

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: N/A.
3. Children and Spouses: N/A.
4. Parents: None.
5. Grandparents: None.
6. Brothers and Spouses: None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

\*Kenneth Merten, of Virginia, 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 Croatia.

Nominee: Kenneth H. Merteno.

Post: Croatia.

(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, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Caryl Merten & Elisabeth Merten: None.
4. Parents: Edryne Merten: None.
5. Grandparents: N/A: None.
6. Brothers and Spouses: N/A: None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A: None.

\*Mark A. Pekala, of Maryland, 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 Latvia.

Nominee: Mark A. Pekala.

Post: U.S. Ambassador to Latvia.

(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, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Maria R. Pekala: None.
3. Children and Spouses: Julia C. Pekala: None; Nora M. Pekala: None.
4. Parents: Anne J. Pekala—deceased, Henry S. Pekala—deceased.
5. Grandparents: John (Jan) Pekala—deceased; Mary (Maria) Pekala—deceased; Michael Virbicki—deceased; Aleksandra Virbicki—deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Michael A. Pekala: None; Lori Pekala (spouse): None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: Karen Pekala: \$500.00, 9/18/2008, Barack Obama via "Obama for America"; Judeth Hawkins: None; David Hawkins (spouse): None; Lisbeth O'Malley: None.

\*Richard B. Norland, of Iowa, 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 Georgia.

Nominee: Richard B. Norland.

Post: Ambassador to Georgia.

(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, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Mary E. Hartnett, \$250, 9/9/2008, Obama for America; \$500, 10/28/2008, Obama for America.
3. Children and Spouses: Daniel Norland (son) and Jennifer Barkley (spouse): \$200, 2008, Obama for America; Kathleen Norland (daughter): None.
4. Parents: Donald R. Norland—deceased; Patricia B. Norland: None.

5. Grandparents: E. Norman Norland—deceased; Aletta Norland—deceased; August Bamman—deceased; Emily Bamman—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: David Norland (brother): \$1,000, 04/01/11, Pawlenty for President Exploratory Committee; \$500, 10/29/10, Republican National Committee; \$250, 01/13/10, Scott Brown for U.S. Senate; \$250, 10/13/09, McDonnell for Governor; \$2,300, 09/09/08, McCain Victory 2008, \$1,300, 01/07/08, Romney for President, Inc.; \$1,000, 06/14/07, Romney for President, Inc; Susan Norland (spouse): None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Patricia D. Norland: None.

\*Jeffrey D. Levine, of California, 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 Estonia.

Nominee: Jeffrey D. Levine.

Post: Ambassador.

(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: \$200, 2008, Obama for President Campaign.
2. Spouse: Janie L. Keeler (joint contribution with myself as listed above\*).
3. Children and Spouses: Nikolai David Levine (minor child—None).
4. Parents: Evelyn Bender: None.
5. Grandparents: deceased.
6. Brothers and Spouses: Glenn Levine, None.
7. Sisters and Spouses: None.

\*Sara Margalit Aviel, of California, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

\*Frederick D. Barton, of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations).

\*Frederick D. Barton, of Maine, to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization.

\*Linda Thomas-Greenfield, of Louisiana, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

\*Carlos Pascual, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Energy Resources).

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Olga Ford and ending with Margaret Shu Teasdale, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 2, 2012.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Terry L. Murphree and ending with Andrew J. Wylie, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 2, 2012.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Morgan D. Haas and ending with Stephen L. Wixom, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 29, 2012.

\*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. PRYOR:

S. 2238. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require a regulation to limit the aggregate positions of nontraditional bona fide hedgers in petroleum and related products; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2239. A bill to direct the head of each agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 2240. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the allowance for bonus depreciation for certain business assets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. COONS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2241. A bill to ensure that veterans have the information and protections they require to make informed decisions regarding use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. Res. 407. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that executives of the bankrupt firm MF Global should not be rewarded with bonuses while customer money is still missing; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 339

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) 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. 418

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri

(Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) 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. 798

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 798, a bill to provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes.

S. 1299

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) 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 Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1301, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2012 through 2015 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1316, a bill to prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending.

S. 1421

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1421, a bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 1591

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Raoul Wallenberg, in recognition of his achievements and heroic actions during the Holocaust.

S. 1629

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1629, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 1696

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1696, a bill to improve the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for coverage under the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain disabled veterans for travel for certain special disabilities rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to establish the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Management Area, to designate certain Federal land as wilderness, and to improve the management of noxious weeds in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, and for other purposes.

S. 1945

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1945, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

S. 2051

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2051, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans.

S. 2112

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents.

S. 2113

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2113, a bill to empower the Food and Drug Administration to ensure a clear and effective pathway that will encourage innovative products to benefit patients and improve public health.

S. 2120

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2120, a bill to require the lender or servicer of a home mortgage upon a request by the homeowner for a short sale, to make a prompt decision whether to allow the sale.

S. 2134

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2134, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, care, and rec-

ognition of military working dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 2139

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2139, a bill to enhance security, increase accountability, and improve the contracting of the Federal Government for overseas contingency operations, and for other purposes.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to modify the period used to calculate certain unemployment rates, to encourage the development of business incubators, and for other purposes.

S. 2148

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2148, a bill to amend the Toxic Substance Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

S. 2159

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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 Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) 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. 2204

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2204, a bill to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies and promote renewable energy and energy conservation.

S. 2205

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) 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. 2213

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2213, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor 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 Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) 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. 2226

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2232

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 2233

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2233, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to stimulate international tourism to the United States.

S.J. RES. 38

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to the certification of nonimmigrant workers in temporary or seasonal nonagricultural employment.

S. RES. 344

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 344, a resolution supporting the democratic aspirations of the Nicaraguan people and calling attention to the deterioration of constitutional order in Nicaragua.

S. RES. 356

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 356, a resolution expressing support for the people of Tibet.

S. RES. 395

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 395, a resolution expressing the

sense of the Senate in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the NATO summit to be held in Chicago, Illinois from May 20 through 21, 2012.

S. RES. 397

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 397, a resolution promoting peace and stability in Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 402

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) 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. 1952

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1952 intended to be proposed to S. 2204, a bill to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies and promote renewable energy and energy conservation.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. COONS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2241. A bill to ensure that veterans have the information and protections they require to make informed decisions regarding use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am proud to introduce the GI Bill Consumer Awareness Act of 2012.

My colleagues, including my fellow Veterans' Affairs Committee Members Senators AKAKA, BEGICH, BROWN of Ohio and ROCKEFELLER, and my Senate colleagues Senators COONS, HARKIN, INOUE, LEAHY, and WHITEHOUSE, join me in introducing this important legislation. I appreciate their continued support of our Nation's veterans.

With the end of the war in Iraq and the drawdown in Afghanistan, more servicemembers are separating from the military to start their civilian careers. When my father came home from war, the GI Bill helped him go to college. He used that education to get a job, one that gave him pride. That's

the opportunity we must provide those returning from today's wars.

America's investment in its newest generation of veterans is tremendous.

In 2012, over 590,000 servicemembers, veterans, and other beneficiaries are expected to enroll in educational institutions using the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VA is expected to spend over \$9 billion dollars in 2012 on Post-9/11 GI Bill payments and over \$2 billion for the nearly 400,000 beneficiaries of the VA's other education programs. Despite this level of support, those returning from today's wars are unable to use VA educational benefits to their full potential. Today, that ends.

At its heart, the GI Bill Consumer Awareness Act would take significant steps to make certain that GI Bill beneficiaries have access to information to help them make informed decisions about the educational institutions they attend, so they get the most out of this tremendous benefit. This bill would also require VA and DoD to develop a joint policy to curb aggressive recruiting and misleading marketing aimed at servicemembers and veterans so they can make a decision on a school without bad actors exerting unfair influence on them.

Many servicemembers and veterans attend educational institutions that do not suit their intended goals. This shouldn't be the case. Servicemembers and veterans should enroll in educational institutions which put them on the path to a successful career, or allow them to access more post-secondary education opportunities. For many years we have provided VA educational beneficiaries with billions of dollars in educational assistance, but have given them little to no assistance in deciding where to use these benefits. This bill would put an end to that.

The GI Bill Consumer Awareness Act calls for disclosure of, among other data, statistics related to student loan debt, transferability of credits earned, veteran enrollment, program preparation for licensing and certification, and job placement rates, heard from many veterans that this type of information would be very useful to them as they make decisions about where to enroll.

My bill would also require VA to provide educational beneficiaries with easy-to-understand information about schools that are approved for GI Bill benefit use. Collecting data for data's sake is not the goal here. I want VA to use this information to develop a report card of sorts that allows veterans to see how one school compares against another to help them decide which school is right for them.

We must acknowledge the differences between student veterans and their civilian classmates. Unlike their classmates, servicemembers and veterans need to know what services institutions provide to ease their difficult transition to civilian life. Some educational institutions provide more support than others.

The University of Washington, one of the oldest public universities in my