

to the Republic of Turkey, to which position he was appointed during the recess of the Senate from December 22, 2010, to January 5, 2011.

Nominee: Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr.
Post: U.S. Embassy Ankara.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Francesca Mara Ricciardone and Micah White: None. Chiara Teresa Ricciardone: None.
4. Parents: Francis J. Ricciardone, Sr., \$100, 2008, Republican National Committee. (Mother deceased).
5. Grandparents: Deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Michael and Elizabeth Ricciardone, None; James and Lisa Ricciardone, None; David and Beverly Ricciardone, None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Theresa Ricciardone and Peter Thayer, None; Marguerite Ricciardone and David R. Stone, \$100, 2/2010, Ellen Gibbs (D) (Selectman, Wellesley, MA).

*John A. Heffern, of Missouri, 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 the Republic of Armenia.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

Nominee: John Ashwood Heffern.

Post: United States Ambassador to Armenia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

1. Self: 0.
2. Spouse: 0.
3. Children and Spouses: 0.
4. Parents: 0.
5. Grandparents: 0.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Christopher E. Heffern: \$200, 02/26/2008, Hillary Clinton (donor was sister-in-law Patricia Heffern).
7. Sisters and Spouses: Exact amounts unknown; those who donated anything at all claimed the amounts were negligible and were all for local candidates they did not disclose to me.

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. INHOFE:

S. 1545. A bill to designate Taiwan as a visa waiver program country under section 217(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1546. A bill to authorize certain programs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Com-

mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

S. 1547. A bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

S. 1548. A bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program until December 31, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REID (by request):

S. 1549. A bill to provide tax relief for American workers and businesses, to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America, and to provide pathways back to work for Americans looking for jobs; read the first time.

By Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 1550. A bill to establish the National Infrastructure Bank to provide financial assistance for qualified infrastructure projects selected by the Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1551. A bill to establish a smart card pilot program under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 261. A resolution designating the month of October 2011 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 262. A resolution designating the week beginning on September 12, 2011, and ending on September 16, 2011, as "National Health Information Technology Week" to recognize the value of health information technology in improving health quality; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 263. A resolution designating the week beginning September 11, 2011, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 264. A resolution designating September 12, 2011, as "National Day of Encouragement"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 265. A resolution honoring the lifetime achievements of E. Thom Rumberger; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 20, a bill to protect American job creation by striking the job-killing Federal employer mandate.

S. 274

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 274, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to medication therapy management services under the Medicare prescription drug program.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 1002

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1002, a bill to prohibit theft of medical products, and for other purposes.

S. 1009

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1009, a bill to rescind certain Federal funds identified by States as unwanted and use the funds to reduce the Federal debt.

S. 1025

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) 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. 1060

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to improve education, employment, independent living services, and health care for veterans, to improve assistance for homeless veterans, and to improve the administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1094

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1094, a bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-416).

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1299, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of the establishment of Lions Clubs International.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 to 2015 for

the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in person, and for other purposes.

S. 1368

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1368, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal distributions for medicine qualified only if for prescribed drug or insulin.

S. 1369

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1369, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt the conduct of silvicultural activities from national pollutant discharge elimination system permitting requirements.

S. 1425

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1425, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure fairness in election procedures with respect to collective bargaining representatives.

S. 1438

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1438, a bill to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 7.7 percent.

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1438, *supra*.

S. 1472

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1472, a bill to impose sanctions on persons making certain investments that directly and significantly contribute to the enhancement of the ability of Syria to develop its petroleum resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1501

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1501, a bill to require the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to conduct the business of the Committee in a manner that is open to the public.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to provide protections from workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 1512, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 1523

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNES), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1523, a bill to prohibit the National Labor Relations Board from ordering any employers to close, relocate, or transfer employment under any circumstance.

S. 1527

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to authorize the award of a Congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines of World War II.

S. 1531

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1531, a bill to provide a Federal regulatory moratorium, and for other purposes.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to provide for a time-out on certain regulations, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, *supra*.

S. 1542

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1542, a bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the child and family services program through fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 27

At the request of Mr. JOHANNES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 27, a joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the mitigation by States of cross-border air pollution under the Clean Air Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

S. 1547. A bill to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; placed on the calendar.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the Export-Import Bank. Earlier today, I filed the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2011. This legislation

was approved unanimously by the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs last Thursday.

This legislation will ensure that the Bank remains able to continue to provide support for U.S. exporters and workers. The bill extends the authorization of the Bank for 4 years, and will increase the Bank's lending authority to \$140 billion by 2015. It also strengthens transparency and accountability at the Bank, seeks to modernize the Bank's IT, encourages the Bank to increase projects designed to create renewable energies, and provides for greater oversight of the Bank's financing and any risks it might have to taxpayers.

The Bank's current authorization expires on September 30, 2011, and I hope that this legislation will pass as soon as possible to ensure that the Bank continues to operate.

The Export-Import Bank is the official export credit agency of the United States and it assists in financing the export of U.S. goods and services to international markets. Following the financial crisis, the Bank experienced a dramatic increase in its activities as many companies struggled to find financing in the private market. In Fiscal Year 2010, the Bank saw a 70 percent increase in authorizations from 2008. In fact, last year the Bank committed almost \$25 billion in support of U.S. exports—a record.

The Bank has been self-funding since 2008, regularly returning millions of dollars each year to the Treasury. This is a testament to the Bank's leadership under Chairman Fred Hochberg, as well as the good work of the dedicated staff and Board of the Bank.

All of the Bank's transactions are backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Therefore, I am pleased that this legislation will help ensure that the Bank is working as efficiently and effectively as possible to protect the taxpayers.

Equally important is the Bank's goal to use exports to help create and maintain jobs here at home. This mission, embodied in the Bank's Charter, is at the very core of what Congress intended the Bank to do. I believe that while the Bank is doing a good job, it can—and must—do more. I believe this legislation will help the Bank reach that goal.

This bill is a bipartisan effort and I thank Senator SHELBY for his support. In addition, I thank Senator WARNER, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Security and International Trade and Finance, Senator BENNET and Senator HAGAN for their extremely important input into this legislation. I urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

By Mr. REID (by request):

S. 1549. A bill to provide tax relief for American workers and businesses, to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America, and to provide pathways back to work for Americans looking for jobs; read the first time.