

Whereas a subarachnoid hemorrhage can lead to brain damage, hydrocephalus, stroke, and death;

Whereas annually more than 30,000 people in the United States suffer from ruptured brain aneurysms;

Whereas annually between 3,000 and 4,500 people in the United States with ruptured brain aneurysms die before reaching the hospital;

Whereas a number of advancements have been made in recent years regarding the detection of aneurysms, including the computerized tomography scan, the magnetic resonance imaging test, and the cerebral arteriogram;

Whereas September is an appropriate month to designate as "National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month"; and

Whereas various research studies are currently being conducted in the United States in order to better understand, prevent, and treat brain aneurysms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month; and

(2) continues to support research to prevent and treat brain aneurysms.

SENATE RESOLUTION 249—HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF E. THOM RUMBERGER

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 249

Whereas E. Thom Rumberger served in the United States Marine Corps;

Whereas Thom Rumberger earned a bachelor's degree, with honors, and a J.D. from the University of Florida;

Whereas Thom Rumberger is a founding partner of the law firm Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, which has represented multinational corporations such as American Airlines, Inc., Sears, Roebuck and Co., and Toyota Motor Corporation;

Whereas Thom Rumberger has been listed in Florida Super Lawyers every year from 2007 to 2010;

Whereas Thom Rumberger was appointed Circuit Judge in the 18th Judicial Circuit of Florida in 1969;

Whereas Thom Rumberger has committed himself to numerous acts of public service, including serving on the Federal Judicial Advisory Commission of Florida and the Board of Supervisors of the Spaceport Florida Authority;

Whereas Thom Rumberger has been one of the most steadfast champions of the Everglades in Florida;

Whereas Thom Rumberger has served as lead counsel for the Everglades Foundation since 1999;

Whereas Thom Rumberger was instrumental in the passage of two amendments to the Florida Constitution and of section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-541; 114 Stat. 2680), known as the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan;

Whereas Thom Rumberger was instrumental in obtaining several billion dollars in funding for Everglades restoration; and

Whereas Thom Rumberger served on the Florida Governor's 2001 Select Task Force on Elections and the 2002 Select Task Force on Election Procedures, Standards and Technology, and was Chairman of the Legislature's Study Committee on Public Records in 2002: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and honors the professional success of E. Thom Rumberger; and

(2) recognizes and honors the lifelong dedication of Thom Rumberger to the protection of the Florida Everglades.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the important contributions of a very special Floridian for his unrelenting determination to protect one of our nation's most unique natural resources—America's Everglades. A prestigious attorney and commanding litigator, Thom Rumberger has dedicated much of his personal and professional life to advancing the restoration and protection of the River of Grass. His brilliance, creativity and fearlessness combined to make Thom one of Florida's most influential Everglades leaders.

A man proud to serve his country and his community, Thom interrupted his college career to volunteer for the Marine Corps and serve in the Korean War. Over the course of his life he has continued his service as a dedicated public servant, a respected judge and prosecutor. Thom is a dedicated father and grandfather who has always found great happiness and comfort in his ever-expanding family. The relentless efforts Thom undertakes to preserve Florida's natural heritage will be a legacy gift to his family, his colleagues, and to the American public.

After serving two years in the United States Marine Corps, Thom earned his bachelor's degree, with honors, and his law degree from the University of Florida, where he was Associate Editor of the University of Florida Law Review in 1960. Before becoming Florida's youngest Circuit Court Judge in 1969, serving in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, he was the Brevard County Solicitor and Special Assistant State Attorney in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit. From 1971 through 1974 he was the County Attorney for Seminole County, Assistant to Florida's Governor Claude Kirk, and served as a member of the Florida Land Sales Board.

Thom has been a long-time friend of George and Mary Barley, both of whom dedicated their lives to restoration of the Everglades. George and Mary established the Everglades Trust and the Everglades Foundation. Upon George's untimely death in 1995, Thom joined with Mary to make sure George's dream of a restored Everglades became a reality. An active leader in the Republican Party, Thom was able to elevate Everglades restoration to a bipartisan issue at both the state and federal level.

Thom's success extends to his career in private practice, as he is one of the founding partners of the Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell law firm. Under his leadership, his firm's modest beginnings were quickly surpassed as it moved to the forefront of business litigation, representing such multinational corporations as American Airlines, Sears, Roebuck and Co., General Motors Corporation, Honda Motor Company, Ford Motor Company, and

Toyota Motor Corporation. Today, his firm includes 75 trial attorneys in five offices across Florida and Alabama. Thom has been listed in Florida Super Lawyers every year from 2007 to 2010.

Legend has it that Thom once convinced a Federal judge to allow a real automobile in the courtroom as evidence. Yes, Thom convinced the judge to have a window enlarged in a historic courthouse to accommodate a crane that lifted the car right into the courtroom.

Thom has been known throughout his life for his infectious sense of humor as well as the breath of his various careers. Often referred to as a "career chameleon", Thom worked his way through college as a snake handler at the Ross Allen Reptile Institute at Florida's Silver Springs performing shows with lethal snakes to the thousands of visitors who came to watch the dangerous performance. Thom promises that it was there that he learned the skills of public speaking and working with the public which would become such a critical component of his future success. Thom also enjoyed a brief acting career as the stunt man for the Creature of the Black Lagoon before beginning his legal career.

In addition to building an impressive legal career, Thom has generously committed himself to public service. He was appointed to Florida's Federal Judicial Advisory Commission and the Board of Supervisors of the Spaceport Florida Authority. Currently, Thom is Chairman of The Everglades Trust, and has served as Chairman of the Collins Center for Public Policy, and as a member of the Board of Visitors of Florida State College of Law and Board of Trustees for the Law Center Association of the University of Florida.

He has represented environmental organizations including Save the Manatee, The Everglades Trust, and Save Our Everglades. Thom has also served as lead counsel for The Everglades Foundation since 1999.

Notably, Thom was instrumental in the passage of two Everglades related Florida constitutional amendments, the Federal Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, and in obtaining several billion dollars in funding for Everglades restoration. Thom also was primarily responsible for Florida's acquisition of the 75,000-acre Babcock Ranch which provides new and necessary corridors for the endangered Florida panther. And, in the late 1980's, Thom worked to implement some of the first manatee protection laws.

Throughout his four decades in public service, Thom Rumberger has demonstrated the importance of looking out for the common good. Thanks to the selfless commitment of folks like Thom, America's Everglades will be restored for the benefit of future generations. America owes Thom a great debt of gratitude.

Grace joins me in thanking Thom and his lovely wife, Debbie, for their

contributions to Florida's treasured landscapes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 27—HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS LEROY ARTHUR PETRY, A NATIVE OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, AND THE SECOND LIVING RECIPIENT OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR SINCE THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 27

Whereas Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of the United States Army, a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Obama on July 12, 2011;

Whereas the Medal of Honor is the highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces for valor in combat;

Whereas the official citation awarding the Medal of Honor to Sergeant First Class Petry states that then-Staff Sergeant Petry "distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008";

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry joins an elite group of Medal of Honor recipients dating back to the Civil War;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry has continued a long tradition of military service to the United States by New Mexicans, dating back to the defense of the Western United States during the Civil War, and followed by participation in every major war fought by the United States;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry is the second living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry fought with bravery and, despite wounds to both of his legs, had the courage and quick thinking needed to save the lives of his fellow soldiers by throwing back an enemy grenade and losing his right hand when the grenade detonated shortly after he released it;

Whereas the actions of Sergeant First Class Petry represent the highest values of the Army, the Rangers, and the United States;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry has consistently demonstrated humility and dedication to his fellow soldiers;

Whereas Sergeant First Class Petry, who overcame a troubled youth and found the strength to turn his life around and dedicate himself to serving the United States, is an example to all people who are struggling in the United States; and

Whereas the brave actions of Sergeant First Class Petry, as well as his modesty and selfless service, stand as the embodiment of the best attributes of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the service and sacrifice of Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry of the United States Army and his family; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to recognize the valor, heroism, and dedication to the United States exhibited by Sergeant First Class Petry.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a res-

olution with Senator JEFF BINGAMAN honoring the bravery and sacrifice of Santa Fe, New Mexico native Sergeant First Class Leroy Arthur Petry, an Army Ranger who in 2008 risked his life to save his fellow soldiers on the battlefields of Afghanistan and who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Obama in July.

I was humbled to be at the White House along with Sergeant First Class Petry's family, friends, and fellow soldiers as President Obama honored him with the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was truly a special day for everyone involved as we honored only the second living, active-duty service member to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.

On July 12, I detailed the actions of Sergeant First Class Petry. Under enemy fire, with bullet wounds in both of his legs, Sergeant First Class Petry still had the courage and valor to render aid to his fellow Rangers and to throw a grenade that landed near his fellow soldiers back towards the enemy.

When the grenade exploded, it took with it Sergeant First Class Petry's hand, but not his spirit. Not even the loss of a hand would stop him from fighting the enemy and supporting his unit. He would tie a tourniquet to his arm and continue the fight.

As I have said before, Sergeant First Class Petry's story is one of courage and sacrifice and immense love of country. It is a story that began years ago in Santa Fe with a young man who struggled in high school but refused to give up, to drop out and instead buckled down, dug deep, and found the hero within. A hero to the men he saved that fateful day in Afghanistan, and a hero to all Americans who owe their freedoms to our brave men and women in uniform.

Today, let us honor him further with this resolution and send the message that Congress honors his service and sacrifice.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 1, 2011.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on August 1, 2011, at 3:30 p.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Elle Charles

and Ashley Crawford, of my staff, be granted the privilege of the floor for the rest of today's proceedings.

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

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff: Robin Dutta.

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

FASTER FOIA ACT OF 2011

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1466.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1466) to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I joined Senator CORNYN in reintroducing the Faster FOIA Act of 2011, a bipartisan bill to strengthen the Freedom of Information Act, FOIA. Last week, the House Republican leadership stripped these FOIA provisions from legislation that unanimously passed the Senate in May as part of a procedural maneuver to address unrelated issues surrounding the debt limit. I urge the Senate to promptly reaffirm its bipartisan commitment to open government and to once again pass the Leahy-Cornyn Faster FOIA Act of 2011 so that this good government bill can be enacted into law.

The Faster FOIA Act enjoys broad bipartisan support from across the political spectrum. The Senate unanimously passed this bill in May, after the Judiciary Committee favorably reported the bill by voice vote. Recently, more than 35 transparency organizations urged the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to act on this legislation. On July 26, the Washington Post editorialized that the House should promptly enact this bipartisan bill to improve the FOIA process.

Senator CORNYN and I first introduced the Faster FOIA Act in 2005 to address the growing problem of excessive FOIA delays within our Federal agencies. During the intervening years, the problem of excessive FOIA delays has not gone away. We reintroduced this bill in 2010, and the Senate unanimously passed it last year. The current bill is the most recent product of our bipartisan work to help reinvigorate FOIA.

The Faster FOIA Act would establish a bipartisan Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays to examine the root causes of excessive FOIA delays. The Commission would recommend to Congress and the President steps that should be taken to reduce these delays so that the administration of the FOIA is more equitable and efficient.