

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 553

Mr. COBURN. I call up amendment No. 553.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN], for Mr. McCAIN, proposes an amendment numbered 553.

Mr. COBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To eliminate the additional amount of \$10,000,000, not included in the President's budget request for fiscal year 2012, appropriated for the Department of Defense for planning and design for the Energy Conservation Investment Program)

On Page 64, line 24, strike "\$3,380,917,000" and insert "\$3,370,917,000".

Mr. COBURN. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.) Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 556

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and I call up my amendment No. 556, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON], for himself and Mr. KIRK, proposes an amendment numbered 556.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 114 between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

SEC. 301. Not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of Arlington National Cemetery shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives detailing the strategic plan and timetable to modernize the Cemetery's Information Technology system, including electronic burial records.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, this is a joint amendment. I support it. It concerns a report on the operations of Arlington National Cemetery. It is very necessary. My understanding is that

this then sets up the vote that the leaders have scheduled for Monday afternoon. And that is what we are doing right now to continue the consideration of this bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

INTERNET GAMBLING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, per the request of Senator KYL's office, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from myself and Senator KYL to the Attorney General be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, July 14, 2011.

Hon. ERIC HOLDER,
Department of Justice,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER: As you know, several weeks ago, the U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York indicted various individuals associated with online poker sites for violations of various laws. Additional indictments were unveiled in Baltimore at the end of May.

These indictments came after many years in which the entities operated Internet poker websites to Americans in an open and notorious way with apparently no repercussions from law enforcement. Leading up to the indictments, this lack of activity by law enforcement led to a significant and growing perception that operating Internet poker and other Internet gambling did not violate U.S. laws, or at least that the Department of Justice thought that the case was uncertain enough that it chose not to pursue enforcement actions. In turn, this perception allowed this activity to spread substantially, so that at least 1,700 foreign sites continue to offer Internet gambling to U.S. players. We think it is important that the Department of Justice pursue aggressively and consistently those offering illegal Internet gambling in the United States.

In addition, we have two further concerns: the spread of efforts to legalize intra-state Internet gambling and the spread of efforts to offer such intra-state Internet gambling through state-sponsored lotteries.

We believe that the Department of Justice's longstanding position has been that all forms of Internet gambling are illegal—including intra-state Internet gambling, because activity over the Internet inherently crosses state lines, implicating federal anti-gambling laws such as the Wire Act. Yet efforts are underway in about a dozen states to legalize some form of intra-state Internet gambling. In many cases, Internet gambling advocates in those states cite the silence of the Department of Justice in the face of these efforts as acquiescence. In fact, we have heard that at a major conference in May, several officials from various state lotteries boasted that they have obtained the Department of Justice's effective consent by writing letters of their plans that stated that if no objection was received they would proceed with their Internet gambling plans—

and no objection has been received despite many months or years.

This is troubling. We respectfully request that you reiterate the Department's longstanding position that federal law prohibits gambling over the Internet, including intrastate gambling (e.g., lotteries). Conversely, if for some reason the Department is reconsidering its longstanding position, then we respectfully request that you consult with Congress before finalizing a new position that would open the floodgates to Internet gambling.

Finally, we would like to work with you to strengthen the penalties for those who violate the law and to see what modifications would be helpful to the Department to enhance its ability to fight Internet gambling.

Sincerely,

HARRY REID,
U.S. Senator.
JON KYL
U.S. Senator.

TRIBUTE TO GERALD M. CHASE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to a dedicated public servant from my home state of Michigan. Gerry Chase has devoted his professional life to helping others and improving the quality of public health in northern lower Michigan for nearly four decades, and I am pleased to recognize his life's work as he retires from public service this month. Through his many initiatives as the Public Health Officer for Northwest Michigan, Gerry has impacted many by working tirelessly to better the lives of the residents of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.

Gerry accepted the position of public health officer in 1974 at the urging of his mentor Roy R. Manty. Shortly after earning his bachelor of arts and a master's in public health from the University of Michigan, Gerry embarked on what he initially thought would be a short-term assignment, but would become his life's work. Thirty-seven years later, Gerry can look back with pride on a fulfilling and impressive record of accomplishment.

Charged with the responsibility of promoting wellness, preventing disease, and providing quality healthcare, Gerry has been at the forefront of some of the more complex and daunting public health issues, leading an agency that has grown from 17 in the mid-1970s to more than 200 employees today. Among Gerry's countless accomplishments as public health officer is an initiative to provide dental care to over 20,000 low-income residents, an effort to increase the number of poor women eligible for cost-free breast and cervical cancer screenings, and the establishment of a multicounty workplace smoking ban.

Through these accomplishments and many more like them, residents of these counties are living healthier and better. In 2007, Gerry was awarded the Roy R. Manty Distinguished Service Award, Michigan's top public health award. This honor, which bears the name of his mentor, is given to a person that embodies the "values, dedication and spirit Manty brought to public

health," which is a fitting tribute for a man that has dedicated his life to the public good.

Gerry is also a loving and devoted husband to his wife of 45 years, Kay, and an outstanding role model for his children, Gerald, Harold, and John, and for his grandchild, Taylor. In fact, I am reminded every day of his efforts in this regard through the work of his son, Harold, a member of my staff for the last 15 years. Gerry has been an active member of his community as well, helping to develop the Northwest Academy, a charter school in Charlevoix County, leading a troop of Boy Scouts, and serving as a Big Brother.

Gerry has set a high standard and has left a lasting footprint which will endure for many years to come. I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Gerry on his many impressive accomplishments over the last thirty-seven years. I wish him the best as he begins a new chapter in life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRANK SPRINGOB

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Greenfield Chief of Police Frank Springob for 46 years of service to the community and State of Wisconsin. I am honored to have the opportunity to congratulate my friend and great member of law enforcement, Chief Springob, on his retirement.

From an early age, Frank Springob was destined to become a police officer. Growing up on Milwaukee's south side, Frank spent a lot of time visiting his local police station and officers who became Frank's first mentors. Frank began his career as a police clerk trainee and with an unparalleled commitment to community service, spent the next 29 years working his way up through the ranks of the Greenfield Police Department, until he was appointed Greenfield's chief of police in 1994.

Throughout his career, Frank remained endlessly committed to helping improve the lives of the residents he swore to protect and serve. During his time on the police force, Frank has seen the population of the city more than double. His encyclopedic knowledge of law enforcement and the history of the city helped ensure that the people of Greenfield received a special brand of policing—one focused, above all else, on helping people.

During his time as chief, Frank has overseen the development and construction of the Law Enforcement Center, while maintaining one of the best, most cost effective departments in the State of Wisconsin. Still, Frank's greatest legacy as chief of police will be the team of officers he has helped shape and the incredible work they will continue to do serving the residents of Greenfield.

Chief Frank Springob is an outstanding example of a true public serv-

ant and his dedication to protecting others has set a standard that we can all admire. The city of Greenfield and the State of Wisconsin have benefitted greatly from his service and I am proud to offer these words in recognition of his extraordinary career.●

RECOGNIZING THE SMOKY TOAST CAFE

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, while the news these days all too often highlights the negatives in our economy, such as the plight of a high unemployment rate and weak growth, we should also be reminded that some people are making the best of a bad economy and taking a risk by starting new businesses. One couple in downeast Maine has made the incredible transition from operating a boatbuilding shop to starting a new restaurant all in the course of less than a decade. Instead of complaining about the calamitous economic times, they did something to continue their passion of entrepreneurship. That is why today I wish to honor the Smoky Toast Cafe located in Jonesboro, which opened last year to much acclaim.

Tracy Watts and William Faulkingham started their boat-finishing business, Jonesboro Custom Finish Shop, nearly a decade ago. During the booming economy of the early 2000s, business was good and their docks were never dry, with customers constantly bringing in boats for finishing and renovations. The company finished a variety of watercraft, ranging from lobster boats and commercial vessels to canoes and sport fishing boats. With orders coming in on a regular basis, William and Tracy never lacked for work. Regrettably, that all changed when the economic downturn struck late last decade, as thousands of small businesses in Maine and the rest of the country saw demand slack off and the need for their services diminish.

But instead of waiting around for the economic winds to shift, the energetic founders of this boatbuilding business changed course altogether and found a new calling—off the water—in the restaurant industry. Tracy and William built the Smoky Toast Cafe on the same land where Jonesboro Custom Boats had previously operated. Using the skills they had honed over time William's handiness and Tracy's cooking—they started over from scratch. Now more than a year into this new endeavor, the business is off to a strong start. After all, no matter how hard times may be, quality food always sells.

But William and Tracy also know that starting a new business in this climate will take even more hard work. They have built a loyal following among the downeast community of fishermen and harvesters, and open their doors at 5 a.m. to welcome these dedicated individuals with hearty breakfasts and fresh baked muffins and

bread. The Smoky Toast Cafe is also open for lunch, offering standard favorites as well as Maine seafood dishes. The restaurant is also utilizing social media, such as Facebook and Twitter, to promote itself and bring in new customers, by posting daily specials and company news items.

Small businesses like the Smoky Toast Cafe are the main generators of jobs and economic growth in this country and will be the drivers of our recovery. The commitment to entrepreneurship displayed by Tracy and William is a remarkable example to aspiring business owners who are considering whether or not to take the risk in starting their own company. I commend William and Tracy for their tremendous efforts and wish them many successful years of business.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:08 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2018. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to preserve the authority of each State to make determinations to the State's water quality standards, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 2018. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to preserve the authority of each State to make determinations relating to the State's water quality standards, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2475. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commodity Pool Operators: Relief From Compliance With Certain Disclosure, Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Registered CPOs of Commodity Pools Listed for Trading on a National Securities Exchange; CPO Registration Exemption for Certain Independent Directors or Trustees of These Commodity Pools" ((17 CFR Part 4) (RIN3038-AC46)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 13, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2476. A communication from the Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs—Administrative Provisions for the Sun Grant Program" (RIN0524-AA64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 8, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2477. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (12) officers