

over the past 3 years within VA intensive care units and by 45 percent in other areas of the hospital. The success of VA's work on MRSA prevention is proof that with dedication and strong leadership, VA can make significant improvements in their ability to control infections and deliver high quality health care. It is my hope that these results will be replicated across the healthcare system nationwide and that success achieved by VA in improving the safe delivery of care through the reduction in MRSA infections will be mirrored in their efforts in other areas, like the sterilization and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment.

As the chairman of Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the daughter of a disabled World War II veteran, I know firsthand the need for quality health care for our veterans. No one who has made sacrifices to serve our Nation should ever struggle to find quality, timely health care, which is why I am so pleased today to highlight this successful initiative and commend VA on their efforts to eradicate MRSA from their health care facilities and continue to provide care for our Nation's heroes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FATHER WILLIAM HULTBERG

• Mr. CASEY. Madam President, today I wish to honor Father William Hultberg, a very special priest from my home State of Pennsylvania. Known to many simply as "Father Bill," he is a member of the Oblates of St. Francis DeSales and has provided both his country and his Pennsylvania community with a lifetime of service as a spiritual and religious counselor. Saturday, July 16, 2011, will mark his 80th birthday.

To those who know him, Father Bill is a man whose commitment to spirituality, concern for his fellow man, and sense of service is virtually unparalleled. After earning his bachelor's degree in education and Spanish from LaSalle University and his master's degree in education and guidance from Niagara University, Father Bill began his lifelong commitment to country and community with his chaplain service in both the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1991 after 35 years of exemplary service. During his time as a Navy Chaplain with the Marines, he received the Bronze Star Medal with a "Combat V" for valor. As an Active-Duty chaplain with the U.S. Army, he was awarded four Meritorious Service Medals for his efforts in developing and implementing alcohol and drug prevention programs for servicemembers.

Father Bill's commitment to providing spiritual and religious counseling to those suffering from alcohol and drug addictions continues to this day. As a certified pastoral and drug

addiction counselor at Caron Treatment Center in Wernersville, PA, Father Bill has offered spiritual guidance and an understanding of the 12-step spirituality of recovery to addicts and their families. His efforts over his 24 years of service to Caron have been central in providing those who suffer from addiction with the necessary tools to achieve sobriety and have truly left their mark on the Caron community. To this point, his unique Sunday services have become an honored, albeit mandatory, tradition at Caron. Described by some as an "evangelical rally," Father Bill integrates 12-step traditions, elements of Christian worship, and other material at these services to provide opportunities for those in recovery and their families to share their pain and hope with one another as they struggle with addiction.

Throughout his career, Father Bill has also been a beacon of hope to those suffering from HIV/AIDS. His development and implementation of a spiritual program for those afflicted with the disease and his contribution to Caron's HIV retreat weekends have provided comfort and guidance to many. Not only have these efforts had an immeasurable impact in Pennsylvania, but they have also garnered Father Bill national recognition in the form of the Ryan White Youth Service Award, a national awards program recognizing leaders for reaching out to support youth in the prevention of HIV.

I would like to join the Caron Treatment Center's community in wishing Father Bill a very happy 80th birthday this weekend and to thank him for his lifetime of service to both the Commonwealth and the country. I, and many others, wish him many more years of health and happiness as he celebrates this milestone.●

29TH METRO DETROIT YOUTH DAY

• Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, it is with pride that I recognize the 29th Annual Metro Detroit Youth Day, which will take place tomorrow on Belle Isle in Detroit. This engaging and family-oriented event is a herculean undertaking, bringing together more than 1,600 volunteers to welcome more than 37,000 young people within the Greater Detroit community. This day-long event, which is sponsored by a multitude of businesses and more than 320 community and youth organizations across Michigan, provides a wonderful platform to bring the community together to award scholarships and recognize outstanding community service for and by young people.

From sports clinics to motivational talks to entertainment, this event has grown to become the largest youth event in Michigan, with a mission of promoting community service and the need for physical education and fitness. This event also seeks to inspire young people to strive to better themselves

through education, good deeds and other positive means.

Through the years, Youth Day has been recognized by many on the State and national level. In 1991, Metro Youth Day was recognized by President George H.W. Bush as the 477th Point of Light, and in 1999, the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports named Metro Youth Day the top youth event in Michigan. These honors are the direct result of the hard work and dedication of the many individuals, organizations and businesses that team up to make sure this event is rewarding and memorable for the many youth across the Detroit metro area that participate.

Inspiring young people to better themselves and fostering stronger community bonds are noble pursuits that reap rewards far into the future. I salute all those who have played a role in making this year's Metro Detroit Youth Day a tremendous success. This event has become a tradition in southeast Michigan over the last 28 years, and I look forward to hearing about this exciting celebration for many years to come.●

PARKSTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Parkston, SD. This year the town of Parkston will commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding.

Located in Hutchinson County, Parkston was originally known as Dakota City and was located southeast of what is now Parkston. When the railroad was built, it did not run through Dakota City as expected. So the residents of Dakota City moved their buildings with teams of horses to where Parkston is currently located. Today Parkston is a growing community with many local shops and excellent health care and education facilities. It is also home to the Parkston Classic, a high school basketball tradition.

Parkston has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to extend my congratulations to the citizens of Parkston on this landmark date and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

VIBORG, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Viborg, SD. This year the town of Viborg will commemorate the 125th anniversary of its founding.

Located in Turner County, Viborg was originally known as Daneville. It was named Daneville because it was a booming settlement of Danish immigrants. When the railroad was built, it did not run through Daneville but, rather, was located a half mile from the village. Residents relocated to the current location of Viborg, which was

named for an ancient city in Denmark. Today, Viborg is a growing community and is well known for its annual Danish Days celebration, which celebrates the strong cultural heritage in Viborg.

Viborg has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions. I would like to offer my congratulations to the citizens of Viborg on this landmark date and wish them continued prosperity 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 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and referred as indicated:

S. 869. A bill to provide for an exchange of land between the Department of Homeland Security and the South Carolina State Ports Authority; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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 Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1346. A bill to restrict the use of offshore tax havens and abusive tax shelters to inappropriately avoid Federal taxation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1347. A bill to establish Coltsville National Historical Park in the State of Connecticut, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WEBB, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BEGICH):

S. 1348. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHANNIS:

S. 1349. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to clarify the effective

date of policies covering properties affected by floods in progress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 1350. A bill to expand the research, prevention, and awareness activities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health with respect to pulmonary fibrosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 1351. A bill to promote the development, manufacturing, and use of advanced batteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 57

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 57, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the application of the tonnage tax on certain vessels.

S. 170

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to provide for the affordable refinancing of mortgages held by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 438

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 438, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve women's health by prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 506

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan

(Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 506, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Services for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State.

S. 922

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 922, a bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to authorize the Secretary of Labor to provide grants for Urban Jobs Programs, and for other purposes.

S. 971

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to promote neutrality, simplicity, and fairness in the taxation of digital goods and digital services.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1025, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1035, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler systems as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler systems as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1046, a bill to require the detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, of high-value enemy combatants who will be detained long-term.