

consumers, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and the loss of U.S. jobs. They also represent poor tax policy.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH J. HAMSKI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, with sadness, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Air Force SSG Joseph J. Hamski who died in the Shorabak district of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan on May 26, 2011, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, SSG Maria Christina Hamski, his mother Mary Ellen, and all his other family and friends who are grieving his loss.

Staff Sergeant Hamski had served two tours in Iraq and was serving his second tour in Afghanistan. He was an explosives disposal specialist and was reportedly very good at his job. According to his mother, "He loved life, but when he was working, he was intense." She also observed that, "He was modest: He'd say, 'I just do my job so everyone can do their job.'" He also told a friend that if he didn't come back, he didn't want people to make it a big deal.

While I don't mean to go contrary to his wishes, I cannot fail to pay tribute to his selfless service and tremendous sacrifice. Where would our country be without humble, hardworking, self-sacrificing patriots like Joseph Hamski? We owe him and his comrades in arms nothing short of our freedom and our way of life, a debt we can never repay but must never forget.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL LAURA RICHARDSON

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the dedication and selfless service of Colonel Laura J. Richardson, who has served as the chief of the Army's Senate Liaison Division since October, 2009. As a member of the Secretary of the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison, Colonel Richardson was responsible for advising Army senior leadership on legislative and congressional issues and for educating Senators and staff on Army matters. Colonel Richardson's outstanding leadership and hard work was made clear by the tremendous support that she and her office provided to the U.S. Senate for both sessions of the 111th Congress and the first session of the 112th Congress.

It is a personal honor and a privilege to recognize Colonel Richardson today on the floor of the U.S. Senate. She is a native of the great State of Colorado and was a tremendous athlete at Northglenn High School. She attended Metropolitan State College in Denver, and upon graduation; she was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. She then attended flight school and earned her wings as an Army aviator.

Colonel Richardson's career highlights include a variety of command and staff positions including three years of service in the 17th Aviation Brigade in Korea. She went on to serve on the III Corps Staff, with the 6th Cavalry Brigade, and with the 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault. She was also selected to serve as the military aide to Vice President Gore from 1999 to 2001, and following her tour at the White House, she returned to the 101st to take command of the 5th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment. Colonel Richardson's skill and leadership were clearly displayed when she led 5th Battalion into Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003. Following her highly successful battalion command, she served in a variety of positions on the Army staff in the Pentagon and as the installation commander at Fort Myer, VA.

Throughout her service to our Nation Laura has been a shining example for the people of Colorado and the United States. Her selfless service, professionalism, and outstanding performance in each of her assignments led to her recent selection for the rank of brigadier general. This well-deserved promotion will take her to Fort Hood, TX, where she will serve the next commanding general of the Operational Test Command. That move will also reunite Laura with her husband, BG Jim Richardson, who is currently serving at Fort Hood. I want to say a special thank you to their daughter Lauren. She is a wonderful young woman, and she is a great role model for other military children.

I am proud to call Colonel Richardson a friend and a fellow Coloradan. Her tireless work helped to further strengthen the relationship between the Senate and the Department of the Army, and through her leadership, new doors were opened between our proud institutions. We will miss her here in the Senate, but I know that she will continue to excel in her next assignment and any endeavor that follows. On behalf of my colleagues and all Coloradans, thank you for your service, Laura, and all the best to you and your family.

#### NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS PARK

Mrs. HAGAN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I recognize the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park. This park will give visitors the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by the courageous women and men of our armed services. The park and its beautiful visitor center, walking paths, and public art honor the lives and service of North Carolina veterans. As a Senator from North Carolina and a member of the Armed Services Committee, I am committed to ensuring our veterans receive the respect they deserve.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a

resolution that was passed unanimously by the North Carolina House and North Carolina Senate. The resolution honors the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park in Fayetteville, NC.

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

Whereas, the citizens of North Carolina have a long and proud history, dating to this country's birth, of paying special honor and respect to its sons and daughters who protect our country's freedoms; and

Whereas, the lands of North Carolina and our country are enjoyed by all its citizens due to the unending efforts and sacrifices made by all of our veterans; and

Whereas, North Carolina is proud to be the home to Cherry Point Air Station, 8 Charlotte Air National Guard, Camp Lejeune, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Elizabeth City, Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, New River Air Station, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base; and

Whereas, North Carolina is proud to call itself the most military friendly state in America and, as a state, North Carolina has one of the highest percentages of veterans in America; and

Whereas, July 4, 2011, will mark the dedication of the North Carolina Veterans Park; and

Whereas, the purpose of the North Carolina Veterans Park is to honor all North Carolina veterans and be a composition of objects, spaces, and images that symbolize gratitude, reflection, celebration, and education, and commemorate achievement, service, dedication, and sacrifice; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans Park is located in Fayetteville, North Carolina, home of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, and is adjacent to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, which is a part of the United States Army Museum System, providing an exciting educational experience and preserving the legend of airborne and special operation forces; and

Whereas, the North Carolina Veterans Park will consist of seven water features and public art representing participation of individuals from across the State; and

Whereas, the hands of 100 veterans were cast to honor and represent every county in North Carolina and are displayed in this park's Wall of Oath; and

Whereas, soil from each of the State's 100 counties will be included in the construction of the columns in the park; and

Whereas, public art sculptures in the public plaza at the North Carolina Veterans Park signify our veterans' commitment, courage, dedication, heroism, sacrifice, service, and strength, as well as the incredible talents of our State's artist; and

Whereas, the city of Fayetteville has directed the design and construction of the North Carolina Veterans Park to meet or exceed all guidelines and guidance provided by a large segment of the veteran population, including Content Committee members from all five branches of the military service;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate:

SECTION 1. The Senate joins the citizens of this State in expressing its pride and gratitude to the veterans of this State for their service, dedication, and sacrifice in protecting the freedoms of this country and designates July 4, 2011, as North Carolina Veterans Park Day."

SECTION 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO PETER P. HENRY

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Peter P. Henry for his many years of service to the veterans of our country, including a very long and successful career spent serving as the senior executive director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System. He will be retiring in July after 41 years of Federal service which includes a 16-year period with the Black Hills Veterans Affairs, VA.

A strong advocate of personal and professional development, Peter enhanced his skills and experience through completion of a graduate degree in health care administration before going on to become executive director of the Black Hills VA. Throughout his tenure with the VA, he has worked tirelessly to provide services to all South Dakota veterans, even those from rural and reservation areas, making sure that every veteran has access to quality care. During his years of public service, he has provided care to over 400,000 veterans and touched the lives of over 20,000 VA health administration staff members.

In his time with the VA, Peter has received many notable awards, including the Meritorious Presidential Rank Award. He was awarded this prestigious honor in 1998 and 2010. It is awarded to only 1 percent of career civil service executives who consistently demonstrate strength, integrity, and a persistent commitment to excellence in civic service.

I would like to express my personal and sincere appreciation to Peter for his outstanding service to the veterans of our great country. I wish him and his family happiness in the years to come.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE  
DURING ADJOURNMENT

## ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 26, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the

Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 990. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of May 26, 2011, the enrolled bill was subsequently signed on May 26, 2011 by the Acting President pro tempore (Ms. KLOBUCHAR).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on May 31, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 278. Resolution that Father Patrick J. Conroy of the State of Oregon, be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, clause 10 of rule 1, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appointed the following Members of the House of Representatives to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 1, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1082. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 16. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha.

## ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 5, 2011, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 1, 2011, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 754. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

S. 1082. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of May 26, 2011, the enrolled bills were subsequently signed on June 1, 2011 by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. WEBB).

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 802. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a VetStar Award Program.

H.R. 1194. An act to renew the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects designed to test innovative strategies in State child welfare programs.

H.R. 1484. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the appeals process of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 1540. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal years, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2017. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes.

## MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 802. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a VetStar Award Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H. R. 1194. An act to renew the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to approve demonstration projects designed to test innovative strategies in State child welfare programs; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1484. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the appeals process of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1540. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 2017. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

## ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on May 26, 2011 she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 990. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on June 1, 2011, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1082. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business