

democratic principles and international standards. Moldovan authorities must provide access for all electoral participants and civil society experts to public media outlets, as well as ensure the ability of voters abroad to participate in this important poll. The United States should condition good relations with the new government of Moldova based on its respect for the rule of law and human rights. The U.S. Helsinki Commission, which I chair, will continue to monitor the conduct of the electoral process in Moldova and will hold a public briefing following the elections.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 92 World War II veterans from all over Louisiana who will travel to Washington, DC on May 16 to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable servicemembers.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring surviving World War II Louisiana veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. The veterans will visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iwo Jima memorials. They will also travel to Arlington National Cemetery.

This was the final of four flights Louisiana HonorAir made to Washington, DC, this spring. It is the 17th flight to depart from Louisiana, which has sent more HonorAir flights than any other State to the Nation's Capital.

World War II was one of America's greatest triumphs but was also a conflict rife with individual sacrifice and tragedy. More than 60 million people worldwide were killed, including 40 million civilians, and more than 400,000 American servicemembers were slain during the long war. The ultimate victory over enemies in the Pacific and in Europe is a testament to the valor of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines. The years 1941 to 1945 also witnessed an unprecedented mobilization of domestic industry, which supplied our military on two distant fronts.

In Louisiana, there remain today more than 30,000 living WWII veterans, and each one has a heroic tale of achieving the noble victory of freedom over tyranny. This group had 32 veterans who served in the U.S. Army, 16 in the U.S. Air Force, 37 in the Navy, 4 in the Coast Guard, 2 in the Marine Corps, and 1 in WAVES.

Our heroes, many of them from the Shreveport area, trekked the world for their country. They fought in Germany, France, Italy, Africa, Japan, Guam, Bougainville, Guadalcanal,

China, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, the Philippines, Tarawa, New Guinea, Korea, Thailand, and Saipan. Their journeys included the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Normandy, New Georgia, and the Battle of Midway. Their fight for freedom even extended to Iceland and the Marshall and Solomon Islands.

One of our Navy veterans received the Asiatic Pacific Purple Heart, and an Army veteran fought at Normandy and received EAME Campaign and Bronze Service Star medals. Yet another Army veteran fought five major battles of European theatre.

A USMC veteran was one of four brothers serving in the Marines and fought in Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Saipan, and Okinawa. He lost his twin brother in Guam.

A Navy veteran observed the atomic bomb test at Bikini and was in Tokyo Bay the morning of the Japanese surrender. Another veteran was awarded five naval battle stars for his service in the invasions of Bougainville, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

I ask the Senate to join me in honoring these 92 veterans, all Louisiana heroes, who visited Washington, and Louisiana HonorAir for making these trips a reality. ●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:59 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2997. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

H. Con. Res. 131. Concurrent resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to engrave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the National Motto of "In God we trust" in the Capitol Visitor Center.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2997. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1438. A bill to express the sense of Congress on improving cybersecurity globally, to require the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress on improving cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1439. A bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1440. A bill to establish requirements applicable across the military departments for the retention in the Armed Forces of members who seek to remain in the Armed Forces following injury or disability incurred in the line of duty in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 1441. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to grant family of members of the uniformed services temporary annual leave during the deployment of such members; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

S. 1442. A bill to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to expand the authorization of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to provide service-learning opportunities on public lands, establish a grant program for Indian Youth Service Corps, help restore the Nation's natural, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and scenic resources, train a new generation of public land managers and enthusiasts, and promote the value of public service; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1443. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to modify State responsibilities under such Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 42

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 42, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to preserve and protect Social Security benefits of American workers and to help ensure greater congressional oversight of the Social Security system by requiring that both Houses of Congress approve a totalization agreement before the agreement, giving foreign workers Social Security benefits, can go into effect.

S. 348

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the

universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 457

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 457, a bill to establish pilot projects under the Medicare program to provide incentives for home health agencies to utilize home monitoring and communications technologies.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) 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. 559

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 559, a bill to provide benefits under the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program.

S. 629

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

S. 694

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 694, a bill to provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs, and for other purposes.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) 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. 823

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 823, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a 5-year carryback of operating losses, and for other purposes.

S. 891

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 891, a bill to require annual disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission of activities involving columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, and wolframite from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and for other purposes.

S. 934

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 934, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve the nutrition and health of schoolchildren and protect the Federal investment in the national school lunch and breakfast programs by updating the national school nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold outside of school meals to conform to current nutrition science.

S. 935

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) 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. 1157

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1157, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1265, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide members of the Armed Forces and their family members equal access to voter registration assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to require the implementation of certain recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board, to require the establishment of national standards with respect to flight requirements for pilots, to require the development of fatigue management plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to restore the economic rights of automobile dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 1415

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1415, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to ensure that absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters are aware of their voting rights and have a genuine opportunity to register to vote and have their absentee ballots cast and counted, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 17

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 25, a concurrent resolution recognizing the value and benefits that community health centers provide as health care homes for over 18,000,000 individuals, and the importance of enabling health centers and other safety net providers to continue to offer accessible, affordable, and continuous care to their current patients and to every American who lacks access to preventive and primary care services.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1439. A bill to provide for duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the U.S. Outdoor Act, no denying that this economy has got Americans worried. People are stressed, and with good reason. One thing that we see time and again during recessions is that people look to get their minds off the tough times for just a little while with low-cost, simple activities that the whole family can enjoy. Outdoor recreation fits that bill; it makes people healthier and happier too.

But recreational performance outerwear—jackets and pants used for skiing and snowboarding, mountaineering, hunting, fishing, and dozens of other outdoor activities—are assessed some of the highest duty rates applied to any products imported into the U.S. These disproportionately high tariffs, let us call them what they are, taxes, were originally implemented to protect U.S. outerwear manufacturers from foreign competition. Instead, now these import taxes stifle innovation, add substantial costs for outdoor businesses, and ultimately raise the prices we all pay at the cash register. We can fix this, help these companies to better compete globally while investing in eco-friendly technology and jobs here in the U.S., and help consumers in these tough times so more people can get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

So today, I am proud to introduce the U.S. Optimal Use of Trade to Develop Outerwear and Outdoor Recreation Act, or the U.S. Outdoor Act. This bill is the result of partnership between performance outerwear manufacturers and the domestic textile and