

technical corrections to a provision relating to project deauthorizations; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1015. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance disability compensation for certain disabled veterans with difficulties using prostheses and disabled veterans in need of regular aid and attendance for residuals of traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BURR:

S. 1016. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the commencement of the period of payment of original awards of compensation for veterans who are retired or separated from the Uniformed services for disability; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1017. A bill to reauthorize the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission and expand the boundaries of the Cane River National Heritage Area in the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1018. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, to construct a curatorial center for the use of Cane River Creole National Historical Park, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and the University, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1019. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 139. A resolution commemorating the 20th anniversary of the end of communist rule in Poland; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KAUFMAN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 140. A resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. Res. 141. A resolution recognizing June 2009 as the first National Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) month, established to increase awareness of HHT, which is a complex genetic blood vessel disorder that affects approximately 70,000 people in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 211

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from South Caro-

lina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services and volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 255

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 255, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to empower the States to set the maximum annual percentage rates applicable to consumer credit transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 259

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 259, a bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes.

S. 301

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 301, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency in the relationship between physicians and manufacturers of drugs, devices, biologicals, or medical supplies for which payment is made under Medicare, Medicaid, or SCHIP.

S. 332

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to establish a comprehensive interagency response to reduce lung cancer mortality in a timely manner.

S. 428

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 428, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 473

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 473, a bill to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to guarantee the equity of spouses of military personnel with regard to matters of residency, and for other purposes.

S. 614

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Sen-

ator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. 614, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP").

S. 629

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 629, a bill to facilitate the part-time reemployment of annuitants, and for other purposes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 632, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that the payment of the manufacturers' excise tax on recreational equipment be paid quarterly.

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 645, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

S. 646

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 646, a bill to amend section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the definition of economic hardship.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 700, 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. 711

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to require mental health screenings for members of the Armed Forces who are deployed in connection with a contingency operation, and for other purposes.

S. 714

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 714, a bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission.

S. 717

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 717, a bill to modernize cancer research, increase access to preventative cancer services, provide cancer treatment and survivorship initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to permit States to determine State residency for higher education purposes and to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain alien students who are long-term United States residents and who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 762

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 762, a bill to promote fire safe communities and for other purposes.

S. 763

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 763, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to authorize temporary mortgage and rental payments.

S. 764

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 764, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, to increase the maximum amount of assistance to individuals and households.

S. 788

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 788, a bill to prohibit unsolicited mobile text message spam.

S. 801

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 801, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive charges for humanitarian care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to family members accompanying veterans severely injured after September 11, 2001, as they receive medical care from the Department and to provide assistance to family caregivers, and for other purposes.

S. 841

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 841, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to study and establish a motor vehicle safety standard that provides for a means of alerting blind and other pedestrians of motor vehicle operation.

S. 846

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 846, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. 870

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 870, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for renewable electricity production to include electricity produced from biomass for on-site use and to modify the credit period for certain facilities producing electricity from open-loop biomass.

S. 900

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 900, a bill to require the establishment of a credit card safety star rating system for the benefit of consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 908

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 908, a bill to amend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 to enhance United States diplomatic efforts with respect to Iran by expanding economic sanctions against Iran.

S. 909

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) were added as cosponsors of S. 909, a bill to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 935

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 935, a bill to extend subsections (c) and (d) of section 114 of the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-173) to provide for regulatory stability during the development of facility and patient criteria for long-term care hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 952

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 952, a bill to develop and promote a comprehensive plan for a national strategy to address harmful algal blooms and hypoxia through baseline research, forecasting and monitoring, and mitigation and control while helping communities detect, control, and mitigate coastal and Great Lakes harmful algal blooms and hypoxia events.

S. 962

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to promote an enhanced strategic partnership with Pakistan and its people, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 962, *supra*.

S. 970

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to promote and enhance the operation of local building code enforcement administration across the country by establishing a competitive Federal matching grant program.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a nationwide health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses and the self-employed that would offer a choice of private health plans and make health coverage more affordable, predictable, and accessible.

S. 982

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 982, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 984

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 984, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 990

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 990, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to expand access to healthy afterschool meals for school children in working families.

S. 1008

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1008, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit requirements of separation pay, special separation benefits, and voluntary separation incentive from members of the Armed Forces subsequently receiving retired or retainer pay.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Mother's Day.

S. 1013

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1013, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to demonstrate the commercial application of integrated systems for long-term geological storage of carbon dioxide, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 1017. A bill to reauthorize the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission and expand the boundaries of the Cane River National Heritage Area in the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce two bills, S. 1017 and S. 1018, one that will help to protect and preserve Louisiana's rich cultural and historic legacy, and one that will contribute to historic research and preservation throughout the country.

The first bill will protect and preserve an important and treasured part of our historical legacy—the Cane River National Heritage Area. This breathtaking region in northwestern Louisiana is known for its historic plantations, its distinctive Creole architecture, and its rich cultural legacy. Historically, this region was where the French and Spanish realms intersected as they explored the “New World.” Both the Spanish and the French left an indelible imprint on the area's people, on its architecture, and ultimately on the U.S. as a whole.

Congress recognized this lasting legacy when it created the Cane River National Heritage Area in 1994. Today I ask that Congress reaffirm its commitment to this rich legacy and act to reauthorize the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission until 2025.

The central corridor of the heritage area begins just south of Natchitoches, the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase, and extends along both sides of Cane River Lake for approximately 35 miles. The heritage area includes Cane River Creole National Historical Park, seven National Historic Landmarks, three State Historic Sites, and a dense area of historic plantations, homes, and churches. While much of the roughly 116,000-acre heritage area is privately owned, many sites are open to the public.

The community's pride in its history and traditions is legendary. The residents of Northwest Louisiana stand united in their interest and involvement in preserving their traditions and their landscape for future generations. The Heritage Area offers residents a collaborative approach to conservation that does not compromise traditional local control over and use of the landscape.

The landscape of Cane River is an American treasure—one that we must preserve. The Cane River region has been the focal point for American Indian settlements, colonial forts, and Creole plantations. The river itself was a major trade route, one that sparked alliances with American Indians and brought European colonial powers to the area.

To protect their interests, the French established Fort Saint Jean Baptiste in 1714. Shortly thereafter, the Spanish responded by building the presidio known as Los Adaes 15 miles to the west. Settlements spread from these early outposts, and the town of Natchitoches grew up around Fort Saint Jean Baptiste to become the most prosperous town in the region.

As countries came together in this place, so did cultures. American Indians were joined by European settlers, who imported large numbers of enslaved Africans to farm the land. The interaction of these groups led to the development of a distinctive Creole culture, a culture that cut across racial categories and drew from many traditions but remained grounded in French colonialism and Catholicism.

A thriving agricultural economy developed along the banks of the river by the time the region was joined to the United States in 1803, by the Louisiana Purchase. Natchitoches was the region's commercial center. Downriver from the town, in the areas known as Côte Joyeuse “Joyous Coast” and Isle Brevelle, large and small plantations produced indigo, tobacco, and later cotton.

The Civil War and its aftermath brought great economic devastation and cultural change to the residents of the Cane River region. Tenant farming and sharecropping replaced slavery, exchanging one labor-intensive system for another. After World War II, mechanized farming permanently supplanted the old agricultural practices that depended on human labor in the fields. As a result, many people mi-

grated to urban centers, leaving the fields behind.

This is the complex past that Congress acted to honor, preserve, and protect when it established the Cane River National Heritage Area in 1994. Today I call upon my colleagues to continue their recognition of the history and culture of this unique region.

The next bill I would like to call up and introduce is related to the Heritage Area, but the entire Nation will benefit from its prompt passage. This bill simply authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, to construct a curatorial center for the use of Cane River Creole National Historical Park, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and the University. These institutions emerged in the Cane River region because its beauty and rich historical legacy have attracted some of the Nation's finest historians and experts in historical preservation from the world over.

Cane River Creole National Historical Park has a veritable treasure trove in its museum collection—boasting more than 1,000,000 objects. Unfortunately, this valuable cultural storehouse has been granted short shrift in terms of Federal funding. Today it is housed in leased space that fails to meet National Park Service museum standards, since there is no land in the area which is above the 500-year floodplain.

But the historical park has a longstanding partnership with Northwestern State University. In 1992, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training was established at Northwestern University. The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training requires additional space to house equipment and workspace connected with the development and dissemination of preservation and conservation skills and technologies. The University is willing to make available land suitable for the National Park Service to construct a facility for curatorial and workspace needs. This bill simply allows that to happen. Since this Center facilitates the training and research of experts nationwide, I submit that this bill will do much to aid historical preservation efforts in every State, and I ask my colleagues to support its prompt passage.

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. 1017

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cane River National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act of 2009”.

SEC. 2. CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) BOUNDARIES.—Section 401 of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park and