

Mirage, California, as the "Gerald R. Ford Post Office Building".

H.R. 6150. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14500 Lorain Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "John P. Gallagher Post Office Building".

S. 3241. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1717 Orange Avenue in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the "CecCee Ross Lyles Post Office Building".

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Carol A. Dalton, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

*Anthony C. Epstein, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

*James A. Williams, of Virginia, to be Administrator of General Services.

*Gus P. Coldebella, of Massachusetts, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

*Heidi M. Pasichow, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. TESTER:

S. 3363. A bill to expedite the transfer of ownership of rural multifamily housing projects with loans made or insured under section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 so that such projects are rehabilitated and preserved for use for affordable housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 3364. A bill to increase the recruitment and retention of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists by low-income local educational agencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3365. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a nonrefundable tax credit for long-term care insurance premiums; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. 3366. A bill to protect, conserve, and restore native fish, wildlife, and their natural habitats at national wildlife refuges through cooperative, incentive-based grants to control, mitigate, and eradicate harmful non-native plant species, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 3367. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the timeframe for recognition of certain designations in certifying rural health clinics under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 3368. A bill to promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 3369. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for relief to surviving spouses and children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 632. A resolution calling on the Governments of the People's Republic of China and the international community to use the upcoming Olympic Games as an opportunity to push for the parties to the conflicts in Sudan, Chad, and the Central African Republic to cease hostilities and revive efforts toward a peaceful resolution of their national and regional conflicts; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. BUNNING):

S. Res. 633. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the deterioration of respect for privacy and human rights in the People's Republic of China before the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Res. 634. A resolution recognizing July 30, 2008, as the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 635. A resolution making minority party appointments for the 110th Congress; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent

students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 1075

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1075, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to contraceptive services for women and men under the Medicaid program, help low income women and couples prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce abortion, and for other purposes.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and expand the drug discount program under section 340B of such Act to improve the provision of discounts on drug purchases for certain safety net providers.

S. 1588

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1588, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a minor child's congenital or developmental deformity or disorder due to trauma, infection, tumor, or disease.

S. 1603

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1603, a bill to authorize Congress to award a gold medal to Jerry Lewis, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Nation.

S. 1870

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1870, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States.

S. 2367

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2367, a bill to provide for the issuance of bonds to provide funding for the construction of schools of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were added as cosponsors 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. 2681

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2681, a bill to require the issuance of medals to recognize the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers.

S. 2719

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2719, a bill to provide that Executive Order 13166 shall have no force or effect, and to prohibit the use of funds for certain purposes.

S. 2776

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) 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. 2836

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2836, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include service after September 11, 2001, as service qualifying for the determination of a reduced eligibility age for receipt of non-regular service retired pay.

S. 2932

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States.

S. 3038

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3038, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, and for other purposes.

S. 3080

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3080, a bill to ensure parity between the temporary duty imposed on ethanol and tax credits provided on ethanol.

S. 3127

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3127, a bill to reauthorize the Select Agent Program by amending the Public Health Service Act and the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 and to improve oversight of high containment laboratories.

S. 3164

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3164, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce fraud under the Medicare program.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3198, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to the navigation of submersible or semi-submersible vessels without nationality.

S. 3199

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain shipping from the harbor maintenance tax.

S. 3217

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3217, a bill to provide appropriate protection to attorney-client privileged communications and attorney work product.

S. 3242

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3242, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on digital-to-analog converter boxes, and for other purposes.

S. 3251

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3251, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Trade Act of 1974 to authorize advance payments under the supplemental revenue assistance program.

S. 3263

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3263, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to promote an enhanced strategic partnership with Pakistan and its people, and for other purposes.

S. 3299

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3299, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the demonstration project on adjustable rate mortgages and the demonstration project on hybrid adjustable rate mortgages.

S. 3323

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3323, a bill to provide weatherization and home heating assistance to low income households, and to provide a heating oil tax credit for middle income households.

S. 3329

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3329, a bill to amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to expand the category of individuals eligible for compensation, to improve the procedures for providing compensation, and to improve transparency, and for other purposes.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 3337

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3337, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out conservation reserve program notice CRP-598, entitled the "Voluntary Modification of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Contract for Critical Feed Use".

S. RES. 551

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 551, a resolution celebrating 75 years of successful State-based alcohol regulation.

S. RES. 580

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 580, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability.

S. RES. 618

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 618, a resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the bombings of the United States embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and memorializing the citizens of the United States, Kenya, and Tanzania whose lives were claimed as a result of the al Qaeda led terrorist attacks.

S. RES. 624

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 624, a resolution designating August 2008 as "National Truancy Prevention Month".

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 624, *supra*.

S. RES. 625

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 625, a resolution designating August 16, 2008, as National Airborne Day.

S. RES. 627

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 627, a resolution welcoming home Keith Stansell, Thomas Howes, and Marc Gonsalves, three citizens of the United States who were held hostage for over five years by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) after their plane crashed on February 13, 2003.

S. RES. 630

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 630, a resolution recognizing the importance of connecting foster youth to the workforce through internship programs, and encouraging employers to increase employment of former foster youth.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. 3366. A bill to protect, conserve, and restore native fish, wildlife, and their natural habitats at national wildlife refuges through cooperative, incentive-based grants to control, mitigate, and eradicate harmful nonnative plant species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that will address the growing harm that nonnative or "invasive" species are inflicting on the wildlife and environment of our National Wildlife Refuge System.

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt issued an executive order that designated Pelican Island, located in my home State of Florida, as a Federal bird reservation. This designation was intended to protect the numerous species of waterfowl that called Indian River Lagoon and Pelican Island home, including the last known brown pelican rookery on the East Coast of Florida. President Roosevelt's action marked the first time that our Federal Government set aside land for the sake of wildlife.

In the century that followed, the Pelican Island reservation, 27 additional sites in Florida, and other areas nationwide were set aside by the Federal Government and grew into a vast net-

work that is now the National Wildlife Refuge System. Today, this system is comprised of 540 wildlife refuges and 3,000 waterfowl production areas, spanning 95 million miles across all 50 States and several U.S. territories. These refuges are home to 700 bird species, more than 200 mammal species, 250 reptile and amphibian species, and more than 200 types of fish—including one-fourth of all federally recognized threatened and endangered species. The habitat afforded by our refuges will become even more critical to the survival of wildlife, which is already being forced to adapt to a rapidly changing climate.

As if encroaching human development, water and air pollution, and climate change weren't great enough challenges, our wildlife refuges and other protected areas are also threatened by a more insidious and persistent problem: invasive species. These nonnative plant and animal species compete for habitat, food, and other resources that are essential to native wildlife, including endangered and threatened species.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, over 400 nonnative animals and nearly 1,200 exotic plant species have been documented in the State, with more arriving each day. The old world climbing fern, *Lygodium*, poses a greater threat than any other nonnative plant to south Florida's natural areas, including one of our national treasures, the Everglades. This plant currently infests over 70 percent of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge near Boyton Beach, Florida. The Everglades' tree islands, which are a unique and extremely rare habitat for nesting wading birds and terrestrial wildlife, are particularly vulnerable to *Lygodium*. This invader first surrounds the islands' hardwood trees and dry ground, then grows over the tree canopy, and eventually smothers the native plants. This process essentially eliminates all of the ecological services that the tree islands once provided to native wildlife.

The threats posed by nonnative species are not confined to my home State of Florida—this is truly a national problem. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, invasive species are one of the most significant problems facing the National Wildlife Refuge System. Resource managers cite nonnative species as the single greatest threat to the refuges' biological and ecological functions, and as one of their most pressing management challenges. Currently, experts estimate that nonnative plant species infest more than 2 million acres in the Refuge System, and that nearly 4,500 invasive animal populations are established.

Efforts are underway to control or eradicate harmful, nonnative species in our wildlife refuges and other conservation areas. For example, the Fish and Wildlife Service treated 2,500 acres of *Lygodium* on tree islands in the

Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in fiscal year 2006. The South Florida Water Management District has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service to develop a sustained population of natural enemies, known as biological controls, to reduce the spread of invasive plants. The district has funded a biological control program for *Lygodium* since 1997, and has been working to find a natural enemy for the Brazilian pepper, one of the most noxious, widespread weeds in Florida. Projects like these are having a positive impact on the Everglades restoration, and show why it is important that all levels of government work together to combat harmful, nonnative species.

While these and other invasive species control efforts have yielded promising results, the job is far from complete. In the current fiscal year, approximately \$8.7 million was budgeted for treatment and control of nonnative plants in the Refuge System. That may sound like a lot of money, but it represents a mere drop in the bucket: the Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that the total cost of managing invasive species on refuges nationwide is in excess of \$300 million. Clearly, we need to dramatically increase the resources we devote to combating harmful, nonnative species if we expect our refuges to fulfill the wildlife conservation purposes for which they were set aside.

That is why I have worked with Senators STABENOW, COLLINS, CARDIN, and MARTINEZ to develop and introduce the Refuge Ecology Protection, Assistance, and Immediate Response Act, or REPAIR Act. The primary purpose of this act is to protect, enhance, and restore habitats for native fish and wildlife within the National Wildlife Refuge System. The REPAIR Act would establish within the Fish and Wildlife Service a grant program to support projects to assess, monitor, and manage harmful, nonnative species.

Specifically, REPAIR grants would be available to States, tribes, and territories to assess invasive plant and animal species that may threaten refuge resources, and to prioritize restorations needs and activities. Grants would also be available to State and local governments, universities, conservation organizations, and others to implement control projects to eradicate harmful, nonnative plants on refuges and adjoining, nonfederal lands and waters. Volunteer and public-interest groups would also be eligible for grants to conduct habitat surveys and monitor invasive plant and animal species. The REPAIR Act would also give the Secretary of the Interior the authority to provide financial assistance to States to respond quickly to outbreaks of invasive plants at a stage when complete eradication is possible and more affordable.

The Fish and Wildlife Service would be responsible for awarding REPAIR grants on a peer-reviewed, competitive