

*Joseph H. Gale, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

*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.

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. BROWN of Massachusetts:

S. 1579. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide that the basic allowance for housing in effect for a member of the National Guard is not reduced when the member transitions between active duty and full-time National Guard duty without a break in active service; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 1580. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to extend an exemption from certain requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to protect public health and safety; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. McCASKILL:

S. 1581. A bill to improve the importer of record program and the collection of fees and duties in connection with the importation of merchandise into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1582. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify provisions relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. CHAMBLISS):

S. 1583. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax deduction for the purchase, construction, and installation of a safe room or storm shelter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1584. A bill to provide for additional quality control of drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1585. A bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 272. A resolution designating November 1, 2011, as "National Jobs Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 273. A resolution congratulating the Nunaka Valley Little League junior girls softball team on their performance in the Junior League Softball World Series; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 20

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

S. 102

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 102, a bill to provide an optional fast-track procedure the President may use when submitting rescission requests, and for other purposes.

S. 170

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to provide for the affordable refinancing of mortgages held by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

S. 296

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide the Food and Drug Administration with improved capacity to prevent drug shortages.

S. 366

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 366, a bill to require disclosure to the Securities and Exchange Commission of certain sanctionable activities, and for other purposes.

S. 409

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to ban the sale of certain synthetic drugs.

S. 466

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 466, a bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under Holocaust-era insurance policies.

S. 534

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain small producers.

S. 570

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 570, a bill to prohibit the Department of Justice from tracking and cataloging the purchases of multiple rifles and shotguns.

S. 633

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 633, a bill to prevent fraud in small business contracting, and for other purposes.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 740, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

S. 965

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 965, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an income tax credit for the costs of certain infertility treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 1048

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1048, a bill to expand sanctions imposed with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran, North Korea, and Syria, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the diagnosis and treatment of hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia, and for other purposes.

S. 1301

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) 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. 1324

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1324, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, and sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, of any live animal of any prohibited wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 1392

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1392, a bill to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

S. 1461

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1461, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors 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. 1508

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1508, a bill to extend loan limits for programs of the Federal Housing Administration, the government-sponsored enterprises, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1514, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Elouise Pepion Cobell, in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and the Nation through her tireless pursuit of justice.

S. 1527

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1527, a bill to authorize the award of a Congressional gold medal to the Montford Point Marines of World War II.

S. 1539

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1539, a bill to provide Taiwan with critically needed United States-built multirole fighter aircraft to strengthen its self-defense capability against the increasing military threat from China.

S. 1556

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1556, a bill to require an accounting for financial support made to promote the production or use of renewable energy, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 626

At the request of Mr. COBURN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 626 proposed to H.R. 2832, a bill to extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mrs. BOXER):
S. 1582. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify provisions relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I am pleased to join with Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG to introduce the Clean Coastal Environment and Public Health Act of 2011 to help protect the millions of Americans who utilize public beaches each day.

Unfortunately, every year many beaches go unmonitored or face severe delays in receiving test results of levels of contamination in coastal waters. Without proper monitoring and notification, thousands of citizens risk illness due to growing contamination of our coastal waters. Beach closings are a far too regular occurrence along the 52 public Lake Michigan beaches in my home State of Illinois. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, there were 579 beach closures or contamination advisories last year, an 8 percent increase from 2008. Beach closures greatly affect the health of our children and families—a recent University of Chicago study showed swim bans at Chicago's beaches due to *E. coli* levels cost the local economy \$2.4 million in lost revenue every year. This bipartisan legislation requires rapid testing methods to detect water contamination in 4 hours or less, faster notification and decision about closures and advisories within 2 hours. These measures can help save millions of Americans from hospital bills or unnecessary beach closings.

But we must not ignore the more dangerous toxin which has far reaching consequences for the most vulnerable members our society—our children. Mercury pollution is a serious problem nationwide and is particularly concerning since large amounts can accumulate in fish tissue. Mercury levels in the Great Lakes, particularly in Lake Michigan, are poorly understood. Moving forward, it is critical that we revise the outdated monitoring and testing of this dangerous toxin. This bill also requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to up-

date existing monitoring protocols and develop updated testing recommendations for the existence of mercury in Great Lakes coastal waters, sediment and fish.

Protecting the Great Lakes and our coastal waters is one of my top priorities in Congress. I am proud to be the lead cosponsor of this important legislation that addresses a key problem facing our Great Lakes beaches. I urge my colleagues to support this bill to help safeguard our future generations and our most precious natural resource.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. CHAMBLISS)

S. 1583. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax deduction for the purchase, construction, and installation of a safe room or storm shelter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, being from Oklahoma, I can remember back in the days when they called Oklahoma, southern Kansas, northern Texas, and southwestern Missouri tornado alley. I say to my good friend from Oregon that I have been in aviation for many years. I know people who won't even fly airplanes through what we call tornado alley. But by now I think we know that tornadoes are a daily threat to Americans each spring as severe weather rolls across the country. In the past 30 years, over 34,000 tornadoes have touched down somewhere in the country, which means that one touches down, on average, every 8 hours of each day. This chart right here shows that each one of these little green dots represents a tornado.

As we all witnessed once again this spring, many of these tornadoes grow into very voracious and dangerous storms that bring significant harm to property and life. This year, 57 such tornadoes struck 14 States and claimed 550 lives. Alabama was the hardest hit. I can remember when Oklahoma was ranked as the hardest hit. They had over 240 killed. Missouri also suffered heavily with the loss of 157 people in Joplin. I say to my friend from Missouri, who is on the floor, I was up in Joplin right after that happened, down close to the Oklahoma border. It is something you have to witness before you understand it. In my State of Oklahoma where we have more than our fair share of violent tornadoes, this spring's storms resulted in the death of 14 people and the injury of many others. Until you have this happen, and you go on site, which I always make it a point to do—after each tornado in Oklahoma, you go down and talk to the people. You think of little kids looking for their toys and this type of thing, but they are gone and gone for good.

While this year has seen a large number of fatal tornadoes, they are a nationwide threat each spring. Since 1980, 734 tornadoes have claimed 2,462 lives in at least 37 different States, including 126 in my State of Oklahoma. Unfortunately, many of these lost lives