application. Additionally, students receive card solicitations through mail to their on-campus mailbox or at their home address even before they arrive at the university in the fall. These aggressive marketing strategies have worked and now close to 96 percent of college graduates hold a credit card, compared to 1994, when only half had one. The average college student graduates with close to $3,000 in credit card debt, double the amount in 1994. In some very extreme cases, students are leaving school with multiple credit cards and debts amounting upwards of $10,000.

Credit card debt can make it harder for graduates to rent an apartment, receive a car loan, or obtain a job after college. Due to the lack of financial education and complicated terms and conditions, many students find themselves in over their heads. The Student Credit Card Protection Act will help students avoid large credit card debt while forcing issuers to make more responsible loans. The bill requires credit card issuers to verify annual income of a full-time student and then extends a line of credit based on the income. For a student without a verifiable income, a parent, legal guardian or spouse must cosign the credit card and approve any increase in the credit limit. These simple underwriting requirements will make it more difficult for credit card companies to approve loans that are beyond a students' ability to repay and return to a more responsible lending policy.

It is imperative that we help minimize the amount of debt young consumers incur before entering into the workforce. On average, a student with a bachelors degree will leave school with $18,000 in student loan debt. Paying for housing, health-care and student loans already place a financial strain on a recent college graduate. A huge credit card payment on top of all of the other bills can lead to financial ruin before young people even have a chance to get on their feet. This bill gives students the protection they deserve from irresponsible lending that can trap them in years of crushing debt repayment.

The current economic situation has exposed many bad habits of both the financial industry and the average consumer. The savings rate of our country has significantly declined over the past decade as consumer spending and borrowing steadily increased. While it is necessary for Congress to implement policies which will allow Americans to save more of their income, it is equally important for consumers to put into practice controlled and prudent spending habits.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 9—COMMEMORATING 90 YEARS OF U.S.-POLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, DURING WHICH POLAND HAS PROVEN TO BE AN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG PARTNER TO THE UNITED STATES IN ADVANCING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 9

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the newly-formed Polish Republic in April 1919;

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of democracy in Poland, as well as the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism in Poland;

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 10th anniversary of Poland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Educational Exchange Program in Poland;

Whereas Poland has overcome a legacy of foreign occupation and period of communist rule to emerge as a free and democratic nation;

Whereas Poland has strongly supported the United States diplomatically and militarily, as well as supporting United States-led efforts in combating global terrorism, and has contributed troops to the coalitions led by the United States in both Afghanistan and Iraq; and

Whereas Poland has cooperated closely with the United States on issues such as democratization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, and reform of the United Nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 90th anniversary of U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations;

(2) congratulates the Polish people on their great accomplishments as a free democracy; and

(3) expresses appreciation for Poland's steadfast partnership with the United States.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution commemorating several remarkable milestones in the U.S.-Poland partnership. This year marks the 90th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Poland, the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Exchange Program with Poland, and the 10th anniversary of Poland's accession to NATO.

The U.S.-Polish friendship formally began in 1919 and has endured through two world wars, the Cold War, and the emergence of a vibrant democracy after the fall of communism. This partnership has been bolstered by two unqualified successes of U.S. diplomacy. The Fulbright Exchange Program has nurtured the pursuit of higher learning for Polish and American students, professors, and researchers, for many decades offering Poles a rare window into the opportunities afforded by democratic society. Such exchanges invigorated intellectual thought and creativity in Poland, Eastern Europe, and the West and helped to hasten the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

Poland exhibited great energy in undertaking economic, political, and military reforms, and the NATO alliance was strengthened by Polish membership in 1999. Poland today remains the closest of our allies, having contributed great wherewithal to combating global terrorism and bringing stability to Afghanistan and Iraq. In recognition of the profound successes of the U.S.-Polish alliance, I am pleased to introduce this resolution congratulating the Polish people on their great accomplishments as a free democracy and expressing our country's appreciation for Poland's steadfast partnership.

I am hopeful that my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask unanimous consent that John Branscome, a detailee in my office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the duration of today's session.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATIONS TO OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the nominations to the Office of Inspector General, except the Office of Inspector General of the Central Intelligence Agency, be referred in each case to the committee having primary jurisdiction over the department, agency, or entity and, if and when reported in each case, then to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for not to exceed 20 calendar days, except in cases when the 20-day period expires while the Senate is in recess or adjournment the committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination, and that if the nomination is not reported after the expiration of that period, the nomination be automatically discharged and placed on the Executive Calendar.

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

WEEKEND SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to be in a weekend session. All Democratic Senators have been told this, and Republican Senators have been notified. We earlier anticipated that the vote would be early Sunday, but I have worked with the Senate staff and we are going to be protected with postcloture time by having that vote at 2 p.m. So what we will do is come in Sunday at 1 p.m. and have a vote at 2 p.m.

There are a few procedural games people can play, if they desire, and I

am confident they won't, but if they do, we are protected, and we will have that vote so that the 30 hours expires during the next day, which would be Monday. We are working toward not being in session on Saturday. We think we can do that because some people have issues that they want to be protected, and I think we can do that. But at least for now—not for now; period—we are going to vote at 2 p.m. on Sunday, and everyone should know that. I know there are a lot of people who have plans, but there has been adequate notice.

I mentioned here this morning, and I repeat, that President-elect Obama has said that there are people out there who would love to be able to work on a Sunday but they do not have a job, and this is the least we can do. The reason we are doing it is we have to move this large number of issues as quickly as we can.

This one matter we will finish early next week will be the result of 164 bills that have been held up. We are going to move then to Lilly Ledbetter, an important piece of legislation. When we finish that, we are going to do the children's health initiative, which doesn't take care of all the health care problems in this country, but it does solve the problem for millions of our children. Then we are going to move to the economic recovery plan, and there may be other things we have to do. For example, if President Bush sends us the TARP—that is the matter dealing with the financial bailout—we will have to deal with that. So we have a lot to do, and I hope everyone is understanding of the fact we have to vote on Sunday.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10:30 a.m, Thursday, January 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there then be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. I further ask that the Senate recess from 3:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. tomorrow to accommodate a special Democratic caucus meeting.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. As a reminder, Senators will gather in the Senate Chamber at 12:45 p.m. to proceed to the House Chamber for a joint session to count the electoral ballots. The joint session will commence at 1 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 8, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL DONALD A. HAUGHT
BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS J. HAYNES
BRIGADIER GENERAL CRAIG D. MCCORD
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT M. STONESTREET
BRIGADIER GENERAL EDWARD W. TONINI
BRIGADIER GENERAL FRANCIS A. TURLEY

To be brigadier general

COLONEL MARGARET H. BAIR
COLONEL JAMES H. BARTLETT
COLONEL JORGE R. CANTRES
COLONEL SANDRA L. CARLSON
COLONEL STEPHEN D. COTTER
COLONEL JAMES T. DAUGHERTY
COLONEL GRETCHEN S. DUNKELBERGER
COLONEL ROBERT A. HAMRICK
COLONEL CHRIS R. HELSTAD
COLONEL CECIL J. HENSEL, JR.
COLONEL FRANK D. LANDES
COLONEL ROBERT L. LEEKER
COLONEL RICKIE B. MATTSON
COLONEL MAUREEN MCCARTHY
COLONEL JOHN E. MCCOY
COLONEL JOHN W. MERRITT
COLONEL THOMAS R. SCHIESS
COLONEL RODGER F. SEIDEL
COLONEL GLENN K. THOMPSON
COLONEL DEAN L. WINSLOW
COLONEL WILLIAM M. ZIEGLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

EDMUND P. ZYNDA II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DANIEL C. GIBSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DONALD L. MARSHALL
CHARLES E. PETERSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

PAUL J. CUSHMAN
DAMANI K. MITCHELL
LUIS F. SAMBOLIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531(A):

To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTOPHER S. ALLEN
RAY H. KRUEGER

To be major

LYMAN C. FOSTER
DEEPA HARIPRASAD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RYAN R. PENDLETON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

HOWARD L. DUNCAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JEFFREY R. GRUNOW
DONA M. IVERSEN
JAN LOUISE RHOADS
MARGARET W. SCHMIDT
PAMELA T. SCOTT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

EUGENE M. GASPARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MICHAEL R. POWELL
VALERIE R. TAYLOR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

MARY ELIZABETH BROWN
GERALD J. LAURSEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

GARY R. CALIFF
GEORGE E. MEISTER
C. MICHAEL PADAZINSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

STEPHEN SCOTT BAKER
ROBERT CHARLES DORMAN
BRIAN F. HASKINS
FRANK R. MILLER
PHILLIP E. PARKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOSEPH ALLEN BANNA
TRACI D. GUARINIELLO
PATRICIA J. HAMMON
WILLIAM E. MOXLEY
MICHAEL W. MUMBACH
ERIC D. PLACKE
CAROL A. POWERS
DAVID C. STEWART
JOSEPH TOCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KEITH A. ACREE
TODD S. BAKITA
WILLIAM JOHN BANKS
BRIAN SCOTT BRANDNER
THOMAS M. BUCKNER
CATHLEEN M. BULLARD
THOMAS D. CHALEKI
DAVID A. CLOSEN
PATRICK LOUIS CLOUTIER
JOHN J. COLLINS, JR.
ANTHONY J. COMTOIS
JOETTE D. DAUGHERTY
GARY M. DOBBINS
GERARD A. DUBLIN
TIMOTHY W. FARQUHAR
WILLIAM R. FINGAR
DALE C. FRIDLEY
STEVEN B. FULAYTAR
JOSEPH JOHN GLEBOCKI
JOHN RAYMOND GREENE
MICHAEL C. GRIECO
DOUGLAS E. HALL
JEFFREY W. HIGGINS
KENNETH D. HONAKER
JOHN D. HUNT
SCOTT P. HUTCHINS
GREGORY C. JONES
KURT D. JONES
NICHOLAS KOSKIVACIRCA
BRIAN J. KRAEMER
GREGORY D. LEE
JAMES E. LEHMAN
ROBERT M. LINDELL
ROBERT S. LIPIRA
PAUL A. LOOMIS
JULIO R. LOPEZ
CINDY G. LUNDHAGEN
WILLIAM H. MASON, JR.
THEODORE S. MATHEWS, JR.
GALEN W. MAYS
ROBERT K. MCCUTCHEN, JR.
STEPHEN V. MOTYLINSKI