

Army nominations beginning with Patricia A. Loveless and ending with Jerome M. Benavides, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 29, 2012.

Army nomination of Robert S. Taylor, to be Major.

Army nomination of Casey D. Shuff, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with John B. Hill and ending with Stephen M. Radulski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 12, 2012.

Marine Corps nomination of William J. Wrightington, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Mark A. Mitchell, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Robert F. Emminger and ending with Michael G. Marchand, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 31, 2012.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Paul H. Atterbury and ending with Donald A. Ziolkowski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 1, 2012.

Navy nominations beginning with Jay R. Friedman and ending with Donna Raja, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 29, 2012.

Navy nomination of Steven J. Porter, to be Lieutenant Commander.

*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.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 2223. A bill to address the implementation of certain prohibitions under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. WEBB):

S. 2224. A bill to require the President to report to Congress on issues related to Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2225. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize and improve the Rural Energy for America program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2226. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from awarding any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other financial assistance under section 103 of the Clean Air Act for any program, project, or activity carried out outside the United States, including the territories and possessions of the United States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2227. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand and simplify the credit for employee health insurance expenses of small employers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 2228. A bill to convey certain Federal land to the city of Yerington, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2229. A bill to authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. REED, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 2230. A bill to reduce the deficit by imposing a minimum effective tax rate for high-income taxpayers; read the first time.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PAUL, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2231. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act, to advance the ability of credit unions to promote small business growth and economic development opportunities, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2232. A bill to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, disposing, and improving the efficiency of Federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 404. A resolution recognizing the life and work of war correspondent Marie Colvin and other courageous journalists in war zones; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 405. A resolution authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 25

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 25, a bill to phase out the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 418, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to implement a comprehensive border security plan to combat illegal immigration, drug and alien smuggling, and violent activity in the southwest border of the United States.

S. 1168

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1168, a bill to authorize a national grant program for on-the-job training.

S. 1700

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1700, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to device review determinations and conflicts of interest, and for other purposes.

S. 1763

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1763, a bill to decrease the incidence of violent crimes against Indian women, to strengthen the capacity of Indian tribes to exercise the sovereign authority of Indian tribes to respond to violent crimes committed against Indian women, and to ensure that perpetrators of violent crimes committed against Indian women are held accountable for that criminal behavior, and for other purposes.

S. 1824

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1824, a bill to amend the securities laws to establish certain thresholds for shareholder registration under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1925

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1933

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1933, a bill to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies.

S. 1935

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1935, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the March of Dimes Foundation.

S. 2010

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2010, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 2137

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2137, a bill to prohibit the issuance of a waiver for commissioning or enlistment in the Armed Forces for any individual convicted of a felony sexual offense.

S. 2159

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2159, a bill to extend the authorization of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program through fiscal year 2017.

S. 2165

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2165, a bill to enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2177

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2177, a bill to strengthen the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

S. 2205

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2205, a bill to prohibit funding to negotiate a United Nations Arms Trade Treaty that restricts the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens.

S. 2215

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2215, a bill to create jobs in the United States by increasing United States exports to Africa by at least 200 percent in real dollar value within 10 years, and for other purposes.

S. 2219

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2219, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2221, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from finalizing a proposed rule under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 relating to child labor.

S. 2222

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2222, a bill to require the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to take certain actions to reduce excessive speculation in energy markets.

S. RES. 380

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 380, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

S. RES. 402

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 402, a resolution condemning Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army for committing crimes against humanity and mass atrocities, and supporting ongoing efforts by the United States Government and governments in central Africa to remove Joseph Kony and Lord's Resistance Army commanders from the battlefield.

AMENDMENT NO. 1945

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1945 intended to be proposed to S. 2038, an original bill to prohibit Members of Congress and employees of Congress from using nonpublic information derived from their official positions for personal benefit, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2225. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize and improve the Rural Energy for America program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. FRANKEN. I rise to introduce the Rural Energy for America Program Reauthorization Act, along with my friend Senator HARKIN from Iowa.

Farmers and rural businesses form the backbone of this country, and rural communities are particularly crucial to Minnesota's culture and economy. In fact, in my State, one out of every five jobs is related to the agricultural economy.

We all rely on farmers for our food. It is thanks to farmers that when we go to the grocery store there is an abundance of fresh food at cheaper prices than in many other countries. While family farmers and rural businesses work hard to keep our shelves stocked, they do so under difficult conditions. Weather and disease can wipe out a crop, profit margins can be small, and fluctuating market prices for their products can be devastating to a family farmer.

Farm work is also very energy intensive, so when energy and gas prices rise, farmers have to make tough choices. High energy prices mean laying off farm workers, increasing crop prices, if they can, and squeezed budgets all around. To make matters worse, many of our government programs that help manage rising energy prices are under attack and on the budget chopping block.

REAP, or the Rural Energy for America Program, can help farmers manage the cost of energy. The bill I am introducing today will reauthorize this important farm bill program that will help farmers and rural small businesses continue to cut energy bills and generate electricity on site.

Let me go through a few examples of what REAP projects can look like. It is putting solar panels on barns. It is wind turbines in fields. There are wind turbines all over Minnesota. It is anaerobic digesters on dairy farms which actually use waste to create methane gas and electricity. It means energy efficiency improvements in poultry houses and geothermal pumps in factories. It means agricultural producers and businesses can reduce their costs and generate an additional stream of income. It means rural America can make high-tech investments, create jobs, and lead the world in producing clean energy. I know in the Presiding Officer's State of New Hampshire there is tremendous biomass and potential for energy biomass and the low carbon footprint that represents.

The Rural Energy for America Program is a modest program, but it is a wise investment that effectively leverages private funds. Since it was