

They have been next to us on our good and bad days. We think that they deserve to stay in the United States of America for their children and the future of their lives. We can't imagine how hard it will be not seeing, them, not only for us but everyone else. In the future we will need this wonderful family for a better community. Please keep all this in mind because they are a great family and we wouldn't like to see them out of our sight. We hope that you will do everything so that they will not be deported and they will stay in the United States of America. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

ANI IDZHANYAN.
MARGARIT DUMANYAN.
RIMMA MARKARYAN.
OGANES IDZHANYAN.
ARSHALUYS IDZHANYAN.
AKOP IDZHANYAN.
GEVORK IDZHANYAN.
HARUT IDJIAN.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 589—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING JUNE 9, 2008, AS "NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WEEK"

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 589

Whereas the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society has worked collaboratively with more than 60 stakeholder organizations for more than 47 years to transform healthcare with improved uses of information technology and management systems;

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership estimates that the implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health information would save the United States resources relating to healthcare each year;

Whereas healthcare information technology has been shown to improve the quality and safety of the delivery of healthcare in the United States;

Whereas healthcare information technology and management systems have been recognized as essential tools for improving the quality and cost efficiency of the healthcare system;

Whereas the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services have made a commitment to leverage the benefits of the healthcare information technology and management systems by establishing the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the American Health Information Community;

Whereas Congress has placed an emphasis on improving the quality and safety of the delivery of healthcare in the United States; and

Whereas, since 2006, organizations across the United States have come together to support National Health Information Technology Week to improve public awareness relating to the potential benefits of the improved quality and cost efficiency that the healthcare system could achieve by implementing healthcare information technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning June 9, 2008, as "National Health Information Technology Week";

(2) recognizes the value of healthcare information technology and management systems in transforming healthcare for the people of the United States; and

(3) calls upon all stakeholders to promote the use of healthcare information technology and management systems to transform the United States healthcare system.

SENATE RESOLUTION 590—CELEBRATING THE 233RD BIRTHDAY OF THE ARMY AND COMMENDING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMY AS EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHO LIVE BY THE ARMY VALUES OF LOYALTY, DUTY, RESPECT, SELFLESS SERVICE, HONOR, INTEGRITY, AND PERSONAL COURAGE

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 590

Whereas, from the first Continental Army under General Washington at Yorktown to the beaches of Normandy, the city streets of Iraq, and the mountains of Afghanistan, the Army has protected and kept the flame of democracy burning brightly;

Whereas the citizens of the United States continue to enjoy the benefits of freedom and democracy because the men and women of the Army have stood through adversity, remained steadfast in the most difficult of circumstances, and bravely fought against the enemies of peace throughout the world;

Whereas the sacrifices of the men and women of the Army inspire and instill great pride in all citizens of the United States;

Whereas the active duty, National Guard, and Reserve components of the Army protect the Nation from our enemies, defend our vital national interests, provide support to civil authorities in response to domestic emergencies, provide ready forces and land force capabilities to the Combatant Commanders in support of the National Security Strategy, and support operations around the world, ranging from peace-time military engagements to major combat operations;

Whereas the Army is successfully performing operations, other than combat operations, including—

(1) supporting the defense of South Korea, Japan, and many other friends, allies, and partners of the United States;

(2) conducting peacekeeping operations in the Sinai Peninsula and the Balkans;

(3) conducting multinational exercises that reflect our longstanding commitments to alliances;

(4) continuing engagements with foreign militaries to build partnerships and preserve coalitions by training and advising their military forces;

(5) participating, most notably by the Army National Guard, in securing the borders of the United States and conducting operations to counter the flow of illegal drugs;

(6) supporting civil authorities in responding to domestic emergencies, including natural disasters and threats at home and abroad;

(7) supporting interagency and multinational partnerships with technical expertise, providing critical support after natural disasters, and promoting regional stability; and

(8) supporting operations to protect against weapons of mass destruction and block their proliferation;

Whereas the accomplishments of the Army are attributable to the men and women of

the Army who have demonstrated courage, strength, and versatility and endured countless hardships and made great sacrifices in performing diverse missions worldwide;

Whereas the contributions of Army families should also be recognized, as Army families provide the cornerstone of strength and support for the Nation's Soldiers and display tremendous commitment and sacrifice to the Nation by providing critical support to their loved ones during prolonged absences;

Whereas the Army has been continuously engaged in persistent combat operations for more than 6 years, has constantly and successfully adapted to ever-changing security environments, has displayed courage, resourcefulness, and resilience in the most grueling conditions, and, while focused on preparing forces and building readiness for counterinsurgency operations and providing stability, security, and hope to the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan, has taken significant steps toward restoring balance to the all-volunteer, battle-hardened force; and

Whereas those and countless other great accomplishments add to the longstanding tradition of the Army and attest to the extraordinary capability of the men and women who serve the United States in the Army: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 233rd birthday of the Army;

(2) salutes the men and women of the Army and their families;

(3) commends the men and women of the Army as exceptional individuals who live by the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage; and

(4) recognizes that the great men and women of the Army are the reason it continues to stand as the best army in the world and continues to perform extraordinary tasks while upholding its hallowed traditions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 88—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION'S (FDA) NEW POLICY RESTRICTING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS CONTAINING ESTRIOL DOES NOT SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. BUNNING) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 88

Whereas menopause is often a challenging transition for millions of women that requires specialized medications and medical treatments;

Whereas physicians prescribe a variety of pharmaceutical treatment options to treat women experiencing the symptoms of menopause;

Whereas individual women respond differently to different treatment options;

Whereas women's physicians determine on a case-by-case basis which treatment option is optimal for each woman;

Whereas many physicians prescribe compounded estrogen and other bioidentical hormone treatments for patients for a variety of reasons;

Whereas many physicians prescribe compounded estrogen treatments that contain estriol to treat menopausal and perimenopausal women;

Whereas estriol is one of three estrogens produced by the human body;

Whereas estriol has been prescribed and used for decades in the United States;

Whereas Congress has long recognized active pharmaceutical ingredients meeting standards set by the United States Pharmacopeia as permissible options for physician prescribing and pharmacy compounding;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced that it will no longer permit compounding pharmacists to prepare medications containing estriol pursuant to a doctor's prescription;

Whereas insurers are now denying women reimbursement for compounded medications containing estriol as a result of the FDA's announcement; and

Whereas the FDA has acknowledged that it is unaware of any adverse events associated with use of compounded medications containing estriol: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) physicians are in the best position to determine which medications are most appropriate for their patients;

(2) the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should respect the physician-patient relationship; and

(3) the FDA should reverse its policy that aims to eliminate patients' access to compounded medications containing estriol that their physicians prescribe for them, unless the FDA holds a public comment period on the issue and can document evidence of adverse events and other safety issues to justify such policy.

NOTICE OF HEARING

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 Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine the challenges and regional solutions to developing transmission for renewable electricity resources.

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 ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BROWN. 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, June 10, 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 FINANCE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 10, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Joshua Mayer, an intern in Senator BINGAMAN's office, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of today, June 10, 2008.

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

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sara McElroy from my staff be allowed floor privileges for the rest of the afternoon.

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

AMERICAN VETERANS DISABLED FOR LIFE COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 757, H.R. 634.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 634) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment, as follows:

(Omit the part in boldface brackets and insert the part printed in italic.)

H.R. 634

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The Armed Forces of the United States have answered the call and served with distinction around the world—from hitting the beaches in World War II in the Pacific and Europe, to the cold and difficult terrain in Korea, the steamy jungles of Vietnam, and the desert sands of the Middle East.

(2) All Americans should commemorate those who come home having survived the ordeal of war, and solemnly honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives for their country.

(3) All Americans should honor the millions of living disabled veterans who carry the scars of war every day, and who have made enormous personal sacrifices defending the principles of our democracy.

(4) In 2000, Congress authorized the construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

(5) The United States should pay tribute to the Nation's living disabled veterans by minting and issuing a commemorative silver dollar coin.

(6) The surcharge proceeds from the sale of a commemorative coin would raise valuable funding for the construction of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) **\$1 SILVER COINS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue not more than 350,000 \$1 coins in commemoration of disabled American veterans, each of which shall—

(1) weigh 26.73 grams;

(2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) **LEGAL TENDER.**—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) **NUMISMATIC ITEMS.**—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) **DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.**—

[(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the design selected by the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial.]

(1) **DESIGN.**—*The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the service of our disabled veterans who, having survived the ordeal of war, made enormous personal sacrifices defending the principles of our democracy.*

(2) **DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.**—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year "2010"; and

(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) **SELECTION.**—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation and the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) **QUALITY OF COINS.**—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) **MINT FACILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.