

design, build, and operate the Space Transportation System, in order to promote science, exploration, and international cooperation;

(3) remembers the 14 crewmembers lost during the space shuttle Challenger accident, which occurred on January 28, 1986, and the space shuttle Columbia accident, which occurred on February 1, 2003;

(4) notes the diligence in applying the lessons learned through the Challenger and Columbia tragedies to honor the 14 crewmembers we lost and enhance the safety of the crewmembers that followed;

(5) recognizes that the Space Shuttle Program has inspired generations of children to become engineers, scientists, and explorers, which has led to maintaining the precedent of leadership in human space exploration set by the United States during the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions; and

(6) acknowledges that the Space Shuttle Program has, through its technological advancements and scientific research, driven innovation in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to benefit the people of the United States and all of humankind.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 550. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 535 submitted by Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. MERKLEY) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1323, to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 551. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 552. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2055, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 550. Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 535 submitted by Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. MERKLEY) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1323, to express the sense of the Senate on shared sacrifice in resolving the budget deficit; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. __. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON PROTECTING MEDICAID.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) 68,000,000 low-income children, parents, pregnant women, seniors and people with disabilities are served by the Medicaid program.

(2) After almost 50 years, Medicaid is still a life-saving part of what we do as a government—by providing health care to more than 20 percent of all Americans, including 40 per-

cent of the births, 50 percent of long-term care, and, along with the Children's Health Insurance Program, 34 percent of the children in our country.

(3) Medicaid provides essential health coverage, furnishing a usual source of care, lowering infant mortality rates, improving the health of adults and children with chronic illnesses and special health care needs, and providing critical preventive care.

(4) Medicaid provides essential coverage for seniors and people with disabilities. It covers 62 percent of all long-term care services and supports. It also covers premiums and copayments on behalf of low-income Medicare beneficiaries

(5) The 9,000,000 beneficiaries who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare are among the most medically complex beneficiaries and account for nearly 40 percent of Medicaid spending, although they account for only 15 percent of Medicaid enrollment. Significant Medicaid cuts would undermine efforts to improve care and lower costs for this group of beneficiaries.

(6) Medicaid is a very efficient program. On average, after adjusting for differences in health, Medicaid costs 27 percent less per child than private insurance and 20 percent less for adults. Between 2000 and 2009, per beneficiary spending grew at 4.6 percent compared to 7.7 percent growth in premiums for employer sponsored insurance.

(7) Medicaid is an economic engine supporting millions of home-grown jobs at hospitals, nursing homes, community health centers, and doctor's offices.

(8) Medicaid is the health care program that helps States during times of crises—including after the September 11th attacks, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the recent floods and tornados in the South and Midwest. It automatically expands during an economic downturn to assist families who lose their jobs and health insurance.

(9) Medicaid is the largest source of Federal revenues for States. According to the National Governors Association, "federal spending reductions for Medicaid will result in a direct cost shift to States, which will result in reduced Medicaid expenditures, increased State taxes or reductions in K-12 education, transportation, and public safety funding."

(10) Cuts to federal Medicaid funding will force already cash-strapped States to cut eligibility, benefits, and provider payment rates, inevitably resulting in reduced access to care for children, parents, pregnant women, seniors and people with disabilities who have nowhere else to turn for affordable, comprehensive coverage.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that any agreement to reduce the budget deficit should not include arbitrary cuts to Medicaid that shift health care costs to States and local governments and jeopardize health care coverage for millions of Americans.

SA 551. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 127. (a) Using funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT 2005", and notwith-

standing the deadline specified in section 2904(a)(5) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note), the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Oregon, shall be closed as part of the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment after the completion of chemical demilitarization activities required under the Chemical Weapons Convention, as provided under Recommendation #160 of the final report of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to close Umatilla Army Chemical Depot outside of the process provided for under the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment.

SA 552. Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2055, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 84, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 127. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to close Umatilla Army Chemical Depot outside of the process provided for under the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment pursuant to Recommendation #160 of the final report of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on National Parks. The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 28, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills:

S. 264, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Mississippi 2 parcels of surplus land within the boundary of the Natchez Trace Parkway, and for other purposes;

S. 265, A bill to authorize the acquisition of core battlefield land at Champion Hill, Port Gibson, and Raymond for addition to Vicksburg National Military Park;

S. 324, A bill to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission;

S. 764, A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to make technical corrections to the segment designations for the Chetco River, Oregon;

S. 864, A bill to designate a Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial at the March Field Air Museum in Riverside, California;

S. 883, A bill to authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a

memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution;

S. 888, A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of Illabot Creek in Skagit County, Washington, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;

S. 925, A bill to designate Mt. Andrea Lawrence;

S. 970, A bill to designate additional segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, in the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System;

S. 1063, A bill to allow for the harvest of gull eggs by the Huna Tlingit people within Glacier Bay National Park in the State of Alaska;

S. 1134, A bill to authorize the St. Croix River Crossing Project with appropriate mitigation measures to promote river values; and

S. 1235, A bill to recognize the memorial at the Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national memorial of Navy SEALs and their predecessors.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to jake_mccook@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact David Brooks or Jake McCook.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "Unauthorized Charges on Telephone Bills: Why Crammers Win and Consumers Lose."

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2011, at 9 a.m., in HVC-210 of the Capitol Visitor Center, to conduct a hearing entitled "Tax Reform and the Tax Treatment of Debt and Equity."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 13, 2011, at 3 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on July 13, 2011, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Ten Years After 9/11: Preventing Terrorist Travel."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on July 13, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Violence Against Women Act: Building on Seventeen Years of Accomplishments."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on July 13, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Nominations."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWERS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on, July 13, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Carlos Algara, an intern in the office of Senator MERKLEY, be granted privilege of the floor for the duration of the remainder of today's session.

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

HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 233, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 233) honoring the men and women of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space Shuttle Program on reaching the historic milestone of the 135th and final flight of the Space Transportation System.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, because I was on the floor, the remarkable Senate staff, who do this so much in a routine fashion, asked me to do this. Of course, it was with enormous emotion that I watched *Atlantis* soar into the heavens last Friday. This is a fitting tribute to the people who have made this program possible for 30 years, with 135 flights, not without tragedy for we lost two space shuttles and 14 souls. Now we are going to a vigorous new program with new, more efficient, and safer rockets that will take us into the heavens.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 233) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 233

Whereas the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis on July 8, 2011, is the 135th and final flight of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Space Transportation System (STS-135) and the 33rd flight of the space shuttle Atlantis;

Whereas the National Aeronautics and Space Administration built 5 space-capable orbiters, the Columbia, the Challenger, the Discovery, the Atlantis, and the Endeavour;

Whereas, with the launch of STS-135, 355 individuals will have flown 852 times during the history of the Space Shuttle Program, beginning with the launch of the first Space Transportation System flight on April 12, 1981;

Whereas a spirit of international partnership has been fostered among the 16 countries represented on the space shuttle missions flown during the history of the Space Shuttle Program, including Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, and the United States;

Whereas the space shuttles together have flown 537,114,016 miles, with STS-135 adding an additional 4,000,000 miles;

Whereas, during the history of the Space Shuttle Program, more than 2,000 on-orbit