

H. Res. 1415. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a Representative from the State of Ohio.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5683) to make certain reforms with respect to the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House passed the following bill with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2135. An act to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House passed the following bill with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2403. An act to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert Merhige, Jr. Federal Courthouse".

The message further announced that the House passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2450. An act to amend the Federal Rules of Evidence to address the waiver of the attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine.

S. 2837. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, New York, as the "Theodore Roosevelt United States Courthouse".

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 3023. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prescribe regulations relating to the notice to be provided claimants with the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the substantiation of claims (Rept. No. 110-449).

By Mr. DORGAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2494. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-450).

#### 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. DORGAN:

S. 3454. A bill to transfer unexpended Iraq reconstruction funds to develop renewable energy and improve energy efficiency in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 3455. A bill to rescind unexpended Iraq reconstruction funds; to the Committee on Appropriations.

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

S. 3456. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of 5 United States Army Five-Star Generals, George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Henry "Hap" Arnold, and Omar Bradley, alumni of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth Kansas, to coincide with the celebration of the 132nd anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Command and General Staff College; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 3457. A bill to reaffirm United States objectives in Ethiopia and encourage critical democratic and humanitarian principles and practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 3458. A bill to prohibit golden parachute payments for former executives and directors of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 3459. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a connecting education and emerging professions demonstration grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. THUNE):

S. Res. 652. A resolution designating the week beginning September 8, 2008, as "National Assisted Living Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 446

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 446, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize capitation grants to increase the number of nursing faculty and students, and for other purposes.

S. 582

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

S. 897

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 897, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide more help to Alzheimer's disease caregivers.

S. 898

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 898, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 1070

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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 provides.

S. 1430

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1430, a bill to authorize State and local governments to direct divestiture from, and prevent investment in, companies with investments of \$20,000,000 or more in Iran's energy sector, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to expand Federal eligibility for children in foster care who have attained age 18.

S. 1556

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage to designated plan beneficiaries of employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1810

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1810, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the provision of scientifically sound information and support services to patients receiving a positive test diagnosis for Down syndrome or other prenatally and postnatally diagnosed conditions.

S. 2102

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2227

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2227, a bill to provide grants to States to ensure that all students in the middle grades are taught an academically rigorous curriculum with effective supports so that students complete the middle grades prepared for success in high school and postsecondary endeavors, to improve State and district policies and programs relating to the academic achievement of students in the middle grades, to develop and implement effective middle school models for struggling students, and for other purposes.

S. 2319

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2319, a bill to ensure the continued and future availability of life saving trauma health care in the United States and to prevent further trauma center closures and downgrades by assisting trauma centers with uncompensated care costs, core mission services, and emergency needs.

S. 2326

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2326, a bill to improve the safety of motorcoaches, and for other purposes.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow long-term care insurance to be offered under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements and to provide additional consumer protections for long-term care insurance.

S. 2579

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) 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. 2681

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) 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. 2736

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 2776

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 2908

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2908, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to prohibit the display of Social Security account numbers on Medicare cards.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2920, a bill to reauthorize and improve the financing and entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2921

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2921, a bill to require pilot programs on training and certification for family caregiver personal care attendants for veterans and members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury, to require a pilot program on provision of respite care to such veterans and members, and for other purposes.

S. 3242

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) 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. 3252

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3252, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act, to ban abusive credit practices, enhance consumer disclosures, protect underage consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 3310

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr.

ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3310, a bill to provide benefits under the Post-Development/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program.

S. 3311

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3311, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve mental and behavioral health services on college campuses.

S. 3356

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3356, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the legacy of the United States Army Infantry and the establishment of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center.

S. 3377

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3377, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to waive the biometric transportation security card requirement for certain small business merchant mariners, and for other purposes.

S. 3380

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3380, a bill to promote increased public transportation use, to promote increased use of alternative fuels in providing public transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 3406

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3406, a bill to restore the intent and protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

S. 3429

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3429, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide for an increased mileage rate for charitable deductions.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress relating to negotiating a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan.

S. CON. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 87, a concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Latvia on the 90th anniversary of its declaration of independence.

S. RES. 636

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 636, a resolution recognizing the strategic success of the troop surge in Iraq and expressing gratitude to the members of the United States Armed Forces who made that success possible.

AMENDMENT NO. 4979

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 4979 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5063

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5063 intended to be proposed to S. 3001, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 3454. A bill to transfer unexpended Iraq reconstruction funds to develop renewable energy and improve energy efficiency in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today in two ways, and I will send the bills to the desk following my comments. The first bill is called the Iraq Self-Sufficiency and American Energy Independence Act, and, the second is called the Rescission of Unneeded Iraq Reconstruction Funds Act of 2008.

In a nutshell, the bills say this: We are going to take up to \$11.48 billion

that has been appropriated but not yet expended for Iraq reconstruction, funds that are American taxpayers' dollars and that the Iraqi Government says it does not need, and bring that money back to this country. In the first approach, we would use the funds to substantially increase our renewable energy and make us less dependent on foreign sources of oil. Alternatively, in the second approach, we would use those funds to reduce the deficit. Either is fine with me, and I am introducing it both ways.

Here is the Special Inspector General Report for Iraq Reconstruction. This report shows that there are now \$11.48 billion in U.S. funds destined for Iraq reconstruction.

And let me quote, if I may, the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq: "Iraq does not need financial assistance."

That is for sure. The price of oil has gone way up like a Roman candle. They are producing 2 million barrels a day in Iraq. They have, by all accounts, somewhere around a \$49 billion surplus in bank accounts for the Government of Iraq, and there have been estimates that will reach a \$79 billion surplus. Meanwhile, our country is deep in debt, and yet we have money going to Iraq for reconstruction coming from American taxpayers' dollars while Iraqi money sits in the bank? It doesn't make any sense to me.

There is \$11.4 billion that has already been appropriated and is as yet unspent. My feeling is let's take the Iraqis at their word: "Iraq does not need financial assistance."

All right, I agree with that. Then let's not provide that financial assistance, and let's tell the Iraqis they have the capability to use their own surpluses to invest in their country.

It is interesting to me that we are now funding something like 900 water projects in the country of Iraq, and President Bush, in his budget, says let's cut back water projects in our country by a very substantial amount. We are going to take American taxpayers' dollars and build water projects in Iraq and stop building infrastructure in this country at a time when they have a big surplus and we have a big deficit? I don't think so.

I have a chart that shows what has happened to the price of oil from July 2003 to July 2008: \$27 a barrel to \$128 a barrel. The country of Iraq is producing 2 million barrels a day, and therefore their treasury is fattening in a way that is very significant.

I have a New York Times story on August 6, just a month ago:

Soaring oil prices will leave the Iraqi Government with a cumulative budget surplus of as much as \$79 billion by year's end, according to an American federal oversight agency. But Iraq has spent only a minute fraction of that on reconstruction costs, which are now largely borne by the United States.

That makes no sense to me. It just makes no sense. I want to show something on page 10 of the special inspector general's report, which is a descrip-

tion of what is going on in Iraq. This is a picture of something called the Whale. This is referred to as the Whale in Iraq. It is actually the Kahn Bani Sa'ad Correctional Facility. U.S. taxpayers paid \$40 million to build that prison in Iraq. I am told the Iraqis said they don't want the prison, but \$40 million went to the Parsons Corporation.

Take a look at this photo. I will bring it to the Senate floor in a chart. It is in unbelievable disrepair. Apparently, after the \$40 million, they kicked the contractor off the site, brought another contractor in, and spent another \$10 million. So they have \$50 million invested in something called the Whale, a prison the Iraqis did not want, is not now being used, will never be used, and sits in the desert rotting with 50 million of American taxpayers' dollars having been spent on it. Reconstruction, American taxpayers' dollars, construction in Iraq, in some cases even construction Iraqis don't want.

The question, it seems to me, for us is, are we going to continue this? At some point, is some common sense going to prevail? We shouldn't take money from American taxpayers and send it to Iraq, a country that has substantial surplus in the bank, and build projects in Iraq even while we cut infrastructure projects in our country.

The legislation I am introducing will say we will take \$11.48 billion that is appropriated but as of yet unspent and rescind that spending and use it either to reduce this country's budget deficit or use it to substantially change our energy future so we are less dependent on that part of the world for our energy future.

The funds I am proposing to eliminate are in three categories. One is the IRRF2. It is called the Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund, which covers many projects, including, as I just described, the prison which sits unused and falling apart, a \$50 million prison called the Whale. The ISFF is the Iraq Security Forces Fund. A country with currently about \$50 billion in the bank in surplus surely should have the ability now, after these long years of the American taxpayers footing the bill, to provide for infrastructure for their own army and their own police. Finally there is the ESF, the Economic Support Fund, which includes funding for provincial reconstruction teams, microfinance, and so on.

I would note that I am not proposing to cut the Commander's Emergency Response Program, which gives field commanders some discretion to provide funds for local projects.

But I do suggest it is long past the time for this Congress to use just a small amount of common sense. Instead of shoveling money out the door in support of reconstruction projects in Iraq, money we don't have, money we are borrowing from the Chinese and Japanese, by the way, instead of shoveling money out the door to provide money in a country that is piling up its