

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes the historic contributions of all United States veterans who served in the First World War; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Frank W. Buckles, the longest surviving United States veteran of the First World War.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had the good fortune a short time ago, when we had a ceremony in the Rotunda of the Capitol, to meet Mr. Buckles and talk to him. It is amazing he had such vitality at such an old age. I am happy this matter is completed.

SUPPORTING THE GOAL OF “INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY”

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 90.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 90) supporting the goal of “International Women’s Day” and recognizing this year’s centennial anniversary of International Women’s Day.

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

Mr. REID. 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 that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 90) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 90

Whereas there are more than 3,300,000,000 women in the world today;

Whereas women around the world participate in the political, social, and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially to the growth of economies, and, as both farmers and caregivers, play an important role in advancing food security for their communities;

Whereas President Barack Obama said, “[o]ur common prosperity will be advanced by allowing all humanity – men and women – to reach their full potential”;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said, “Put simply, we have much less hope of addressing the complex challenges we face in this new century without the full participation of women. Whether the economic crisis, the spread of terrorism, regional conflicts that threaten families and communities, and climate change and the dangers it presents to the world’s health and security, we will not solve these challenges through half measures. Yet too often, on these issues and many more, half the world is left behind.”;

Whereas the ability of women to realize their full potential is critical to the ability

of a nation to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and political and social stability;

Whereas according to the 2010 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report, “reducing gender inequality enhances productivity and economic growth”;

Whereas according to the International Monetary Fund, “focusing on the needs and empowerment of women is one of the keys to human development”;

Whereas despite some achievements made by individual women leaders, women around the globe are still vastly underrepresented in high level positions and in national and local legislatures and governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women account for only 19.2 percent of national parliamentarians;

Whereas although strides have been made in recent decades, women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in all aspects of their lives including denial of basic human rights, discrimination, and gender-based violence;

Whereas according to the World Bank, women account for approximately 70 percent of individuals living in poverty worldwide;

Whereas according to UNESCO, women account for 64 percent of the 796,000,000 adults worldwide who lack basic literacy skills;

Whereas according to the International Center for Research on Women, there are more than 60,000,000 child brides in developing countries, some of whom are as young as 7 years old;

Whereas according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the majority of women living in rural areas of the developing world are heavily engaged in agricultural labor, yet they receive less credit, land, agricultural inputs, and training than their male counterparts;

Whereas according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, women in developing countries are disproportionately affected by changes in climate because of their need to secure water, food, and fuel for their livelihood;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, as many as 1 in 5 women report being sexually abused before the age of 15;

Whereas March 8 is recognized each year as International Women’s Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future and a day to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities; and

Whereas the milestone 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day is a testament to the dedication and determination of women and men around the world to address gender inequality: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of “International Women’s Day”;

(2) recognizes the significance of the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day;

(3) recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of nations to generate economic growth and sustainable democracy;

(4) recognizes and honors the women in the United States and around the world who have worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed equality and basic human rights;

(5) reaffirms its commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women’s Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 91.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 91) supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

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

Mr. REID. 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 that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 91) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 91

Whereas multiple sclerosis can impact men and women of all ages, races, and ethnicities; Whereas more than 400,000 Americans live with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas approximately 2,100,000 people worldwide have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas every hour of every day, someone is newly diagnosed with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 children and adolescents are living with multiple sclerosis;

Whereas the exact cause of multiple sclerosis is still unknown;

Whereas the symptoms of multiple sclerosis are unpredictable and vary from person to person;

Whereas there is no laboratory test available that definitively diagnoses a case of multiple sclerosis;

Whereas multiple sclerosis is not genetic, contagious, or directly inherited, but studies show that there are genetic factors that indicate that certain individuals may be susceptible to the disease;

Whereas multiple sclerosis symptoms occur when an immune system attack affects the myelin in nerve fibers of the central nervous system, damaging or destroying the myelin and replacing the myelin with scar tissue, thereby interfering with or preventing the transmission of nerve signals;

Whereas in rare cases, multiple sclerosis is so progressive that the disease is fatal;

Whereas there is no known cure for multiple sclerosis;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition, an affiliation of multiple sclerosis organizations dedicated to the enhancement of the quality of life for all those affected by multiple sclerosis, recognizes and celebrates Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

Whereas the mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition is to increase opportunities for cooperation and provide greater opportunity to leverage the effective use of resources for the benefit of the multiple sclerosis community;

Whereas the Multiple Sclerosis Coalition recognizes and celebrates Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week for 1 week in March of each year;

Whereas the goals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week are—

(1) to invite people to join the movement to end multiple sclerosis;

(2) to encourage each individual in the United States to do something that demonstrates a commitment to moving toward a world free of multiple sclerosis; and

(3) to acknowledge those individuals who have dedicated their time and talent to helping to promote multiple sclerosis research and programs; and

Whereas in 2011, the week of March 14, 2011, through March 20, 2011, has been designated as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(2) encourages the States, territories, possessions, and localities of the United States to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by issuing proclamations designating Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(3) encourages media organizations to participate in Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week by helping to educate the public about multiple sclerosis;

(4) commends the efforts of the States, territories, possessions, and localities of the United States that support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week;

(5) recognizes and reaffirms the commitment of the United States to creating a world free of multiple sclerosis by—

(A) promoting awareness about people who are living with multiple sclerosis; and

(B) promoting new education programs, supporting research, and expanding access to medical treatment;

(6) recognizes all people in the United States living with multiple sclerosis and expresses gratitude to their family members and friends who are a source of love and encouragement to those individuals; and

(7) salutes the health care professionals and medical researchers who—

(A) provide assistance to those individuals in the United States living with multiple sclerosis; and

(B) continue to work to find ways to stop the progression of the disease, restore nerve function, and end multiple sclerosis forever.

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF LEGAL EXPENSES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 92, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 92) to authorize the payment of legal expenses of Senate employees out of the contingent fund of the Senate.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, earlier this week the joint leadership group of the Senate made the following recommendation to Senate legal counsel regarding representation of two Senate employees in an upcoming judicial proceeding:

RECOMMENDATION OF ACTION TO AVOID CONFLICT OR INCONSISTENCY IN THE REPRESENTATION OF SENATE PARTIES

Having been notified of an apparent conflict of interest by the Senate Legal Counsel pursuant to §710(a) of the Ethics in Govern-

ment Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §288i(a), and as contemplated by §710(b) and (d) of that Act, 2 U.S.C. §288i(b) and (d), it is recommended that the Senate Legal Counsel take the following action in order to avoid a potential conflict that could arise between the Legal Counsel's responsibilities to the Select Committee on Ethics and representation of Jean Manning and Erica Watkins, Senate employees who are being subpoenaed to testify and produce documents before a federal grand jury. In the event that Ms. Manning or Ms. Watkins requests legal representation in connection with her appearance before the grand jury, the Senate Legal Counsel shall refer Ms. Manning and Ms. Watkins to the Committee on Rules and Administration for assistance in arranging for the employment of private counsel to represent them with respect to official actions and responsibilities.

The Joint Leadership Group
March __, 2011

Mr. SCHUMER. Ms. Manning and Ms. Watkins have now contacted the Committee on Rules and Administration for assistance in arranging for the employment of private counsel to represent them with respect to testimony and document production before the Federal grand jury in the District of Columbia.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 92) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 92

Resolved,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF THE PAYMENT OF LEGAL EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to pay out of the contingent fund of the Senate the legal expenses incurred by Jean Manning and Erica Watkins for the employment of private counsel to represent them with respect to official actions and responsibilities before the grand jury in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

(b) DETERMINATION.—The amount of expenses paid pursuant to subsection (a) shall be determined by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that there be no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of these nominations; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Daniel L. Shields III, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

Pamela L. Spratlen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kyrgyz Republic.

Sue Kathrine Brown, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Montenegro.

David Lee Carden, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Eric G. Postel, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREE- MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, March 7, 2011, at 4:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 4, 32, and 33; that there be an hour of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, Calendar No. 32 be confirmed and the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on Calendar No. 33 and Calendar No. 4, in that order; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that there be no intervening action or debate; that there be no further motions in order to these nominations; that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there is a bill at the desk due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4) to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of \$600 or more to corporations, and for other purposes.