

S. 1860

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TERM FOR MEMBERS OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE.

Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 301(e)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1381(e)(1)), any individual serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance as of September 30, 2009, may serve for 3 terms.

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 342, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 342) recognizing National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, on October 30, 2009, President Obama issued a proclamation designating November 2009 as National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. This President follows a tradition of Presidents since 1990 of issuing proclamations honoring the significant contributions of tribal governments and individual Native Americans to our Nation's history and development.

Congress also has traditionally recognized the contributions of Native Americans to the United States in the form of resolutions, findings, coins and medals. The resolution introduced here today continues in that tradition.

This resolution recognizes some of the many contributions that Native Americans have made to help build our great Nation as well as the continued contributions of Native Americans to the growth of the United States. Native Americans have made significant contributions in the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art. They were an influencing force in the founding documents of our Federal Government. Indian tribes have even made use of Native languages to develop an unbreakable military code that helped defeat the Axis powers in World War II. These remarkable tribes and individual Native Americans have shaped our Nation's history in so many very meaningful ways.

Through this resolution, we recognize and celebrate these and many other contributions of tribal governments and Native Americans during the month of November. It is particu-

larly important that President Obama has decided to host a Tribal Leaders Summit at the White House. The President will meet with tribal leaders in Washington, DC, November 5, 2009, to discuss the many issues facing tribal communities throughout the Nation.

We have several very important pieces of legislation before this body that I hope to move in the interest of the First Americans. S. 1790, the Indian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization and Extension Act of 2009, was introduced on October 15, 2009, after much consultation and discussion among tribal leaders and Indian health experts. I will work very hard this Congress to get this important piece of legislation to the President's desk. In addition, after many, many hearings and numerous listening sessions, I introduced S. 797, the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2009, earlier this year. This important piece of legislation has strong bipartisan support and will help to improve the status of law and order on tribal lands. The bill has been approved by the Indian Affairs Committee and is waiting for approval by the full Senate.

I urge all citizens, and local, State, and Federal governments and agencies to take time this month to learn more about the many facets of Native American history, traditions, and their important contributions to the formation of the United States. Mr. President, I ask that this resolution be adopted quickly and that it act as encouragement to all people of the United States to observe the month of November as National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 342) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 342

Whereas from November 1, 2009, through November 30, 2009, the United States celebrates National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas, in 2000, the United States Census Bureau reported that there were more than 4,000,000 people in the United States of American Indian and Alaska Native descent;

Whereas, on December 2, 1989, the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate held a hearing exploring the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy, and its influence on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of freedom of speech, the separation of governmental powers, and checks and balances among the branches of government;

Whereas the Senate has reaffirmed that a major national goal of the United States is

to provide the resources, processes, and structure that will enable Indian Tribes and tribal members to obtain the quantity and quality of health care services and opportunities that will eliminate the health disparities between American Indians and the general population of the United States;

Whereas Congress recently reaffirmed its trust responsibility to improve the housing conditions and socioeconomic status of American Indians and Alaska Natives by providing affordable homes in a safe and healthy environment;

Whereas, throughout its course of dealing with Indian Tribes, the United States Government has engaged in a government-to-government relationship with Tribes;

Whereas the United States Government owes a trust obligation to Tribes, acknowledged in treaties, statutes, and decisions of the Supreme Court, to protect the interests and welfare of tribal governments and their members;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have consistently served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces of the United States, some as early as the Revolutionary War, and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives speak and preserve indigenous languages and have contributed hundreds of words to the English language, including the names of people and locations in the United States;

Whereas Congress has recognized Native American code talkers who served with honor and distinction in World War I and World War II, using indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless American lives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives are deeply rooted in tradition and culture, which drives their strength of community; and

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives of all ages celebrate the great achievements of their ancestors and heroes and continue to share their stories with future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month during the month of November 2009;

(2) honors the heritage and culture of American Indians and Alaska Natives and the contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 110-181, and in consultation with chairmen of the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Foreign Relations, appoints the following individual to be a member of the Commission on Wartime Contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan: Katherine Schinasi of Washington, DC, vice Linda J. Gustitus of the District of Columbia.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Friday, November 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3082, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. CASEY. There will be no rollcall votes during Friday's session of the Senate. As previously announced, the next vote will occur at approximately 5:30 p.m. Monday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 TOMORROW

Mr. CASEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I

ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:31 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 6, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate, Thursday, November 5, 2009:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ARTURO A. VALENZUELA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS).

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

ROLENA KLAHN ADORNO, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2014.

MARVIN KRISLOV, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2014.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

ANNE S. FERRO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CYNTHIA L. QUARTERMAN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

ELIZABETH M. ROBINSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATRICK GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.

SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2016.

ANNE MARIE WAGNER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2014.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

IGNACIA S. MORENO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

LAURIE O. ROBINSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.

BENJAMIN B. WAGNER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

CARMEN MILAGROS ORTIZ, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

EDWARD J. TARVER, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.