

to buy a new home or repair an existing home by withdrawing money from their retirement plans without tax penalties.

The second provision is a one-year extension of a provision allowing disaster victims that have borrowed from their retirement account for disaster recovery to repay their own account without penalty.

The final provision is a 1-year extension of a provision allowing disaster victims whose banks cancel mortgage debt to not have the cancelled debt counted as taxable income. I urge my colleagues to help me in getting this important legislation enacted into law as soon as possible.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2815

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL RULES FOR USE OF RETIREMENT FUNDS.

Section 702(d)(10) of the Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343; 122 Stat. 3916) is amended—

(1) by striking “January 1, 2010” both places it appears and inserting “January 1, 2011”, and

(2) by striking “December 31, 2009” both places it appears and inserting “December 31, 2010”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN CANCELLATION OF INDEBTEDNESS INCOME.

Section 702(e)(4)(C) of the Heartland Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343; 122 Stat. 3918) is amended by striking “January 1, 2010” and inserting “January 1, 2011”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 358—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 12, 2009, AS “WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 358

Whereas 18 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began an annual tradition, during the month of December, of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas since that tradition began, through the hard work and generosity of the individuals involved in the Wreaths Across America project, hundreds of thousands of wreaths have been sent to national cemeteries and veterans memorials in every state and to locations overseas;

Whereas in 2008, wreaths were sent to 372 locations across the United States, as well as 24 sites overseas;

Whereas in December 2009, the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehicle group that is dedicated to patriotic events and includes more than 177,000 mem-

bers nationwide, will continue their tradition of escorting a tractor-trailer filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas thousands of individuals volunteer each December to escort and lay the wreaths;

Whereas December 13, 2008, was previously designated by the Senate as “Wreaths Across America Day”; and

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project will continue its proud legacy on December 12, 2009, bringing 15,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery on that day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 12, 2009, as “Wreaths Across America Day”;

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, and all of the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices our veterans, servicemembers, and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2787. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 submitted by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2787. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 submitted by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1738, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

(3) **HEALTH CARE FRAUD PENALTIES.**—Section 1347 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “Whoever” and inserting the following:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—It shall be unlawful for any person, in connection with the delivery of or payment for health care benefits, items, or services, to”;

(B) by striking “executes, or attempts” and inserting “execute, or attempt”;

(C) in subsection (a)(2), as so designated, by striking “program,” and inserting “program.”; and

(D) in the matter following subsection (a)(2), as so designated, by striking “in connection with the delivery” and all that follows and inserting the following:

“(b) **PENALTIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), whoever violates subsection (a)—

“(A) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both;

“(B) if the violation results in serious bodily injury (as defined in section 1365 of this

title), shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 20 years, or both; and

“(C) if the violation results in death, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both.

“(2) **MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCING.**—In imposing a sentence under paragraph (1), if the violation of subsection (a) involves a loss of not less than \$100,000, the defendant shall be imprisoned for not less than 6 months.”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

S. 760, to designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the “National World War I Memorial”;

S. 1838, to establish a commission to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War;

S. 2097, to authorize the rededication of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a National and District of Columbia World War I Memorial to honor the sacrifices made by American veterans of World War I;

S. 2722, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, in the State of Wyoming, as a unit of the National Park System;

S. 2726, to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes;

S. 2738, to authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution;

H.R. 1849, to designate the Liberty Memorial at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, as the National World War I Memorial, to establish the World War I centennial commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 3689, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. to establish a Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate,

Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to allison_seyferth@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks at (202) 224-9863 or Allison Seyferth at (202) 224-4905.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2052, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research and development and demonstration program to reduce manufacturing and construction costs relating to nuclear reactors, and for other purposes and S. 2812 the Nuclear Power 2021 Act.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to [Rosemarie Calabro@ener.senate.gov](mailto:Rosemarie.Calabro@ener.senate.gov)

For further information, please contact Jonathan Epstein at (202) 224-3357 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2009, at 2 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 20, 2009, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to Nassim Zecavati, who is a fellow in my office.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following HELP Committee fellows be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of consideration of H.R. 3590, the legislative vehicle for the Patient Pro-

tection and Affordable Care Act of 2009: Sara Selgrade, Bill McConagha, Stephanie Hammonds, Joe Hutter, and Caroline Fichtenberg.

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

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my staff member, Mr. Brett King, be granted the privileges of the floor.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, on behalf of Chairman BAUCUS, I ask unanimous consent that the list of staff from the Senate Finance Committee which is at the desk be granted the privileges of the floor during debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3509 and the cloture vote on the motion to proceed.

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

The list follows:

Laura Hoffmeister, Scott Berkowitz, Mary Baker, Bridget Mallon, Blaise Cote, Maryum Janjua, Audrey Schultz, Kaitlin Guarascio, Margaret (Angela) Franklin.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE AND CONDITIONAL RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 214, the adjournment resolution received from the House and at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 214) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

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

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 214) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 214

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, November 19, 2009, or Friday, November 20, 2009, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, November 20, 2009, through Wednesday, November 25, 2009, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, November 30, 2009, or such other time on that day as may be specified in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—S. 1194

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that S. 1194, as reported by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, be star printed with the changes at the desk.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 111-25, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission: the Honorable DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California vice Frank Fahrenkopf of Nevada and the Honorable JIM WEBB of Virginia vice Sig Rogich of Nevada.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc Executive Calendars Nos. 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 551, and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Paul K. Martin, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

James LaGarde Hudson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Economic, Energy, and Business Affairs).

Frederick D. Barton, of Maine, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the