection.

“(2) The increase in amounts under paragraph (1) to take effect on October 1 of a year shall be by an amount of such amounts equal to the percentage by which—

“(A) the residential home cost-of-construction index for the preceding calendar year, exceeds

“(B) the residential home cost-of-construction index for the year preceding the year described in subparagraph (A).

“(3) The Secretary shall establish a residential home cost-of-construction index for the purposes of this subsection. The index shall reflect a uniform, national average change in the cost of residential home construction, determined on a calendar year basis. The Secretary may use an index developed in the private sector that the Secretary determines is appropriate for purposes of this subsection.”.

SA 4565. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 701 and insert the following:

SEC. 701. FUNERAL AND BURIAL EXPENSES.

(a) DEATHS FROM SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.—Section 2307 is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) FUNERAL AND BURIAL EXPENSES.—” before “In any case”;

(2) in paragraph (1) of subsection (a), as designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “\$2,000” and inserting “\$4,100 (as adjusted from time to time under subsection (b))”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the nearest dollar) in the amount of benefits payable under subsection (a)(1) equal to the percentage by which—

“(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items, United States city average) for the 12-month period ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of the fiscal year for which the increase is made, exceeds

“(2) such Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period preceding the 12-month period described in paragraph (1).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after that date.

(2) NO COLA ADJUSTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.—The percentage increase required by subsection (b) of section 2307 of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), for fiscal year 2009 shall not be made.

SA 4566. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 702 and insert the following:

SEC. 702. PLOT ALLOWANCES.

(a) INCREASE IN PLOT ALLOWANCE.—Section 2303 is amended by striking “\$300” each place it appears and inserting “\$745 (as adjusted from time to time under subsection (c))”.

(b) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection (b)(2) of such section is amended by striking “such veteran is eligible” and all that follows through “, and”.

(c) ANNUAL COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the nearest dollar) in each maximum amount of the plot allowance payable under this section equal to the percentage by which—

“(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items, United States city average) for the 12-month period ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of the fiscal year for which the increase is made, exceeds

“(2) such Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period preceding the 12-month period described in paragraph (1).”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2008, and shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after that date.

(2) NO COLA ADJUSTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009.—The percentage increase required by subsection (c) of section 2303 of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (c) of this section), for fiscal year 2009 shall not be made.

SA 4567. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title

38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:

SEC. 604. AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) INDEXING TO SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES.—Section 5312 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in paragraph (2), as such amounts were in effect immediately before the date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act, by the same percentage as the percentage by which such benefit amounts are increased.

“(2) The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to paragraph (1) are the following:

“(A) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of this title.

“(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of this title.

“(C) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of this title.

“(D) NEW DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of this title.

“(E) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of this title.

“(F) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1311(b) of this title.

“(G) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and 1311(d) of this title.

“(H) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of this title.

“(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation, the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at the same time as the material required by section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall take effect on the first day of the first calendar year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4568. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 808. MILITARY SALUTE FOR THE FLAG DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES NOT IN UNIFORM AND BY VETERANS.

Section 301(b)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

“(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

“(B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and

“(C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart; and”.

SA 4569. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII, add the following:
SEC. 808. CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN THE MITIGATION, TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION OF TRAUMATIC EXTREMITY INJURIES AND AMPUTATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly establish a center of excellence in the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations.

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly ensure that the center collaborate with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, institutions of higher education, and other appropriate public and private entities (including international entities) to carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (c).

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The center shall have the responsibilities as follows:

(1) To implement a comprehensive plan and strategy for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense for the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations.

(2) To carry out such other activities to improve and enhance the efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense for the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense consider appropriate.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the activities of the center.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) In the case of the first report under this subsection, a description of the implementation of the requirements of this Act.

(B) A description and assessment of the activities of the center during the one-year period ending on the date of such report, including an assessment of the role of such activities in improving and enhancing the ef-

forts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense for the mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of traumatic extremity injuries and amputations.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, April 24, at 9 a.m. in Room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the adequacy of State and Federal regulatory structures for governing electric utility holding companies in light of the repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, with particular attention to the report issued by the Government Accountability Office—GAO-08-289, *Utility Oversight: Recent Changes in Law Call for Improved Vigilance* by FERC.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Gina_Weinstock@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Leon Lowery at (202) 224-2209 or Gina Weinstock at (202) 224-5684.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the Session of the Senate on April 22, 2008, at 10 a.m., to conduct a Committee Hearing entitled “Turmoil in U.S. Credit Markets: The Rule of Credit Rating Agencies.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. AKAKA. 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 Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 10 a.m., in

room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. AKAKA. 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 Tuesday, April 22, 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 FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on international deforestation and climate change.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 2:15 p.m. to hold a business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. to hold a briefing on U.S.-Turkey nuclear cooperation.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 22, 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. AKAKA. 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 Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator KENNEDY, I ask unanimous consent that Laura Kwinn, a fellow in his office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the remainder of the legislative session.

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