

steel company in 2001. The closing of Bethlehem Steel marked the end of an era and also created one of the largest brownfield sites in the country. It is on this site, rich in history and industrial heritage, where the National Museum of Industrial History will stand as a monument to industry and as an educational resource to the public.

The legislation I have introduced will establish an agreement between the Department of Interior and the National Museum of Industrial History, wherein the Department will assist in the creation and program development of the Museum. Every dollar provided by the Federal Government would have to be matched by a non-Federal source. The Museum has a long history of working with the Federal Government. The National Museum of Industrial History was the first museum to become affiliated with the Smithsonian Institute. This partnership spawned the Smithsonian Institute's "Affiliates Program," which now has over 150 members around the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 1569. A bill to expand our Nation's Advanced Practice Registered Nurse workforce; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to address our growing workforce shortage. I am pleased to be joining my good friend, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, a nurse herself, in introducing this legislation. Our legislation is supported by AARP, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the American College of Nurse Practitioners, the American College of Nurse-Midwives, the American Nurses Association, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

Since its creation in 1965, Medicare has provided some support for the costs of nursing education. While relatively small as compared to support for graduate medical education for physicians, \$150 million vs. \$9 billion per year, Medicare has for many years been the largest federal source of funding for nurse training. While nursing education and patient care needs have changed tremendously since 1965, Medicare's policy in this area has not kept up to date.

My bill amends Medicare to provide incentives to expand the number of advanced practice registered nurses, APRN, trained and to prepare them to undertake the essential cost-saving reforms to our health care delivery system: an increased focus on primary and preventive care, improved coordination of care, access to primary care and anesthesia services in rural and medically underserved areas, and enhanced efforts to reduce costly medical errors

that will lower health care costs and improve patient care. This legislation also focuses on training nurses in community-based settings, such as community health centers, rural clinics and individual health professional offices, arming them with the practical clinical experience they need.

The respected economic analysis firm The Lewin Group has conducted a thorough analysis of this proposal. They found that it would increase the number of APRNs graduating by 25 percent. This is a very significant increase and one that is greatly needed. Additionally, training more APRNs will help us develop more faculty, which are desperately needed to train the next generation of nurses. Every nursing school dean in Michigan has told me that this is a huge issue to them.

This relatively modest investment in APRNs will provide Americans, especially those in rural and other areas of health care shortages, with the primary and preventive care, care coordination, and chronic care management they too often lack today.

At a time when our country faces a shortage of healthcare professionals, funding for the clinical education of APRNs, including nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists is vitally important to meet the demand for expanded health care, which is expected under a newly reformed delivery system.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

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

JULY 29, 2009.

Hon. DEBBIE STABENOW,
U.S. Senate,

133 Senate Hart Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would like to express our support for your legislation that will amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide payment to hospitals for the costs of expanded advanced practice nurse training programs. At a time when our country faces a shortage of healthcare professionals, funding for the clinical education of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), including nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists is vitally important to meet the demand for expanded health care, which is expected under a newly reformed delivery system.

APRNs are ideally suited to help implement delivery system reforms such as an increased focus on primary, transitional, and preventive care, enhancing access for rural and medically underserved populations, improving care coordination, chronic care management, and reducing costly medical errors. Yet in 2008, U.S. nursing schools turned away 6,904 qualified applicants from graduate nursing programs due to insufficient numbers of faculty, clinical sites, classroom space, clinical preceptors, and budget constraints. This Medicare funding would expand the current focus to nursing education at the graduate level. It would also expand clinical education provided through Medicare funding to include home and commu-

nity-based settings as well as hospitals, using affiliations between accredited schools of nursing and community-based health care settings. The outcome would be a much more robust APRN workforce to meet growing demand especially among the Medicare population and those in underserved areas. In fact, according to a Lewin report commissioned by AARP to investigate this type of proposal, your bill would increase the number of APRNs by 25%.

We applaud your efforts and those of your staff for introducing Graduate Nursing Education legislation, which will benefit future APRNs so they can provide high quality, cost effective care to the most vulnerable populations in all areas across the country. Thank you for your recognition of the role APRNs will play in a reformed healthcare system.

Sincerely,

AARP, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American College of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Nurses Association, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 234—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAVE FOR RETIREMENT WEEK 2009

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 234

Whereas people in the United States are living longer and the cost of retirement continues to rise, in part because the number of employers providing retiree health coverage continues to decline and retiree health care costs continue to increase at a rapid pace;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States, but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States, less than 3% of workers or their spouses save for retirement, and that the actual amount of retirement savings of workers lags far behind the amount that will be needed to adequately fund their retirement years;

Whereas saving for retirement is a key component to overall financial health and security during retirement years;

Whereas many workers may not be aware of retirement savings options, or may not have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for retirement;

Whereas many employees have access to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to help prepare for retirement, yet many may not take advantage of employer-sponsored defined contribution plans at all or to the full extent allowed by the plans under Federal law;

Whereas many workers saving for retirement through tax-preferred savings plans have experienced declines in account values due to the recent economic downturn and market decline, making continued contributions all the more important;

Whereas all workers, including public- and private-sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from the advantages of tax-preferred savings plans, and from increased awareness of the need to develop personal budgets, and financial plans; and

Whereas October 18 through October 24, 2009, has been designated as "National Save for Retirement Week 2009": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Save for Retirement Week 2009;

(2) supports efforts to raise public awareness of the need to use efficiently the substantial tax revenues, estimated to exceed \$127,000,000,000 for the fiscal year 2009 budget, that subsidize retirement savings;

(3) supports efforts to raise public awareness of the importance of saving adequately for retirement and of the availability of tax-preferred employer-sponsored retirement savings plans; and

(4) calls on States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Save for Retirement Week with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing the retirement savings for all the people in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 235—DESIGNATING AUGUST 16, 2009, AS "NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY"

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. REED, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BYRD, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BURR, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. REID, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. CORKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 235

Whereas the airborne forces of the Armed Forces have a long and honorable history as units of adventuresome, hardy, and fierce warriors who, for the national security of the United States and the defense of freedom and peace, project the effective ground combat power of the United States by Air Force air transport to the far reaches of the battle area and, indeed, to the far corners of the world;

Whereas August 16 marks the anniversary of the first official Army parachute jump on August 16, 1940, an event that validated the innovative concept of inserting United States ground combat forces behind a battle line by means of a parachute;

Whereas the United States experiment with airborne infantry attack began on June 25, 1940, when the Army Parachute Test Platoon was first authorized by the Department of War, and was launched when 48 volunteers began training in July 1940;

Whereas the success of the Army Parachute Test Platoon in the days immediately before the entry of the United States into World War II led to the formation of a formidable force of airborne units that have served with distinction and have had repeated success in armed hostilities;

Whereas among those airborne units are the former 11th, 13th, and 17th Airborne Divisions, the venerable 82nd Airborne Division, the versatile 101st Airborne Division (Air As-

sault), and the airborne regiments and battalions (some as components of those divisions, some as separate units) that achieved distinction as the elite 75th Ranger Regiment, the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the 187th Infantry (Airborne) Regiment, the 503rd, 507th, 508th, 517th, 541st, and 542nd Parachute Infantry Regiments, the 88th Glider Infantry Regiment, the 509th, 551st, and 555th Parachute Infantry Battalions, the 325th and 327th Glider Infantry, and the 550th Airborne Infantry Battalion;

Whereas the achievements of the airborne forces during World War II prompted the evolution of those forces into a diversified force of parachute and air-assault units that, over the years, have fought in Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf region, and Somalia, and have engaged in peace-keeping operations in Lebanon, the Sinai Peninsula, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force that has evolved from those World War II beginnings is an agile, powerful force that, in large part, is composed of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the 75th Ranger Regiment;

Whereas the modern-day airborne force also includes other elite forces composed entirely of airborne trained and qualified special operations warriors, including Army Special Forces, Marine Corps Reconnaissance units, Navy SEALs, and Air Force combat control teams, each of which is part of the United States Special Operations Command;

Whereas in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special forces units, and units of the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), together with other units of the Armed Forces, have been prosecuting the war against terrorism by carrying out combat operations in Afghanistan, training operations in the Philippines, and other operations elsewhere;

Whereas in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, airborne units played a pivotal role in the war in Afghanistan, including the unflinching pursuit of the enemies of the United States during the battles of Mazar-i Sharif, Kabul, Qala-i-Jangi, Tora Bora, and Operation Anaconda;

Whereas United States paratroopers, which include the 82nd Airborne Division, 75th Ranger Regiment, Special Operations Forces, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat team, and elements of the 4th Brigade 25th Infantry Division, have demonstrated bravery and honor in an effort to pursue the enemies of the United States, to stabilize Afghanistan, and to strive for calm in a troubled region;

Whereas in the aftermath of the announcement of Operation Iraqi Freedom by President George W. Bush in March 2003, the 75th Ranger Regiment, special forces units, and units of the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne) of the 25th Infantry Division, together with other units of the Armed Forces, have been prosecuting the war against terrorism, carrying out combat operations, conducting civil affairs missions, and assisting in establishing democracy in Iraq;

Whereas the airborne forces are, and will continue to be, at the ready and the forefront until the Global War on Terrorism is concluded;

Whereas of the members and former members of the United States airborne forces, all have achieved distinction by earning the right to wear the "Silver Wings of Courage" of the United States airborne forces, thou-

sands have achieved the distinction of making combat jumps, 69 have earned the Medal of Honor, and hundreds have earned the Distinguished-Service Cross, Silver Star, or other decorations and awards for displays of such traits as heroism, gallantry, intrepidity, and valor;

Whereas the members and former members of the United States airborne forces are all members of a proud and honorable fraternity of the profession of arms that is made exclusive by those distinctions which, together with their special skills and achievements, distinguish them as intrepid combat parachutists, special operation forces, and, in former days, glider troops;

Whereas the history and achievements of the members and former members of the airborne forces of the United States Armed Forces warrant special expressions of the gratitude of the people of the United States; and

Whereas, since the airborne community celebrates August 16 as the anniversary of the first official jump by the Army Parachute Test Platoon, August 16 would be an appropriate day to recognize as National Airborne Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 16, 2009, as "National Airborne Day"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Airborne Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 236—COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE BRITISH EMPIRE ON AUGUST 1, 1834

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 236

Whereas the United States and the United Kingdom have become beacons of freedom and democracy around the world;

Whereas the history of the people of Africa is inextricably tied to the histories of the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas, for centuries, millions of people from Africa and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the territories of the British Empire;

Whereas the slave trade spanned many regions of the world, including Africa, the Caribbean, the United States, and territories of the British Empire;

Whereas the people of Africa forced into slavery were dehumanized, humiliated, abused, and often separated from their families to be sold;

Whereas the institution of slavery, predicated upon racist beliefs, infected and corrupted the social fabrics of the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas the Underground Railroad embodied courage, hospitality, and fortitude, and served as an impetus for the abolition of slavery;

Whereas the Underground Railroad provided a means of escape from slavery by incorporating a network of abolitionists, secret routes, and safe houses throughout the United States and the territories of the British Empire;

Whereas the efforts of Harriet Tubman and like-minded abolitionists in the Underground Railroad helped tens of thousands of slaves escape to freedom during the early 19th century;