

Commission on Wartime Contracting: Mr. Clark Kent Ervin of Washington, DC.

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-6703. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General William R. Looney III, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6704. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of General Robert Magnus, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6705. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary (Research, Development and Acquisition), Department of the Navy, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification that the Navy proposes to donate the submarine ex-DOL-PHIN (AGSS 555) to the Maritime Museum of San Diego; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6706. A communication from the Acting Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of two modifications made in 2008 to the auction process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6707. A communication from the Acting Fiscal Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the auctions held by the Department during the period of January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6708. A communication from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Affiliate Marketing Rule" (RIN3084-AA94) received on June 19, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6709. A communication from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definitions and Implementation Under the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003: Final Rule and Statement of Basis and Purpose" (RIN3084-AA96) received on June 19, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6710. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Wages" (Revenue Ruling 2008-29) received on June 19, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6711. A communication from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments to List of User Fee Airports: Additions of Capital City Airport, Lansing, Michigan and Kelly Field Annex, San Antonio, Texas" (CBP Dec. 08-23) received on June 19, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6712. A communication from the President, National Center for Policy Analysis, transmitting its 2008 First Quarter Report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6713. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs,

Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the proposed removal from the United States Munitions List of tires originally designed for use on Heavy Mobility Tactical Wheeled Vehicles; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6714. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the proposed removal from the United States Munitions List of tires originally designed for use on M977 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6715. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification of the proposed removal from the United States Munitions List of tires primarily used on military heavy trucks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6716. A communication from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Presidential Library Facilities" (RIN3095-AB16) received on June 19, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6717. A communication from the Office of General Counsel and Legal Policy, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restrictions" (RIN3209-AA14) received on June 19, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental 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:

H.R. 802. To amend the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships to implement MARPOL Annex VI (Rept. No. 110-394).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

H.R. 3985. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to register a person providing transportation by an over-the-road bus as a motor carrier of passengers only if the person is willing and able to comply with certain accessibility requirements in addition to other existing requirements, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-395).

By Mr. BYRD, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3181. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-396).

By Ms. MIKULSKI, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3182. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, science, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-397).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 2766. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel (Rept. No. 110-398).

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. REID (for Ms. LANDRIEU):
S. 3176. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide mental health and substance abuse services; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. DURBIN)):

S. 3177. A bill to develop a policy to address the critical needs of Iraqi refugees; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR:
S. 3178. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize dental insurance for veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 3179. A bill to authorize the conveyance of certain public land in the State of New Mexico owned or leased by the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY):
S. 3180. A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965; considered and passed.

By Mr. BYRD:
S. 3181. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. MIKULSKI:
S. 3182. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, science, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 667

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 667, a bill to expand programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, including potential mental health concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 1003

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 1103

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1103, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include costs incurred by the Indian Health Service, a Federally qualified health center, an AIDS drug assistance program, certain hospitals, or a pharmaceutical manufacturer patient assistance program in providing prescription drugs toward the annual out of pocket threshold under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 1161

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the expansion of Medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy services.

S. 1437

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1437, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

S. 1589

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1589, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for enrollees of Medicaid managed care organizations by extending the discounts offered under fee-for-service Medicaid to such organizations.

S. 1595

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1595, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide flexibility in the manner in which beds are counted for purposes of determining whether a hospital may be designated as a critical access hospital under the Medicare program.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1977

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1977, a bill to provide for sustained United States leadership in a cooperative global effort to prevent nuclear terrorism, reduce global nuclear arsenals, stop the spread of nuclear weapons and related material and technology, and support the responsible and peaceful use of nuclear technology.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct activities to rapidly advance treatments for spinal muscular atrophy, neuromuscular disease, and other pediatric diseases, and for other purposes.

S. 2102

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2102, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to phase out the 24-month waiting period for disabled individuals to become eligible for Medicare benefits, to eliminate the waiting period for individuals with life-threatening conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 2120

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2120, a bill to authorize the establishment of a Social Investment and Economic Development Fund for the Americas to provide assistance to reduce poverty, expand the middle class, and foster increased economic opportunity in the countries of the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2433

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

S. 2510

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 2523

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2523, a bill to establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families.

S. 2569

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Cancer Institute to make grants for the discovery and validation of biomarkers for use in risk stratification for, and the early detection and screening of, ovarian cancer.

S. 2579

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2579, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in American society, from the colonial period to today.

S. 2618

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2618, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Becker, congenital, distal, Duchenne, Emery-Dreifuss Facioscapulohumeral, limb-girdle, myotonic, and oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophies.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2652, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to make a grant to the National World War II Museum Foundation for facilities and programs of America's National World War II Museum.

S. 2681

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2681, a bill to require the issuance of medals to recognize the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers.

S. 2771

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2771, a bill to require the president to call a White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010.

S. 2776

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2776, a bill to provide duty-free treatment for certain goods from designated Reconstruction Opportunity Zones in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and for other purposes.

S. 2795

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2795, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a nationwide health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses and the self employed that would offer a choice of private health plans and make health coverage more affordable, predictable, and accessible.

S. 2883

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 2976

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2976, a bill to require the United States Trade Representative to pursue a complaint of anticompetitive practices against certain oil exporting countries.

S. 3093

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3093, a bill to extend and improve the effectiveness of the employment eligibility confirmation program.

S. 3140

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3140, a bill to provide that 4 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 3141

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3141, a bill to provide for non-discrimination by eligible lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

S. 3168

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3168, a bill to authorize United States participation in the replenishment of resources of the International Development Association, and for other purposes.

S. 3169

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Nebraska

(Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3169, a bill to authorize United States participation in, and appropriations for the United States contribution to, the eleventh replenishment of the resources of the African Development Fund.

S.J. RES. 41

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 41, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

S. RES. 300

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 300, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) should stop the utilization of materials that violate provisions of the United Nations-brokered Interim Agreement between FYROM and Greece regarding "hostile activities or propaganda" and should work with the United Nations and Greece to achieve longstanding United States and United Nations policy goals of finding a mutually-acceptable official name for FYROM.

S. RES. 594

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 594, a resolution designating September 2008 as "Tay-Sachs Awareness Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 5013

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5013 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, a bill to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5020

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5020 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, a bill to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5022

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 5022 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3221, a bill to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURR:

S. 3178. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize dental

insurance for veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce bill that would give our veterans, surviving spouses, and certain dependent children the option to buy dental insurance coverage through the Department of Veterans Affairs. My bill is based on a very successful program that has been in place since 1998 for military retirees and their families.

Under the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program, TRDP, military retirees are given the option to purchase dental coverage under a contract managed by the Department of Defense. Since the program started, over one million eligible participants have chosen to buy dental coverage through this plan, including over 56,000 in my home state of North Carolina. Those individuals have access to a network of about 112,000 dental plan providers across the nation. Premiums range from \$14 to \$48 per month per person, depending on the region and type of dental plan selected. With this kind of success, it seems only fitting that we offer the same kind of benefit to our veterans.

VA runs the largest integrated health care system in the nation. Although VA provides dental benefits to the 7.9 million veterans enrolled in the health care system, these benefits are either limited to a select group of people or can only be provided under very limited circumstances. For example, VA provides comprehensive dental care to veterans for 180 days after they leave service; who have service-related dental conditions; who are in nursing homes and require dental care; or who fall under other very strict guidelines.

My bill would supplement this limited coverage by giving veterans and survivors the option to purchase a more comprehensive dental plan. Of course, many veterans may have dental coverage through their employers or through an individual policy. My bill extends this dental plan option to all enrolled veterans.

As I mentioned, the bill is modeled after the successful program that is now offered to TRICARE retirees. Federal employees also have access to a similar benefit option for dental coverage. Like these other programs, this VA program would be entirely voluntary, be financed through premiums and, most importantly, provide needed coverage from a network of dental professionals in local communities.

This bill would not replace VA's dental services; it is just another option for those who want to have access to group insurance rates that they could not otherwise get on their own. This idea is like the 44 year relationship VA has with Prudential, who provides active duty servicemembers and veterans with group life insurance policies. The most important part of the relationship is that servicemembers and veterans are well-served and get to reap