

Whereas in September 2009, upon completion of 1 year of service in support of military operations in Iraq, the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team returned to the United States and demobilized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its gratitude to the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Pennsylvania and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States;

(2) commends the members of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on the completion of their deployment to Iraq;

(3) recognizes the achievements of the members of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, as well as all other formerly and presently deployed Pennsylvania Army National Guard and Air National Guard units and members, for their exemplary service; and

(4) offers its condolences to the family and friends of Specialist Chad Edmundson of Williamsburg, Pennsylvania, and Staff Sergeant Mark Baum of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, who died in service to their country.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the contributions of the 56th Stryker Brigade, which recently returned to homes and families across Pennsylvania. For nine months, the 56th Stryker Brigade has been deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq. Here, these civilian soldiers, known as the Independence Brigade, worked side by side with their Iraqi counterparts to continue to bring stability and security to the Iraqi people.

On the front lines, they patrolled neighborhoods in unrelenting conditions, targeted insurgents, and swept for improvised explosion devices, IEDs. They performed more than 800 combined operations, captured seven brigade-level high valued targets, and discovered more than 80 enemy weapon caches. Any success we have had in Iraq is not only the result of military achievements. In this regard, it is equally important to recognize the \$22 million in reconstruction efforts that the 56th Stryker Brigade assisted with in coordination with an embedded U.S. provincial reconstruction team.

While these young men and women are now home, we must also remember those who fell in battle. Two members of the 56th gave "the last full measure of devotion." Specialist Chad Edmundson of Williamsburg was killed by an IED and Staff Sergeant Mark Baum of Quakertown was killed by enemy small arms fire. To these soldiers' families and friends, I want to express condolence and gratitude on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania for their sacrifice. Please know that our prayers are with you, and that we will never take for granted their personal courage and sacrifice. We pray for Chad and Mark and ourselves that we may be worthy of their valor.

While deployed, many things may have changed for these members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. For example, some service members met their sons and daughters for the first time. Nevertheless for all, a time of readjustment and reintegration back into their communities and daily lives lies ahead.

I want the National Guard to know that I will always be committed to helping them during this phase. I know that there are other Guard members who bear scars from battle, some visible and some not. The U.S. Senate must ensure that our citizen soldiers' jobs are maintained while they are deployed and we must provide opportunities for them to find employment upon their return. For this reason, I will continue to urge my colleagues to take up and adopt the Service Members Access to Justice Act and the FORCE Act, which will make National Guard assistance programs more effective and responsive, and ensure that National Guard troops keep their jobs and employment benefits as required under law.

Again, I want to express my appreciation to the 56th Stryker Brigade and all of our men and women in service.

SENATE RESOLUTION 331—CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT ON BEING NAMED BY FORBES MAGAZINE AS AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGE FOR 2009

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 331

Whereas Forbes magazine has named the United States Military Academy at West Point as America's Best College for 2009;

Whereas the United States has had a military presence at West Point since the Revolutionary War because of its strategic position overlooking the Hudson River;

Whereas General George Washington selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko to design West Point's fortifications in 1778;

Whereas West Point is the oldest continuously occupied military post in the United States;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson established the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1802;

Whereas West Point has educated many of the United States Army's commissioned officers;

Whereas West Point instructs 4,400 cadets per year in academics, military tactics, physical fitness, and leadership;

Whereas approximately 1,000 cadets graduate each year and are commissioned in the United States Armed Services;

Whereas 2 Presidents of the United States, 74 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, 88 Rhodes Scholars, 33 Marshall Scholars, and 28 Truman Scholars have graduated from West Point;

Whereas in addition to academics and military training, West Point offers extracurricular activities that include the Eisenhower Hall Theatre and 115 athletic and non-sport clubs; and

Whereas West Point offers a well-rounded, highly regarded education to the next generation of the Nation's leaders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009;

(2) supports West Point's mission "to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned

leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army"; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of West Point.

SENATE RESOLUTION 332—COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL, THE END OF THE DIVISION OF EUROPE, AND THE BEGINNING OF THE PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC REUNIFICATION OF GERMANY

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 332

Whereas, between 1945 and 1961, more than 2,500,000 people, or 15 percent of the total population of the German Democratic Republic (referred to in this preamble as "East Germany"), left the country to pursue economic opportunity and enjoy the benefits of liberty and political freedom in the Federal Republic of Germany (referred to in this preamble as "West Germany") and other countries;

Whereas, at midnight on August 13, 1961, East Germany sealed its border with West Berlin and began construction of a 100-mile barrier that would later include bunkers, watchtowers, searchlights, minefields, barbed wire, concrete walls, and armed guards, to prevent the emigration of the people of East Germany to seek freedom and opportunity elsewhere;

Whereas, during the 28 years the Berlin Wall existed, approximately 5,000 people successfully fled East Germany for West Germany and West Berlin, more than 75,000 people were imprisoned for attempting to leave East Germany, and an estimated 1,200 people were killed trying to escape;

Whereas Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan declared their vision of Berlin as a free city, in the heart of a free Germany;

Whereas Chancellor Willi Brandt of West Germany and others demonstrated great foresight in their pursuit of "Ostpolitik", a policy of engagement that lowered tensions and ultimately helped undermine the authoritarian rule of the wall-builders;

Whereas more than 22,000,000 Americans served in the Cold War, supporting the efforts to bring military, economic, and diplomatic pressure to bear in the defense of Germany and the West, and ultimately helping more than 400,000,000 people gain their freedom from the bondage of communism in the Soviet Bloc;

Whereas the Solidarity Movement in Poland demonstrated that the will of a people united could not be silenced by winning a surprise landslide victory in elections to the Contract Sejm in June 1989;

Whereas, on August 23, 1989, Hungary officially opened the border between Hungary and Austria, resulting in 13,000 refugees from East Germany fleeing into West Germany through Hungary;

Whereas, on September 4, 1989, after prayers for peace in the Nikolai Church, crowds that would eventually number in the hundreds of thousands gathered in Leipzig, East Germany, to repeatedly and peacefully protest the authoritarian regime of East Germany and to demand basic freedoms;

Whereas, in September 1989, thousands of people in East Germany took refuge in the

embassy of West Germany in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in order to emigrate to West Germany and the West;

Whereas, on October 18, 1989, faced with widespread civil unrest and a deteriorating political situation, East German leader Erich Honecker, who had predicted that the Wall "will stand in fifty or a hundred years," resigned;

Whereas, on November 4, 1989, more than 1,000,000 people gathered in Alexanderplatz in East Berlin and 40 other cities and towns in East Germany to demand free elections and basic civil rights, such as freedoms of opinion, movement, press, and assembly;

Whereas, on November 9, 1989, East German politbureau member Günter Schabowski announced that the government would allow "every citizen of the German Democratic Republic to leave the GDR through any of the border crossings," and East German leader Egon Krenz promised "free, general, democratic and secret elections";

Whereas thousands of people in East Berlin immediately flooded the border checkpoints at the Berlin Wall and demanded entry into West Berlin, causing the overwhelmed border guards of East Germany to open the checkpoints to allow people to cross into West Berlin;

Whereas, in the days following the fall of the Berlin Wall, hundreds of thousands of people from East Germany freely crossed the border into West Berlin and West Germany for the first time in more than 28 years;

Whereas the Chancellor of West Germany Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher managed the political situation and foreign diplomacy with great tact and in close cooperation with Western allies, leading to the peaceful reunification of Germany as a sovereign, democratic state on October 3, 1990;

Whereas, on November 9, 2009, the people of Germany will celebrate on both sides of the Brandenburg Gate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with the "Festival of Freedom";

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall was one of the milestones of the 20th century, brought about by the actions of many ordinary and some extraordinary people; and

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall embodied the end of the division of Europe, the opening of the Iron Curtain, and the triumph of democracy over communism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall;

(2) celebrates 20 years of an undivided Europe, free from the oppression of authoritarianism, with the people of the former communist countries and Western Europe;

(3) honors the service and sacrifice of the people of Germany, the United States, and other countries who served in the Cold War to bring freedom to Central and Eastern Europe;

(4) expresses its appreciation to the people of Germany for their commitment to preserving the dignity and freedom of others in their leadership on international assistance, peacekeeping, and security efforts, including in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Sudan, and off the coast of the Horn of Africa; and

(5) reaffirms the friendship between the Government and people of the United States and the Government and people of Germany.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2721. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2722. Mr. JOHANNIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2723. Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2724. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2721. Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ TARP MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "TARP Recipient Ownership Trust Act of 2009".

(b) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TO DELEGATE TARP ASSET MANAGEMENT.—Section 106(b) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5216(b)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and the Secretary may delegate such management authority to a private entity established under section 101(c)(4), except as to the supervision of the Secretary, as the Secretary determines appropriate, with respect to the assets of any designated TARP recipient, as required under subsection (c) of the TARP Recipient Ownership Trust Act of 2009".

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 101(c)(4) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5211(c)(4)) is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "provided that a TARP Trust established and operated in accordance with subsection (d) of the TARP Recipient Ownership Trust Act of 2009 shall satisfy the requirements of this section."

(d) CREATION OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY FOR DESIGNATED TARP RECIPIENTS.—

(1) TRANSFERS TO TARP TRUST.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, or any other provision of law, the Secretary shall transfer all voting, nonvoting, and common equity in any designated TARP recipient to a limited liability company established by the Secretary for such purpose, to be held and managed on behalf of United States taxpayers and to be known as a "TARP Trust".

(2) TRANSFER TIMING.—Transfers under paragraph (1) shall occur not later than 120 days after—

(A) the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any entity that is a designated TARP recipient on that date of enactment; and

(B) the date on which an entity becomes a designated TARP recipient, with respect to any entity that becomes a designated TARP recipient after that date of enactment.

(3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the authority of the

Secretary of the Treasury to sell or dispose of, or enter into contracts, commitments, or arrangements to sell or dispose of, any asset to be transferred to TARP Trust under this subsection during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which all assets are transferred to a TARP Trust.

(4) APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint 3 trustees, managers, or directors (in this section referred to as "trustees"), to manage the equity held in a TARP Trust.

(B) CRITERIA.—A trustee appointed under this subsection—

(i) may not be an elected or appointed Government official;

(ii) may not be an employee, director, or officer of any designated TARP recipient or have any financial interest in any designated TARP recipient that is material, in accordance with the regulations or guidelines of the Secretary issued under this section;

(iii) may be removed by the Secretary for cause; and

(iv) shall be paid at a rate equal to the rate payable for positions at level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5311 of title 5, United States Code.

(C) INDEMNIFICATION.—The TARP Trust shall indemnify the trustees, and the trustees shall be held harmless, with respect to any claim made by a third party arising out of the actions of the trustees, to the extent that such actions were taken in the normal course of the duties of the trustees, and were taken in good faith in the fulfillment of the fiduciary duty of the trustees.

(5) DUTIES OF TRUST.—Consistent with the goal of protecting the interests and investment of the United States taxpayer, with the purpose of maintaining economic stability and maximizing the return on investment to the taxpayer in a reasonable period of time, the trustees of the TARP Trust shall—

(A) exercise the voting rights of any shares held by the TARP Trust, in accordance with the voting principles;

(B) not participate in the day-to-day management of any designated TARP recipient;

(C) develop and implement a plan of disposition;

(D) develop an annual operating budget for its operations, which shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary, and conduct the operations of the TARP Trust in accordance with that budget;

(E) provide for an accounting of the books and records of the TARP Trust that is audited on an annual basis, as well as monthly unaudited accounting and reporting, and such other reports as the Secretary shall require;

(F) hire such employees, advisors, and agents as may be required, define their duties, and determine their compensation, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, or other laws related to the appointment, compensation, or termination of Federal employees;

(G) enter into such contracts as may be required, including contracts for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, without regard to any other provision of law regarding public contracts;

(H) comply with standards and practices of the Secretary with respect to custody of assets, cash management services, and related activities including depositing the net cash proceeds of any disposition of assets in an account established by the Secretary pursuant to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008; and

(I) comply with the requirements of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5221 et