

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) all people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 29, 2009, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

#### NATIONAL READING EDUCATION ASSISTANCE DOGS DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 338.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 338) designating November 14, 2009, as "National Reading Education Assistance Dogs Day."

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 338) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 338

Whereas reading provides children with an essential foundation for all future learning;

Whereas the Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) program was founded in November of 1999 to improve the literacy skills of children through the mentoring assistance of trained, registered, and insured pet partner reading volunteer teams;

Whereas children who participate in the R.E.A.D. program make significant improvements in fluency, comprehension, confidence, and many additional academic and social dimensions;

Whereas the R.E.A.D. program now has an active presence in 49 States, 3 provinces in Canada, Europe, Asia, and beyond with more than 2,400 trained and registered volunteer teams participating and influencing thousands of children in classrooms and libraries across the Nation;

Whereas the program has received awards and recognition from distinguished entities including the International Reading Association, the Delta Society, the Latham Foundation, the American Library Association, and PBS Television; and

Whereas the program has garnered enthusiastic coverage from national media, including major television networks NBC, CBS, and ABC, as well as international television and print coverage: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, in honor of the 10th anniversary of the R.E.A.D. program, designates November 14, 2009, as "National Reading Education Assistance Dogs Day".

#### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—APPOINTMENTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the appoint-

ments with respect to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission made on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, be vitiated.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the appointments at the desk with respect to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission be considered to have been made on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, and that they appear separately in the RECORD as if made by the Chair.

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

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106-398, and public the recommendation of the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individuals to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Patrick A. Mulloy, of Virginia, for a term beginning January 1, 2010 and expiring December 31, 2011, and William A. Reinsch, of Maryland, for a term beginning January 1, 2010 and expiring December 31, 2011.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010—Continued

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume consideration of H.R. 3082, the Military Construction-VA appropriations bill.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the following amendments to be considered en bloc: 2759, 2760, 2741, 2752, 2738, 2746, 2773, 2740, 2749, 2751, 2743, 2771, 2737, 2747, 2745, 2734, 2753.

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2741; 2759; 2760; 2740; 2752; 2746; 2737, AS MODIFIED; 2745, AS MODIFIED; 2747, AS MODIFIED, AND 2771, AS MODIFIED

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that amendments Nos. 2741, 2759, 2760, 2740, 2752, and 2746, which are pending, be considered and agreed to en bloc and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that amendments Nos. 2737, 2745, 2747, and 2771 be modified with the changes at the desk, and that, as modi-

fied, the amendments be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendments (Nos. 2741, 2759, 2760, 2740, 2752, and 2746) were agreed to.

The amendments (Nos. 2737, as modified; 2745, as modified; 2747, as modified, and 2771, as modified) were agreed to, as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2737, AS MODIFIED

On page 52, after line 21, add the following: SEC. 229. Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "MEDICAL SERVICES", \$150,000,000 may be available for the grant program under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, and per diem payments under section 2012 of such title.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2745, AS MODIFIED

On page 52, after line 21, add the following: SEC. 229. Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this title for the Department of Veterans Affairs, up to \$5,000,000 may be available for the study required by section 1077 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2747, AS MODIFIED

On page 52, after line 21, add the following: SEC. 229. (a) CAMPUS OUTREACH AND SERVICES FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.—Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this title, \$5,000,000 may be available to conduct outreach to and provide services at institutions of higher education to ensure that veterans enrolled in programs of education at such institutions have information on and access to care and services for neurological and psychological issues.

(b) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—The amount described in subsection (a) for the purposes described in such subsection is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated or made available for readjustment counseling and related mental health services.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2771, AS MODIFIED

At the end of title II, add the following: SEC. 229. In administering section 51.210(d) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may permit a State home to provide services to, in addition to non-veterans described in such section, a non-veteran any of whose children died while serving in the Armed Forces, as long as such services are not denied to a qualified veteran seeking such services.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2734, 2738, 2773, 2753, 2749, 2751, 2743

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, on behalf of various Senators I now call up en bloc amendments Nos. 2734, 2738, 2773, 2753, 2749, 2751, 2743. I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered and agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

The amendments were considered and agreed to, as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2734

(Purpose: To require a report on bid savings realized from cost and scope variations for military construction projects)

On page 27, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 128. Not later than each of April 15, 2010, July 15, 2010, and October 15, 2010, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a consolidated report from each of the military departments and Defense agencies identifying,

by project and dollar amount, bid savings resulting from cost and scope variations pursuant to section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, exceeding 25 percent of the appropriated amount for military construction projects funded by this Act, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-32), and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2009 (division E of Public Law 110-329), including projects funded through the regular military construction accounts, the Department of Defense Base Closure Account 2005, and the overseas contingency operations military construction accounts.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2738

(Purpose: To provide for a study on transportation improvements to accommodate installation growth associated with the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) program)

On page 27, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 128. (a) Of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT, 2005", \$450,000 shall be available for the Secretary of Defense to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study through the Transportation Research Board of Federal funding of transportation improvements to accommodate installation growth associated with the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) program.

(b) The study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine case studies of congestion caused on metropolitan road and transit facilities when BRAC requirements cause shifts in personnel to occur faster than facilities can be improved through the usual State and local processes;

(2) review the criteria used by the Defense Access Roads (DAR) program for determining the eligibility of transportation projects and the appropriate Department of Defense share of public highway and transit improvements in BRAC cases;

(3) assess the adequacy of current Federal surface transportation and Department of Defense programs that fund highway and transit improvements in BRAC cases to mitigate transportation impacts in urban areas with preexisting traffic congestion and saturated roads;

(4) identify promising approaches for funding road and transit improvements and streamlining transportation project approvals in BRAC cases; and

(5) provide recommendations for modifications of current policy for the DAR and Office of Economic Adjustment programs, including funding strategies, road capacity assessments, eligibility criteria, and other government policies and programs the National Academy of Sciences may identify, to mitigate the impact of BRAC-related installation growth on preexisting urban congestion.

(c) The Secretary of Defense shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to provide the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) by not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of the Act.

(d)(1) Not later than May 15, 2010, the National Academy of Sciences shall provide an interim report of its findings to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) Not later than January 31, 2011, the National Academy of Sciences shall provide a final report of its findings to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2773

(Purpose: To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Louisville, Kentucky, as the "Robley Rex Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center")

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 229. (a) DESIGNATION OF ROBLEY REX DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.—The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Louisville, Kentucky, and any successor to such medical center, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Robley Rex Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Robley Rex Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2753

(Purpose: To make a technical correction requested by the Army in the funding of dining projects at forwarding operating bases in Afghanistan)

On page 56, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 401. (a)(1) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY" and available for a dining hall project at Forward Operating Base Dwyer is hereby increased by \$4,400,000.

(2) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY" and available for a dining hall project at Forward Operating Base Maywand is hereby reduced by \$4,400,000.

(b)(1) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY" and available for a dining hall project at Forward Operating Base Wolverine is hereby increased by \$2,150,000.

(2) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY" and available for a dining hall project at Forward Operating Base Tarin Kowt is hereby reduced by \$2,150,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2749

(Purpose: To provide \$37,500,000 requested by the Air Force for construction of an Unmanned Aerial System Field Training Complex at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, as authorized by section 2301(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (division B of Public Law 111-84), and to provide an offset)

On page 27, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 128. (a)(1) The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE" is hereby increased by \$37,500,000.

(2) Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE", as increased by paragraph (1), \$37,500,000 shall be available for construction of an Unmanned Aerial System Field Training Complex at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

(b) Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by title I of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2009 (division E of Public Law 110-329; 122 Stat. 3692) under the heading "MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE" and available for the purpose of Unmanned Aer-

ial System Field Training facilities construction, \$38,500,000 is hereby rescinded.

## AMENDMENT NO. 2751

(Purpose: To make a technical correction for the Air Force at Columbus AFB, Mississippi)

On page 4, line 6, after the date, insert the following:

, Of which \$9,800,000 shall be for an Aircraft Fuel Systems Maintenance Dock at Columbus AFB, Mississippi

## AMENDMENT NO. 2743

(Purpose: To provide, with an offset, an additional \$750,000 for homeless veterans comprehensive service programs and housing assistance and supportive services)

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:

SEC. 229. (a) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR HOMELESS VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The amount appropriated by this title under the heading "MEDICAL SERVICES" under the heading "VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION" is increased by \$750,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for the following:

(1) The grant program under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) Per diem payments under section 2012 of such title.

(3) Housing assistance and supportive services under subchapter V of chapter 20 of such title.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES" under the heading "DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION" is decreased by \$750,000.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, November 17, following a period of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3082, and that the following list of amendments be the only amendments remaining in order, with no second-degree amendments in order to any listed amendments: Johnson amendment No. 2733, Feingold amendment No. 2748; Cochran amendment No. 2763, Inhofe amendment No. 2774, Inouye amendment 2754, McCain second-degree amendment No. 2776; that the previous order regarding a managers' amendment remain in effect; that the vote with respect to the Inhofe amendment occur when the Senate resumes consideration of the bill at 2:15, and that upon disposition of the Inhofe amendment, the provisions of the previous order with respect to disposition of the substitute and passage of the bill be in effect; that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to each vote, except that prior to the Inhofe vote there be 5 minutes of debate, with all debate time equally divided and controlled in the usual form; further, that amendment No. 2779 be withdrawn once this agreement is entered into this evening, with any relevant provisions of the order of November 10 in effect.

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

(The amendment (No. 2779) was withdrawn.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, following the disposition of H.R. 3082, the order with respect to the Hamilton nomination be executed.

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

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Parliamentary inquiry: I did not understand the last unanimous consent request, that we were going to a nomination?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I believe we are now on the glidepath to finishing the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill. We have an order. If we can clear some of the further amendments that are listed for a vote, I know we will be able to do that. Some of these are being negotiated at this time. At least we have a way forward.

Our staffs have worked very diligently on this since we started this bill last Tuesday and, for various reasons, we are going to finish it tomorrow, a week later. We could not have done it without a lot of cooperation. I thank my distinguished colleague, the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator JOHNSON, and his staff: Christina Evans, Chad Schulken, and Andy Vanlandingham. My staff also has ably worked through these. When I was called away to Fort Hood, my chief clerk, Dennis Balkham, did a great job with the help of Ben Hammond in our office. I appreciate very much all the cooperation and the help we have had coming to this point.

I am pleased with our bill. I think we have a good bill that will do what all of us want, which is to assure that our veterans have the health care, the benefits, the needed outreach they should have for getting their benefits on a timely basis. This is one of the priorities we are funding in this bill. Secondly, of course, the military construction part of this bill is going to assure many quality-of-life improvements for our military personnel. Also, we will be building in faraway places where our troops are being housed right now. We want to give them every comfort we possibly can as they are fighting for our freedom.

I thank my colleagues and certainly appreciate that we are now moving toward final passage of this bill tomorrow. I appreciate all the cooperation we have had.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### EL SALVADOR'S CHALLENGES

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on November 16, 1989, six Jesuit Fathers, their housekeeper, and her daughter were brutally murdered by members of the Salvadoran Army. The Senate has passed a resolution remembering and honoring the lives and work of these individuals, and today, as we solemnly mark the 20th anniversary of this tragedy, I am struck by the enduring legacy of those who lived and taught their commitment to justice, human rights, and peace in the face of violence and oppression.

A New York Times article published on November 17, 1989, a day after their murders, remembered Father Ignacio Ellacuria Bescoetxea as a strong advocate for human rights and a key participant in successful negotiations for the release of the President's daughter in 1985. Father Ignacio Martín-Baró was "a gentle academic type, with an office overflowing with books, papers, everything," and the editor of a widely distributed scholarly journal. Father Segundo Montes worked to collect data on atrocities committed in El Salvador's war so that, some day, justice could be done and victims would not be forgotten. Father Amando López was a committed professor of theology and served the seminary as its rector. Father Juan Ramon Moreno was the assistant director of the university's chapel which also served as an auditorium for lectures making relevant church teachings to the situation in El Salvador. Father Joaquin López y López was the director in El Salvador of Fe y Alegria which organized primary schools for children in the poorest neighborhoods.

These men put their faith and academic expertise in philosophy, political science, sociology, economics, and theology to good use. They maintained a distinct hope for an El Salvador at peace, and a country that respected and protected the rights and well-being of all its people—including the very poorest. These teachers were invaluable educators not only for their students and fellow Salvadorans, but also for the global community, bringing international attention and awareness to the plight of those most deeply affected by the conflict in their country. Though tragic, their deaths, and those of their housekeeper, Julia Elba Ramos, and her daughter, Celina Mariset Ramos, helped bring about the negotiations that ultimately led to peace in 1992, and their work on human rights and social justice is continued today by many in El Salvador and around the world, including the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the U.S.

The civil war is long over, and we witnessed a landmark for democracy this spring as El Salvador hosted its first transfer of power between political parties in a relatively peaceful and transparent election. The new government faces many challenges, including widespread poverty, crime, and gang violence, and the work of the six

priests remains just as important today—to address these great challenges, El Salvador must commit itself to the causes of education, justice, and human rights that they championed two decades ago.

#### NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support for National Adoption Month and the efforts of those individuals who play a role in foster care and the adoption process.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 51,000 children are adopted in the United States of America each year. This is an encouraging figure and a strong testament to the efficacy of child welfare workers and foster care families around the country. However, this month also provides us with an opportunity to look at the more sobering side of this issue.

Currently, more than 130,000 children await adoption in the United States. This figure represents children who do not yet know the safety and security of loving parents or a home to call their own. This is a dilemma about which we must raise awareness and for which we must find solutions.

As a father myself, I can speak for the sacrifices that most parents willingly make for the well-being of their children. I therefore deeply admire and respect those who make these sacrifices for children who are not their own by birth by providing foster homes or by seeking to adopt.

Many adoptive parents have fought their way through significant obstacles in the legal process in order to adopt, and all have taken risks and made sacrifices in their own lives to create a family where none has been before.

The theme of this year's effort to raise awareness about the adoption of children and youth from foster care, "You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent," should help serve as a reminder that, although many would-be adoptive parents feel unequal to the job, they have a great deal to offer these children.

There are many ways to adopt, whether through the public foster care system, domestic adoption through private agencies within the United States, or intercountry adoption, to name a few, and numerous adoption agencies and workers stand ready to assist in the process.

As a Senator, I have seen the statistics of those children for whom no home was made, for whom no parent stepped up to the hard but rewarding job of parenting, and while there are encouraging exceptions, figures make it very clear that society has found no replacement for a stable home and loving parents.

Thus, it is both for the sake of these children and for the welfare of our Nation that I encourage adoption as a way to enhance one's own life and the society in which we all live. As I have