

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1619

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1619 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1619) to provide for identification of misaligned currency, require action to correct the misalignment, and for other purposes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the measure will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, the United States is considering H.R. 2608, a continuing resolution to ensure our vital Federal programs can continue in operation while the Congress completes action on our appropriations bills for this fiscal year.

As all of my colleagues are aware, I do not welcome the reality that we once again need to approve of stopgap measures as we prepare to begin the next fiscal year, but, unfortunately, that is the position we are in now. The acrimonious and time-wasting debate on raising the debt ceiling has led us to this place. Put simply, we have no choice but to pass this short-term measure.

I wish to point out, however, that unlike last year, we see this as a short-term need, not a long-term remedy, because even though there was neither an agreement on spending levels nor an allocation to the Appropriations Committee for discretionary spending until the August recess commenced, I am happy to inform my colleagues that the Senate Appropriations Committee has completed its work on 11 of the 12 bills required to fund our Federal agencies. In the past 3 weeks, the Appropriations Committee has met to review and favorably approve 10 bills for fiscal year 2012. Eight of those bills were reported out of committee in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, and by

that I mean something like 29 to 1. The Senate has received five of these bills from the House. The Appropriations Committee is ready to take up any of these bills on the floor when time allows.

In the interim, enacting a continuing resolution is essential before the Congress goes on recess. The bill passed by the House provides the bare-bones minimum required to ensure that government functions will be continued without interruption. It also includes a few critical legislative provisions to sustain vital programs which otherwise would be terminated. There were many more items which the administration and Members of this body would have wished to include, but the House did not agree to include them. The House CR also provides a limited amount of disaster funding, which has been addressed by others.

I want to state for the record that I am particularly disturbed at the position of the House that fiscal year 2011 emergency disaster assistance would be offset by canceling the advanced technology vehicle program. It has long been a tradition of the Congress to approve disaster assistance without need for offset. Others will likely come to the Senate floor to challenge that remark. They will point out that in many, if not most, emergency supplementals the Congress has recommended using rescissions to offset the cost of the bill. They are correct, but as usual the details tell the true story.

The Appropriations Committee annually reviews unobligated balances that remain in programs and those that are unnecessary are recommended for rescission or reapplication to other programs. However, in the case of disaster assistance, I challenge my colleagues to review all appropriations bills for the past decade and find a single instance where the committee paid for disasters by rescinding funds from other programs. No one would find an example because, quite simply, there are not any. Equally important, as noted above, year after year the Congress rescinds unobligated funds, but only when they are no longer needed. In the case of the remaining balances for the advanced technology vehicle programs, these funds are needed. Hardly a day goes by that someone does not come to the floor and note the need for job creation. Here is a program that is creating good jobs with a future. Investing in new technologies to make our Nation more competitive in the international marketplace is exactly the type of program where Federal Government intervention makes sense. The notion that our Republican colleagues in the House would propose rescinding \$1.5 billion in funding from this program in the current economic climate borders on the nonsensical.

Finally, I would note that today's balances in the disaster relief fund are now at \$175 million. Our people are in need of assistance now. The Congress

cannot wait any longer to address this need. All of my colleagues should come together in a bipartisan agreement to strip out the ATV offset, approve meaningful disaster assistance today, and return this bill to the House for reconsideration. I hope we have the good sense to resolve this matter.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the 18th annual National Public Lands Day, which will be celebrated on Saturday, September 24. I am pleased to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers across our Nation who will come together to improve and restore one of America's most valuable treasures, our public lands.

National Public Lands Day started in 1994 with 700 volunteers working in just a few locations. This year over 180,000 volunteers will come together to work at more than 2,000 locations across all 50 States. These people come from all walks of life, holding a shared interest in protecting our public lands for the enjoyment of future generations. National Public Lands Day provides an annual opportunity for the American public to devote a day to conservation and to give back to the public lands that give so much to us.

Our Nation has a proud tradition of conservation. When Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, it was the world's first national park. The idea of a national park was an American invention of historic proportions that led the way for global conservation efforts. President Teddy Roosevelt, one of our earliest and most energetic conservationists, dedicated 194 million acres of national parks and national preserves over the course of his Presidency. As we look ahead to enhance our Nation's conservation agenda, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar has enlisted Congress to identify the "crown jewels" of public lands that will be part of our legacy for future generations.

Public lands make up more than one-third of our country, and are places of continuous discovery, where we go to find ourselves, to uncover our history,

and to explore for resources that help improve our quality of life. Our public lands provide wide open spaces, deep forests, dramatic vistas, and opportunities for solitude that not only fulfill us individually, but form a fundamental part of the American character. Our public lands are part of who we are and the diversity of their uses, like the diversity of their landscapes, reflects our identity. In many areas, they provide timber, ore, and forage that are the economic bedrock of rural America. In other areas, Congress has designated them as wilderness, places "untrammelled by man, where man is a visitor who does not remain."

Nevada boasts some of the most rugged and diverse landscapes in the United States. From the vast Black Rock Desert of northwestern Nevada, to the alpine peaks of Mount Rose overlooking the shores of Lake Tahoe, to the imposing buttes and sagebrush plains of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, and the Mojave Desert floor covered in Joshua trees and yucca plants. Over the past quarter century, home grown conservation advocates have worked to protect and preserve 68 wilderness areas consisting of 3.4 million acres, an area approximately the size of Connecticut. These advocates continue to work towards protection of the most special places in the Silver State. Currently, there are strong grassroots efforts underway to protect the high alpine lakes and thick aspen groves of the Pine Forest Range in Humboldt County as well as the rich archeological resources and spectacular red rock formations in the Gold Butte area just a short drive from Las Vegas.

Our public lands also provide a consistently reliable source of natural resources that fuel our national economy. In northern Nevada, mining is a way of life. Although Nevada was well known for silver during the 19th century, miners working in the Silver State now produce almost 80 percent of the gold in the United States, much of which comes from public lands. Nevada also has a rich history of ranching for both sheep and cattle and grazing on federal lands helps feed this family tradition. Throughout the state the burgeoning renewable energy industry on public lands has provided a variety of new job-creating economic opportunities. Harnessing the solar, wind, and geothermal resources in Nevada and throughout the country will bolster our country's economic and energy security for decades and centuries to come.

I recognize and thank the thousands of Federal employees who manage these lands year-round. The Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and other federal land management agencies ensure that public lands in Nevada and across the Nation meet the changing needs of our communities. They provide a vital, though rarely reported, service to our Nation.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the many Nevadans that will spend September 24 improving our public lands undertaking 19 projects across the State from the Big Rocks Wilderness Area in Caliente to Daggett Summit Trail in Stateline. In northern Nevada, volunteers will be working to improve our public lands at the Mill Creek Campground. These people will spend their day installing new fire rings, barbeques and lantern hooks as well as cleaning the debris from the stream and placing rocks in parking and camping areas.

The focus of National Public Lands Day this year is highlighting the opportunities public lands offer young people through the Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative, launched by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This initiative will engage youth from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with and preserving America's natural and cultural heritage. National Public Lands Day is also relaying the health benefits of outdoor recreation by encouraging families to develop more active lifestyles on our public lands.

The preservation of our public lands is a priority for me. Our public lands are part of what makes the United States a great Nation. I voice my gratitude to all who will participate in National Public Lands Day this year.

REMEMBERING CORPORAL LORENZA GAYLES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to honor a brave member of the U.S. Marine Corps and a fellow Kentuckian who was lost to his family and friends 45 years ago when he was killed in action in Vietnam. A very moving article in tribute to this man, CPL Lorenza Gayles, appeared in the Middlesboro Daily News recently, and I wanted to give this article and this fine young man's story the attention it deserves.

Born in Lynch, KY, on December 28, 1946, as the fourth child of David and Virginia Gayles, Lorenza moved with his family to Middlesboro as a baby and grew up with many friends. He was a good student, was popular with his schoolmates, and known for his sense of humor. His sister Lelia remembers young Lorenza was "just a charming little boy."

Lorenza, called "Rennie" by his friends, attended the Lincoln School, the only school in Middlesboro for African-American children in those days of segregation. He was a talented athlete who played football, baseball, and had an exceptional gift for basketball. Bill Smith, a longtime friend of the Gayles family, remembers Rennie as "a solid guy with a good head on his shoulders." When segregation in the area ended, Lorenza went to Middlesboro High School, where he graduated in 1964.

Knoxville College offered Rennie a scholarship to play basketball after high school, but Rennie turned them

down and chose to enlist with the Marine Corps instead. His older brother David was serving in the U.S. Air Force, and his brother Bobby was already in Vietnam with the Army. Within 2 years Rennie had risen to the rank of corporal and took his duties as a marine very seriously.

Alvin Simpson, a fellow Marine recruit who went through basic training with Rennie and later wrote a memoir about his experiences, said this: "There was no question who could outfight whom; I knew, he knew, and the entire platoon knew Lorenza was the real deal."

Corporal Lorenza Gayles was deployed to Vietnam on June 21, 1966. On September 3 of that year, while on reconnaissance patrol, he was on point with his squad when they walked into an ambush. Corporal Gayles was killed instantly. He was 19 years old.

Several weeks later his parents were presented with Corporal Gayles's posthumously awarded Purple Heart Medal. Corporal Gayles is buried in the Lynch Cemetery in Middlesboro.

"When Rennie was killed in action in Vietnam," the author of this article writes, Mr. President, "I remember my mother saying, 'that poor little Gayles boy.' This is something that I have carried with me my entire life."

That is the author of this article speaking. Forty-five years later, this author's memories still affect him, and I think anyone who reads this piece will be affected too. CPL Lorenza Gayles's life may not have been long, but he made an indelible mark on the people who love and remember him.

I ask unanimous consent that the entire article remembering CPL Lorenza Gayles, a proud marine and a brave Kentucky hero who deserves all of our respect, be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Middlesboro Daily News, Sept. 2, 2011]

FORGOTTEN MARINE

(Editor's Note: This article was written by a Daily News reader who wishes to honor the memory of one of Middlesboro's finest—Lorenza Gayles—yet remain anonymous.)

"Once upon a time in America, when I was colored, two adventurous, young boys, both black, but from very different backgrounds; one boy was from Ky., the other boy hailed from Northern Ohio. The kid from Ky. was killed September 3, 1966, in South Vietnam. His name was Lorenza Gayles, he was twenty years old when he was killed, he was my friend. I loved him then—and I love him more today."

—From "Together We Served" By Alvin L. Simpson.

To most, Rennie Gayles is a public housing development in Middlesboro. To others, he was a son, a brother and a friend; but most importantly to me, he was Corporal Lorenza Gayles, United States Marine. Though I didn't know him, and was only five years old at the time of his death, his life and death have always held a special meaning to me.

Born in Lynch, Ky., on December 28, 1946, he was the fourth child of David and Virginia Gayles. Soon after his birth, the Gayles family moved to Middlesboro where he and his