

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Akaka	Dorgan	Merkley
Alexander	Durbin	Murray
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Feinstein	Pryor
Begich	Franken	Reed
Bennet	Gillibrand	Reid
Bingaman	Hagan	Rockefeller
Bond	Harkin	Sanders
Boxer	Inouye	Schumer
Brown	Johnson	Shaheen
Brownback	Kaufman	Snowe
Burris	Kerry	Specter
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Kohl	Tester
Carpenter	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Casey	Lautenberg	Udall (NM)
Collins	Levin	Voinovich
Conrad	Lieberman	Webb
Corker	Lincoln	Whitehouse
Dodd	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Grassley	McConnell
Bennett	Gregg	Murkowski
Bunning	Hatch	Nelson (NE)
Burr	Hutchison	Risch
Chambliss	Inhofe	Roberts
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Cochran	Johanns	Shelby
Cornyn	Kyl	Thune
Crapo	Leahy	Vitter
DeMint	Lugar	Warner
Ensign	Martinez	Wicker
Enzi	McCain	
Graham	McCaskill	

NOT VOTING—3

Byrd	Kennedy	Mikulski
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The bill (H.R. 3435) was passed.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. STABENOW. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. What is the status, Mr. President?

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK NORTON

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise, along with my colleague from Georgia, to commemorate the life of a good man and a great American, Frank Norton.

Frank's years of service to this country ended recently with his untimely death. But it is fitting we remember Frank on the Senate floor, a place where he served this body, as well as service to our country in years prior to that.

Frank died a resident of St. Simons Island, GA, a place he called home, even though he was a native of nearby Waycross, GA.

Frank graduated from Emory University in 1966, and it was his intention to

go to law school. Unfortunately, the Army intervened. He was drafted, wound up going to Officer Candidate School, and not long after that became an Army Ranger instructor. He then headed to Vietnam. While he was in Vietnam, he served in one of the most dangerous jobs in the Army, which was a Ranger reconnaissance platoon leader. For his service and bravery, Frank earned some nine medals, including the Purple Heart and three Bronze Stars for Valor in combat.

Frank went on to serve in assignments at Fort Benning and Fort Stewart, GA, as well as in Korea and Germany. But it is his congressional assignments that some of my colleagues will remember him for. He came to head the Army liaison office in both the House and the Senate.

At the time of his retirement in 1993 as a colonel, Frank was the principal Deputy to the Secretary of the Army for U.S. Senate Liaison. He was the only Army officer to serve in that position in both the House and the Senate.

But Frank's service to country did not end there. In 1993, my predecessor, Senator Sam Nunn, appointed Frank to serve as a staffer on the Senate Armed Services Committee. This was a point in time when this Nation had to go through its first major base closure and realignment process. Frank headed up that process from an Armed Services Committee standpoint and did an outstanding job.

After a later career in government relations, Frank devoted his time to his family farm, to charities, and to community service in Waycross, Brunswick, and St. Simons. Frank loved art, the symphony, and classical music, which is hard to believe for a guy who was as robust and personal and such a great retired Army colonel as Frank was.

His lovely wife Carol and his young son Lee are going to miss him. Certainly, I am going to miss him. We honor him tonight.

I yield for my colleague from Georgia, Senator ISAKSON.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am honored to rise with Senator CHAMBLISS to pay tribute to a great Georgian and a great friend to the United States of America and a great veteran of the U.S. Army.

COL Frank Norton was quite an extraordinary man. As Senator CHAMBLISS mentioned, upon graduation he went to Vietnam, and in Vietnam he took one of the most dangerous missions of all and did it superbly. He was decorated nine times. He returned here and throughout his career served in the Congress, the Senate, and served the people of the United States in many ways.

Frank Norton is a very unique individual. When he left military service and left service to the House and Senate liaison committees, he formed a partnership with his old friend Bob Hurt from Georgia. They formed a firm called Hurt and Norton, and they were

quite a team; always jovial, always hard working, always on target, always delivering for their clients, and their clients were always the State of Georgia.

Our biggest economic asset in Georgia is our port of Savannah, and they represented the port. Our coastline is one of the most valuable areas of Georgia, and they represented our coastline. And most importantly of all, in the critical days of Fort Stewart, they represented Fort Stewart and the Hinesville community to see to it that the needs of our soldiers were met and the needs of the city of Hinesville, which hosted the soldiers, were met as well.

Frank died on the tennis court with his young son Lee. Tonight I send my regrets to his wife Carol, to Lee, and to all his family. But I also send my praise, my praise for a great Georgian, a great American, who sacrificed in so many ways for this country. May he now rest in peace looking down on all of us from heaven.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader be authorized to sign any duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions through Friday, August 7, 2009.

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

IN PRAISE OF PEARLIE S. REED

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to speak about one of our great Federal employees. Whenever I enter this Chamber, I cannot help but admire the inspirational works of art that adorn it. Above the main entrances rest marble reliefs depicting the three virtues of Courage, Wisdom, and Patriotism.

Our Federal employees embody all three of these qualities, though my focus today will be on patriotism. The marble relief representing patriotism, which sits atop the lintel of the door to my right, shows a man setting aside his plow to take up the sword. This image recalls the parallel stories of Lucius Cincinnatus and George Washington, two farmer citizens who set aside their daily work in order to defend the people's liberty.

In the history of democracy, the sword and plow have come to symbolize this dichotomy. Traditionally, the sword features most prominently as the metaphor for patriotism. However, I would argue that the plow is just as much a symbol of patriotism as the sword. The plow represents a citizen's daily contribution to society over the course of many years. The highlight of the Cincinnatus story, from which our revolutionary forebears drew inspiration, is that he returned without fanfare to his plow when the war was finished.

The great statesman Adlai Stevenson once said:

Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

I think it is fitting to speak about patriotism as symbolized by a plow, because the Federal employee I wish to recognize this week has worked in the Department of Agriculture for over 35 years. Pearlie Reed was raised on a farm in the rural town of Heth, AR, where he was the ninth of eighteen children. He worked hard to attend the State University of Pine Bluff, which was especially challenging for an African-American man in the South during the struggles of the Civil Rights movement.

Nonetheless, Pearlie received his degree, and he joined the USDA in 1968 as a student intern for the Soil Conservation Service. In the years that followed, Pearlie rose steadily in the Soil Conservation Service from an entry-level soil conservator to district conservationist, to deputy state conservationist, and he was eventually appointed as the state conservationist for Maryland in 1985. He served in that position for 4 years, after which he became the state conservationist for California.

As his career advanced, Pearlie also received a master's degree in public administration from American University. The Soil and Conservation Service was eventually transformed into the Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS. From 1994 to 1998, Pearlie served as associate chief, and his last year on the job also served as Acting Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration.

In 1998, Pearlie was promoted to chief of the NRCS, and he held the position until 2002 when he was named Regional Conservationist for the Western United States. In that role, Pearlie was in charge of all natural resource conservation efforts by the Federal Government in 10 States and the Pacific Basin area.

Pearlie has said that one of his proudest moments in his career came when he was asked to lead the Agriculture Department's task force on civil rights in the 1990s. He led a team that issued a report containing 37 recommendations on how to ensure that the Department is a welcoming place for minorities. Pearlie briefed President Clinton personally, and the President issued an order that all 37 of his recommendations be implemented.

Pearlie retired from the USDA in 2003, but just this year Secretary Vilsack called him out of retirement and asked President Obama to appoint him as Assistant Secretary of Administration, the position he briefly held in an acting capacity 10 years ago. Pearlie was confirmed by the Senate on May 12, and he is now back at work for the farmers and ranchers of America.

One of his former colleagues said once that:

If you look up the term "public service" in the dictionary, you'd likely see a picture of Pearlie Reed right next to it.

Over the course of his long career, Pearlie has received the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame Award, and the USDA's Civil Plow Honor Award, among others.

Pearlie exemplifies the kind of patriotism Stevenson spoke about—the patriotism of steady work and perseverance represented by Cincinnatus's plow.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Pearlie Reed's distinguished service and that of all Federal employees working in agricultural development, resource conservation, and rural advancement.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to speak, if I can, for a few minutes this evening on the health care bill. I suppose today or tomorrow will be the last time before we return in September to address the issue of health care reform, and I thought it might be worthwhile this evening—in the waning hours—to give our colleagues and others who are interested an idea of where we are in this debate and what options have been proposed.

As many have heard us say already, the committee for which I have been hired as sort of a pinch-hitter for Senator KENNEDY—the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, on which I am proud to serve—and I must say once again, with deep regret, that the chairman, Senator TED KENNEDY from Massachusetts, has not been able to be with us over the last number of weeks. I will tell you this. He is watching very carefully every meeting and markup and gathering that occurs, because he has invested so much of his public life and career to trying to reform the health care system of our Nation. So I was asked to step in for him, temporarily, until he gets back on his feet and can join us in this effort.

We have spent a long time over the last number of weeks and months on this debate. We have spent a tremendous amount of time in the committee, even a lot of time before the actual markup in preparing for the legislation. So this evening I wish to talk about sort of where we are with that bill, what is in that bill in very practical terms, and how it would affect individuals.

I also want to give my colleagues some opportunity to appreciate what will happen while we are away for 5 weeks in terms of those who will lose their insurance, as they will, between now and September. I have made the point over and over again that 14,000 people a day in our Nation lose health care coverage. Those are terrible numbers. They are more significant in some

States than in others, but there is that erosion of coverage every day.

As long as nothing happens, as long as no health care crisis affects them or their families, they may be able to survive all of that until they find a job or find some other means by which they can afford health care coverage. If, unfortunately, they are caught—as so many are—with that unexpected accident, that unexpected health care crisis, that unexpected diagnosis of a major health care problem while they are in that period without coverage, the implications can be staggering, and not just because they lack the coverage that might allow them to take care of that emergency accident or injury. But if they are diagnosed with something in the absence of a health care plan, under the present circumstances, there is very little likelihood that they are going to be able to get a health care plan that will be within their means to afford it because they will have that preexisting condition once the diagnosis occurs. So the health care costs go right up through the ceiling.

So again, 14,000 a day, as we gather here, find themselves in that shape. I thought it might be worthwhile to get graphic about this, because by the end of the August recess, when we return, 756,000 of our fellow citizens will have lost their health insurance—while we are away over the next 4 or 5 weeks—and that is a staggering number.

Some may find a means to get it back. Some may have a spouse who gets a job that provides coverage. But those are the numbers if you take every day the loss of health care coverage.

My patient here, with these numbers, you can see the thermometer is now exploding. He is even having some beads of perspiration here because he is now worried that he or his family could be caught in that free fall, without the means to protect themselves against economic ruin. It could happen.

So as we begin a short discussion this evening of where we are, I thought it might be important to share with my colleagues that while we leave with the full confidence of a very good health care plan as Members of Congress, that should an accident, a diagnosis, a problem occur to any one of us—while we don't want that to happen—there is no likelihood we are going to be put in economic difficulty because of it. Certainly we will probably get good care because of who we are, what we do, but no worry about the sort of economic ruin that this crowd of 756,000 Americans may face if they are caught in a similar situation.

I have hope that all my colleagues have a good recess, that they will get around their States and districts. I also hope they will get an annual physical this year, as I hope everyone does. We provide an opportunity, under our health care plan, to do that at little or no cost. That is how I discovered earlier this summer, in June, that I have early stage prostate cancer, and I will