

Snowe	Toomey	Webb
Stabenow	Udall (CO)	Whitehouse
Tester	Udall (NM)	Wicker
Thune	Warner	

NAYS—1

Blunt

NOT VOTING—7

Franken	Rockefeller	Wyden
Kirk	Sanders	
Merkley	Vitter	

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the previous order with respect to treaty document 112-7, the vote on ratification will occur at 2:15 Tuesday, tomorrow, December 4, with all the provisions of the previous orders remaining in effect. What this does is rather than having the vote at noon on the disability treaty, we would have it after our caucus.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I object. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid on the table.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. We hope cloture will be voted now. We have disposed of 119 amendments to this bill. I talked to the majority leader, and if we do vote cloture tonight, which of course Senator McCAIN and I hope we will, we are still going to try to clear some additional amendments using the same process we have used up to now. We would hope we could clear some additional amendments right up to the time of final passage. Hopefully we can get to final passage tomorrow at some point.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 3254, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Carl Levin, Kay R. Hagan, Barbara A. Mikulski, Tom Udall, Jeff Merkley, Al Franken, Tom Harkin, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Bingaman, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Amy Klobuchar, Max Baucus, Michael F. Bennet, Mark Begich, Patty Murray.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on S. 3254, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Akaka	Enzi	McConnell
Alexander	Feinstein	Menendez
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Baucus	Grassley	Murkowski
Begich	Hagan	Murray
Bennet	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Hatch	Nelson (FL)
Blumenthal	Heller	Paul
Blunt	Hoeven	Portman
Boozman	Hutchison	Pryor
Boxer	Inhofe	Reed
Brown (MA)	Inouye	Reid
Brown (OH)	Isakson	Risch
Burr	Johanns	Roberts
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Cardin	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Carper	Kerry	Sessions
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Chambliss	Kohl	Shelby
Coats	Kyl	Snowe
Coburn	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Lautenberg	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Conrad	Lee	Toomey
Coons	Levin	Udall (CO)
Corker	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Cornyn	Lugar	Warner
Crapo	Manchin	Webb
DeMint	McCain	Whitehouse
Durbin	McCaskill	Wicker

NOT VOTING—7

Franken	Rockefeller	Wyden
Kirk	Sanders	
Merkley	Vitter	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 93, the nays are 0. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative the motion is agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider that vote.

Mr. McCAIN. I move to lay the motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2923, AS MODIFIED, 2943, 2997, AS MODIFIED, 3023, 3121, AS MODIFIED, 3142, 3144, 3172, AS MODIFIED, 3276, 3298, 3278, AS MODIFIED, 2996, AND 3047, AS MODIFIED

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I call up a list of 13 amendments which have been cleared by myself and Senator McCAIN: Coats amendment No. 2923, as modified by the changes at the desk; Webb amendment No. 2943; Casey amendment No. 2997, as modified by the changes at the desk; Cardin amendment No. 3023; Wicker amendment No. 3121, as modified by the changes at the desk; Portman amendment No. 3142; Webb amendment No. 3144; Corker amendment No. 3172, as modified by the changes at the desk; Lieberman amendment No. 3276; Lautenberg amendment No. 3298; Blunt amendment No. 3278, as modified by the changes at the desk; Rockefeller amendment No. 2996; and Reid of Nevada amendment No. 3047, as modified by the changes at the desk.

Mr. McCAIN. They have been cleared by our side.

Mr. LEVIN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider these amendments en bloc, the amendments be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2923, AS MODIFIED

At the end of Subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 314. REPORT ON PROPERTY DISPOSALS AND ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST LOCAL COMMUNITIES AROUND CLOSED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the disposition of any not yet completed closure of an active duty military installation since 1988 in the United States that was not subject to the property disposal provisions contained in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note).

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The status of property described in subsection (a) that is yet to be disposed of.

(2) An assessment of the environmental conditions of, and plans and costs for environmental remediation for, each such property.

(3) The anticipated schedule for the completion of the disposal of each such property.

(4) An estimate of the costs, and a description of additional potential future financial liability or other impacts on the Department of Defense, if the authorities provided by Congress for military installations closed under defense base closure and realignment (BRAC) are extended to military installations closed outside the defense base closure and realignment process and for which property has yet to be disposed

(5) Such recommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate for additional authorities to assist the Department in expediting the disposal of property at closed military installations in order to facilitate economic redevelopment for local communities.

(c) **MILITARY INSTALLATION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “military installation” means a base, camp, post, station, yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, which is located within any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or Guam.

AMENDMENT NO. 2943

(Purpose: To make Department of Defense law enforcement officers eligible under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act)

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SECTION 1084. AMENDMENTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY PROVISIONS OF TITLE 18.

Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 926B—

(A) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “or apprehension under section 807(b) of title 10, United States Code (article 7(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice)” after “arrest”;

(B) in subsection (d), by striking “as a law enforcement officer” and inserting “that identifies the employee as a police officer or law enforcement officer of the agency”;

(C) in subsection (f), by inserting “or apprehension under section 807(b) of title 10, United States Code (article 7(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice)” after “arrest”;

(2) in section 926C—

(A) in subsection (c)(2), by inserting “or apprehension under section 807(b) of title 10, United States Code (article 7(b) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice)” after “arrest”;

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “that indicates” and inserting “that identifies the person as having been employed as a police officer or law enforcement officer and indicates”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “that identifies the person as having been employed as a police officer or law enforcement officer” after “officer”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2997, AS MODIFIED

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1048. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISOR PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 58 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1144 the following new section:

“§ 1144a. Transition Assistance Advisors

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish as part of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) a Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) program to provide professionals in each State to serve as statewide points of contact to assist members of the armed forces in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(b) NUMBER OF ADVISORS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the minimum number of Transition Assistance Advisors in each State is as follows:

“(1) During the period beginning 180 days before the commencement of a contingency

operation (or, if later, as soon before as is otherwise practicable) and ending 180 days after the conclusion of such contingency operation—

“(A) in the case of a State with fewer than 1,500 members of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States residing in the State, not less than one Transition Assistance Advisor; and

“(B) in the case of a State with 1,500 or more members of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States who reside in such State, not less than one Transition Assistance Advisor for each 1,500 members of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States who reside in such State.

“(2) At any time not covered by paragraph (1)—

“(A) in the case of a State with fewer than 5,000 members of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States residing in the State, not less than one Transition Assistance Advisor; and

“(B) in the case of a State with 5,000 or more members of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States who reside in such State, not less than one Transition Assistance Advisor for each 1,500 members of the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States who reside in such State.

“(c) DUTIES.—The duties of a Transition Assistance Advisor includes the following:

“(1) To assist with the creation and execution of individual transition plans for members of the National Guard described in subsection (d)(2) and their families for the reintegration of such members into civilian life.

“(2) To provide employment support services to members of the National Guard and their families, including assistance with discovering employment opportunities and identifying and obtaining assistance from programs within and outside of the Federal Government.

“(3) Provide information on relocation, health care, mental health care, and financial support services available to members of the National Guard or their families from the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other Federal, State, and local agencies.

“(4) Provide information on educational support services available to members of the National Guard, including Post-9/11 Educational Assistance under chapter 33 of title 38.

“(d) TRANSITION PLANS.—(1) Each individual plan created under subsection (c)(1) for a member of the National Guard described in paragraph (2) shall include the following:

“(A) A plan for the transition of the member to life in the civilian world, including with respect to employment, education, and health care.

“(B) A description of the transition services that the member and the member’s family will need to achieve their transition objectives, including information on any forms that such member will need to fill out to be eligible for such services.

“(C) A point of contact for each agency or entity that can provide the transition services described in subparagraph (B).

“(2) A member of the National Guard described in this paragraph is any member of the National Guard who has served on active duty in the armed forces for a period of more than 180 days.

“(e) FUNDING.—Amounts for the program established under subsection (a) for a fiscal

year shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated for operations and maintenance for the National Guard for that fiscal year.

“(f) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘State’ means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any territory of the United States.”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 58 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1144 the following new item:

“1144a. Transition Assistance Advisors.”.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report setting forth a description of the efforts of the Secretary to implement the requirements of section 1144A of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

AMENDMENT NO. 3023

(Purpose: To include the Coast Guard in the requirements relating to hazing in the Armed Forces)

On page 139, line 3, add at the end the following: “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the committees of Congress referred to in the preceding sentence a report on hazing in the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, and, for purposes of such report, the Armed Forces shall include the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3121, AS MODIFIED

At the end of subtitle E of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2844. ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS FROM CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO FUNDING FOR DATA SERVERS AND CENTERS.

Section 2867(c) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (division B of Public Law 112-81; 125 Stat. 1706; 10 U.S.C. 2223a note) is amended—

(1) by striking “EXCEPTION.—The Chief” and inserting the following: “EXCEPTIONS.—

“(1) EXEMPTION AUTHORITY.—The Chief”;

and

(2) by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Chief Information Officer of the Department may exempt from the applicability of this section research, development, test, and evaluation programs that use authorization of appropriations for the High Performance Computing Modernization Program (Program Element 0603461A), if the Chief Information Officer determines that the exemption is in the best interest of national security.”

AMENDMENT NO. 3142

(Purpose: To require a report on Department of Defense support for United States diplomatic security)

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1064. REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC SECURITY.

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State, submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the ongoing Department of Defense review of defense support of United States diplomatic security.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include, but not be limited

to, such findings and recommendations as the Secretaries consider appropriate with respect to the following:

(1) Department of Defense authorities, directives, and guidelines in support of diplomatic security.

(2) Interagency processes and procedures to identify, validate, and resource diplomatic security support required from the Department of Defense.

(3) Department of Defense roles, missions, and resources required to fulfill requirements for United States diplomatic security, including, but not limited to the following:

(A) Marine Corps Embassy Security Guard detachments.

(B) Training and advising host nation security forces for diplomatic security.

(C) Intelligence collection to prevent and respond to threats to diplomatic security.

(D) Security assessments of diplomatic missions.

(E) Support of emergency action planning.

(F) Rapid response forces to respond to threats to diplomatic security.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

AMENDMENT NO. 3144

(Purpose: To amend section 704 of title 18 United States Code)

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—STOLEN VALOR ACT

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Stolen Valor Act of 2012”.

SEC. 5002. FINDINGS.

Congress find the following:

(1) Because of the great respect in which military service and military awards are rightfully held by the public, false claims of receiving such medals or serving in the military are especially likely to be harmful and material to employers, voters in deciding to whom paid elective positions should be entrusted, and in the award of contracts.

(2) Military service and military awards are held in such great respect that public and private decisions are correctly influenced by claims of heroism.

(3) False claims of military service or military heroism are an especially noxious means of obtaining something of value because they are particularly likely to cause tangible harm to victims of fraud.

(4) False claims of military service or the receipt of military awards, if believed, are especially likely to dispose people favorably toward the speaker.

(5) False claims of military service or the receipt of military awards are particularly likely to be material and cause people to part with money or property. Even if such claims are unsuccessful in bringing about this result, they still constitute attempted fraud.

(6) False claims of military service or the receipt of military awards that are made to secure appointment to the board of an organization are likely to cause harm to such organization through their obtaining the services of an individual who does not bring to that organization what he or she claims, and whose falsehood, if discovered, would cause the organization's donors concern that the organization's board might not manage money honestly.

(7) The easily verifiable nature of false claims regarding military service or the receipt of military awards, the relative infrequency of such claims, and the fact that false claims of having served in the military or received such awards are rightfully condemned across the political spectrum, it is especially likely that any law prohibiting such false claims would not be enforced selectively.

(8) Congress may make criminal the false claim of military service or the receipt of military awards based on its powers under article I, section 8, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States, to raise and support armies, and article I, section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States, to enact necessary and proper measures to carry into execution that power.

SEC. 5003. MILITARY MEDALS OR DECORATIONS.

Section 704 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 704. Military medals or decorations

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly purchases, attempts to purchase, solicits for purchase, mails, ships, imports, exports, produces blank certificates of receipt for, manufactures, sells, attempts to sell, advertises for sale, trades, barter, or exchanges for anything of value any decoration or medal authorized by Congress for the Armed Forces of the United States, or any of the service medals or badges awarded to the members of such forces, or the ribbon, button, or rosette of any such badge, decoration, or medal, or any colorable imitation thereof, except when authorized under regulations made pursuant to law, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both.

“(b) FALSE CLAIMS TO THE RECEIPT OF MILITARY DECORATIONS, MEDALS, OR RIBBONS AND FALSE CLAIMS RELATING TO MILITARY SERVICE IN ORDER TO SECURE A TANGIBLE BENEFIT OR PERSONAL GAIN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, with the intent of securing a tangible benefit or personal gain, knowingly, falsely, and materially represents himself or herself through any written or oral communication (including a resume) to have served in the Armed Forces of the United States or to have been awarded any decoration, medal, ribbon, or other device authorized by Congress or pursuant to Federal law for the Armed Forces of the United States, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 6 months, or both.

“(2) TANGIBLE BENEFIT OR PERSONAL GAIN.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘tangible benefit or personal gain’ includes—

“(A) a benefit relating to military service provided by the Federal Government or a State or local government;

“(B) public or private employment;

“(C) financial remuneration;

“(D) an effect on the outcome of a criminal or civil court proceeding;

“(E) election of the speaker to paying office; and

“(F) appointment to a board or leadership position of a non-profit organization.

“(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘Armed Forces of the United States’ means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including the reserve components named in section 10101 of title 10.”.

SEC. 5004. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this division, any amendment made by this division, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of the provisions of this division, the amendments made by this division, and the application of such provisions or amendments to any person or circumstance shall not be affected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3172, AS MODIFIED

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1233. REPORTS ON SYRIA.

(a) REPORT ON OPPOSITION GROUPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report describing in detail all the known

opposition groups, both independent and state-sponsored, inside and outside of Syria, operating directly or indirectly to oppose the Government of Syria.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) An assessment of the current military capacity of opposition forces.

(B) An assessment of the ability of opposition forces inside and outside of Syria to establish military and political activities impacting Syria, together with a practicable timetable for accomplishing these objectives.

(C) An assessment of the ability of any of the opposition groups to establish effective military and political control in Syria.

(D) A description of the composition and political agenda of each of the known opposition groups inside and outside of Syria, and an assessment of the degree to which such groups represent the views of the people of Syria as a whole.

(E) A description of the financial resources currently available to opposition groups and known potential sources of continued financing.

(F) An assessment of the relationship between each of the Syrian opposition groups and the Muslim Brotherhood, al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, and any other groups that have promoted an agenda that would negatively impact United States national interests.

(G) An assessment of the impact of support from the United States and challenges to providing such additional support to opposition forces on the factors discussed in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

(b) REPORT ON WEAPONS STOCKPILES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence and Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress an assessment of the size and security of conventional and non-conventional weapons stockpiles in Syria.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description of who has or may have access to the stockpiles.

(B) A description of the sources and types of weapons flowing from outside Syria to both government and opposition forces.

(C) A description of U.S. and international efforts to prevent the proliferation of conventional, biological, chemical, and other types of weapons in Syria.

(c) REPORT ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO SYRIA'S POLITICAL OPPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on all the support provided to opposition political forces in Syria.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A full description of the current technical assistance democracy programs conducted by the Department of State and United States Agency for International Development to support the political opposition in Syria.

(B) A full summary of the communications equipment that is currently being provided to the political opposition in Syria, including a description of the entities that have received and that will continue to receive such equipment.

(C) A description of any additional activities the United States plans to undertake in support of the political opposition in Syria.

(D) A description of the funding levels currently dedicated to support the political opposition in Syria.

(E) A description of obstacles and challenges to providing additional support to Syria's political opposition.

(d) FORM.—The reports required by this section may be submitted in a classified form.

AMENDMENT NO. 3276

(Purpose: To authorize National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor free persons and slaves who fought for independence, liberty, and justice for all during the American Revolution)

At the end of division A, add the following:
TITLE XVIII—MEMORIAL TO SLAVES AND FREE BLACK PERSONS WHO SERVED IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

SEC. 1801. FINDING.

Congress finds that the contributions of free persons and slaves who fought during the American Revolution were of preeminent historical and lasting significance to the United States, as required by section 8908(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 1802. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Federal land” means the parcel of land—

(i) identified as “Area I”; and

(ii) depicted on the map numbered 869/86501B and dated June 24, 2003.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “Federal land” does not include the Reserve (as defined in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

(2) MEMORIAL.—The term “memorial” means the memorial authorized to be established under section 3(a).

SEC. 1803. MEMORIAL AUTHORIZATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—In accordance with subsections (b) and (c), National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. may establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the more than 5,000 courageous slaves and free Black persons who served as soldiers and sailors or provided civilian assistance during the American Revolution.

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. may not use Federal funds to establish the memorial.

(c) APPLICABLE LAW.—National Mall Liberty Fund D.C. shall establish the memorial in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 1804. REPEAL OF JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

Public Law 99-558 (110 Stat. 3144) and Public Law 100-265 (102 Stat. 39) are repealed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3298

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress on health care for retired members of the uniformed services)

At the end of subtitle A of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 704. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HEALTH CARE FOR RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) members of the uniformed services and their families endure unique and extraordinary demands and make extraordinary sacrifices over the course of 20 to 30 years of service in protecting freedom for all Americans, as do those who have been medically retired due to the hardships of military service; and

(2) access to quality health care services is an earned benefit during retirement in acknowledgment of their contributions of service and sacrifice.

AMENDMENT NO. 3278, AS MODIFIED

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1084. MODERNIZATION OF ABSENTEE BALLOT MAIL DELIVERY SYSTEM.

(a) It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should partner with the United States Postal Service (USPS) to modernize the USPS mail delivery system to address problems with the delivery of absentee ballots and ensure the effective and efficient delivery of such ballots, including through the establishment of a centralized mail forwarding system to ensure that blank ballots are properly redirected.

AMENDMENT NO. 2996

(Purpose: To authorize certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes)

Beginning on page 590, strike line 11 and all that follows through page 595, line 7, and insert the following:

SEC. 3501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Maritime Administration Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013”.

SEC. 3502. CONTAINER-ON-BARGE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall assess the potential for using container-on-barge transportation in short sea transportation (as such term is defined in section 55605 of title 46, United States Code).

(b) FACTORS.—In conducting the assessment under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consider—

(1) the environmental benefits of increasing container-on-barge movements in short sea transportation;

(2) the regional differences in the use of short sea transportation;

(3) the existing programs established at coastal and Great Lakes ports for establishing awareness of deep sea shipping operations;

(4) the mechanisms necessary to ensure that implementation of a plan under subsection (c) will not be inconsistent with anti-trust laws; and

(5) the potential frequency of container-on-barge service at short sea transportation ports.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The assessment under subsection (a) may include recommendations for a plan to increase awareness of the potential for use of container-on-barge transportation.

(d) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Administrator shall submit the assessment required under this section to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3503. SHORT SEA TRANSPORTATION.

(a) PURPOSE.—Section 55601 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “landside congestion.” and inserting “landside congestion or to promote short sea transportation.”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “coastal corridors” and inserting “coastal corridors or to promote short sea transportation”;

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “that the project may” and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting “that the project uses documented vessels and—

“(1) mitigates landside congestion; or

“(2) promotes short sea transportation.”;

and

(4) in subsection (f), by striking “shall” each place it appears and inserting “may”.

(b) DOCUMENTATION.—Section 55605 of title 46, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “by vessel” and inserting “by a documented vessel”.

SEC. 3504. MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 503 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 50307. Maritime environmental and technical assistance

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation may engage in the environmental study, research, development, assessment, and deployment of emerging marine technologies and practices related to the marine transportation system through the use of public vessels under the control of the Maritime Administration or private vessels under United States registry, and through partnerships and cooperative efforts with academic, public, private, and non-governmental entities and facilities.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Transportation may—

“(1) identify, study, evaluate, test, demonstrate, or improve emerging marine technologies and practices that are likely to achieve environmental improvements by—

“(A) reducing air emissions, water emissions, or other ship discharges;

“(B) increasing fuel economy or the use of alternative fuels and alternative energy (including the use of shore power); or

“(C) controlling aquatic invasive species; and

“(2) coordinate with the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Coast Guard, and other Federal, State, local, or tribal agencies, as appropriate.

“(c) COORDINATION.—Coordination under subsection (b)(2) may include—

“(1) activities that are associated with the development or approval of validation and testing regimes; and

“(2) certification or validation of emerging technologies or practices that demonstrate significant environmental benefits.

“(d) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Transportation may accept gifts, or enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, or other agreements with academic, public, private, and non-governmental entities to carry out the activities authorized under subsection (a).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 503 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 50306 the following:

“50307. Maritime environmental and technical assistance.”.

SEC. 3505. IDENTIFICATION OF ACTIONS TO ENABLE QUALIFIED UNITED STATES FLAG CAPACITY TO MEET NATIONAL DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

Section 501(b) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “When the head” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—When the head”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DETERMINATIONS.—The Maritime Administrator shall—

“(A) for each determination referred to in paragraph (1), identify any actions that could be taken to enable qualified United States flag capacity to meet national defense requirements;

“(B) provide notice of each such determination to the Secretary of Transportation and the head of the agency referred to in paragraph (1) for which the determination is made; and

“(C) publish each such determination on the Internet Web site of the Department of Transportation not later than 48 hours after notice of the determination is provided to the Secretary of Transportation.

“(3) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency referred to in paragraph (1) shall notify the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate—

“(i) of any request for a waiver of the navigation or vessel-inspection laws under this section not later than 48 hours after receiving such a request; and

“(ii) of the issuance of any such waiver not later than 48 hours after such issuance.

“(B) CONTENTS.—Such head of an agency shall include in each notification under subparagraph (A)(ii) an explanation of—

“(i) the reasons the waiver is necessary; and

“(ii) the reasons actions referred to in paragraph (2)(A) are not feasible.”.

SEC. 3506. MARITIME WORKFORCE STUDY.

(a) TRAINING STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the training needs of the maritime workforce.

(b) STUDY COMPONENTS.—The study shall—

(1) analyze the impact of maritime training requirements imposed by domestic and international regulations and conventions, companies, and government agencies that charter or operate vessels;

(2) evaluate the ability of the United States maritime training infrastructure to meet the needs of the maritime industry;

(3) identify trends in maritime training;

(4) compare the training needs of United States mariners with the vocational training and educational assistance programs available from Federal agencies to evaluate the ability of Federal programs to meet the training needs of United States mariners;

(5) include recommendations to enhance the capabilities of the United States maritime training infrastructure; and

(6) include recommendations to assist United States mariners and those entering the maritime profession to achieve the required training.

(c) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, the Comptroller General shall submit a report on the results of the study to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 3507. MARITIME ADMINISTRATION VESSEL RECYCLING CONTRACT AWARD PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this title, the Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office shall conduct an assessment of the source selection procedures and practices used to award the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet vessel recycling contracts. The Comptroller General shall assess the process, procedures, and practices used for the Maritime Administration's qualification of vessel recycling facilities. The Comptroller General shall report the findings to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The assessment under subsection (a) shall include a review of whether the Maritime Administration's contract source selection procedures and practices are consistent with law, the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), and Federal best practices associated with making source selection decisions.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making the assessment under subsection (a), the Comptroller General may consider any other aspect of the Maritime Administration's vessel recycling

process that the Comptroller General deems appropriate to review.

SEC. 3508. REQUIREMENT FOR BARGE DESIGN.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall complete the design for a containerized, articulated barge, as identified in the dual-use vessel study carried out by the Administrator and the Secretary of Defense, that is able to utilize roll-on/roll-off or load-on/load-off technology in marine highway maritime commerce.

SEC. 3509. ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE SURPLUS TRAINING EQUIPMENT.

Section 51103(b)(2)(C) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or a training institution that is an instrumentality of a State, Territory, or Commonwealth of the United States or District of Columbia or a unit of local government thereof” after “a non-profit training institution”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3047, AS MODIFIED

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 643. CLARIFICATION OF COMPUTATION OF COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION FOR CHAPTER 61 DISABILITY RETIREES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1413a(b)(3) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “shall be reduced by the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under chapter 61 of this title exceeds” both places it appears and inserting “may not, when combined with the amount of retired pay payable to the retiree after any such reduction under sections 5304 and 5305 of title 38, cause the total of such combined payment to exceed”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2013, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the floor and thank all our colleagues for their cooperation. We will continue until vote on final passage, which we expect tomorrow, to clear additional amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, we continue, after a few hours' pause today because of the objection of one Senator by long distance. But I am very confident, with the cooperation of our colleagues, we can finish this amendment process tomorrow, and I hope we can have the cooperation of all our colleagues.

We have tried very hard to make sure every amendment gets consideration and is brought up. We have now approved well over 100 amendments, and I think most Members have had at least one amendment approved so far. So I hope we can continue the cooperation and we can finish this bill tomorrow.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Tomorrow, a vote is scheduled on the Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and I would like to take a few minutes to talk about the upcoming vote.

The first thing I think we ought to understand is this is not anybody's treaty. It is not President Obama's treaty. It is not JOHN KERRY's treaty. It is not even Bob Dole's treaty, although he certainly is the person who has been deeply involved.

The vote on the treaty is the right thing to do on its merits. It is important to note a list of veterans groups in support.

I have not forgotten that 36 Republicans signed a letter opposing consideration of any treaty during the lameduck, but there is no reason we shouldn't have a vote. The letter says they would oppose consideration, but we did have the motion to proceed. Some may be worried about passing a treaty in the lameduck session. The argument has no basis in the Constitution or Senate practice. Since the 1970s alone, the Senate has approved treaties during lameduck sessions a total of 19 times. There is nothing special or different about lameduck sessions. So I would like to address a few of the misconceptions about the treaty that I keep hearing.

It is true that the treaty establishes a committee, but that committee has exceedingly limited powers. It can review reports submitted by countries on the steps they have taken to implement the convention, and it can make nonbinding recommendations for additional steps, and that is it, nothing else. It can't require our Federal or State governments or courts to take any action. There is no threat to the United States or our sovereignty from the committee.

With respect to abortion, this is a disabilities treaty. It has nothing to do with abortion and doesn't change our law on abortion in any way. Trying to turn this into an abortion debate is wrong on substance and bad politics.

I have heard people say that ratifying the disabilities convention would take decisions out of parents' hands and let the U.N. or the Federal Government decide what is best for our children. That is just wrong. The treaty doesn't give the Federal Government or any State government new powers with regard to children with disabilities. The treaty cannot be used as a basis for a lawsuit in State or Federal court.

Former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh made this crystal clear in his testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and in every conversation that I have had with him. I wouldn't support the treaty if it were any other way.

So let's take a step back and look at how this looks if America rejects this treaty. China has joined. Russia has joined. We are the country that set the standards on rights of the disabled. We want everybody to play by international rules. We lose credibility if we turn around and refuse to participate

in a treaty that merely asks other nations to live up to our standards and our rules.

We received a letter from the blind Chinese dissident Chen Cuangcheng talking about the plight of the disabled around the world and what a strong message it would send if the United States ratified this treaty. There is no reason we can't say we lived up to our obligations. We need to step up and do the right thing—for Bob Dole and our veterans throughout the world.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of a letter from the internationally known blind Chinese dissident who, thank God, miraculously recently left China through the efforts of our State Department and our government.

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

NOVEMBER 26, 2012.

Hon. JOHN KERRY,

Chair, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD LUGAR,

Ranking Member, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS, I am writing you to personally ask for your support for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). As you know, my work on civil rights began with trying to ensure that people with disabilities in my home country of China were afforded the same rights as everyone else. The CRPD is making this idea real in significant ways around the world today. Worldwide, there are over 1 billion people with disabilities—and 80% of them live in developing countries. Disability rights is an issue that the world cannot afford to overlook.

When the United States enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act over twenty years ago, the idea of true equality for people with disabilities became a reality. Many nations have followed in America's footsteps and now are coming together under shared principles of equality, respect and dignity for people with disabilities as entailed in the CRPD. The U.S.—which was instrumental in negotiating the CRPD—can continue to advance both its principles and issues of practical accessibility for its citizens and all people around the world, and by ratifying the treaty, so take its rightful place of leadership in the arena of human rights.

As I continue my studies in the United States, it is a great pleasure to now learn firsthand how the U.S. developed such a comprehensive and strong system of protection for its citizens with disabilities. I am so hopeful that you will support ratification and allow others to benefit from these triumphs. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

CHEN GUANGCHENG.

Mr. MCCAIN. I will read from his letter:

When the United States enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act over twenty years ago, the idea of true equality for people with disabilities became a reality. Many nations have followed in America's footsteps and now are coming together under shared principles of equality, respect, and dignity for people with disabilities as entailed in the CRPD. The U.S.—which was instrumental in negotiating the CRPD—can continue to advance both its principles and issues of practical accessibility for its citizens and all people around the world, and by ratifying the

treaty, so take its rightful place of leadership in the arena of human rights.

And he concludes:

As I continue my studies in the United States, it is a great pleasure to now learn firsthand how the U.S. developed such a comprehensive and strong system of protection for its citizens with disabilities. I am so hopeful that you will support ratification and allow others to benefit from these triumphs. Thank you for your leadership.

I couldn't say it with any more passion nor any more authority.

I yield the floor.

Madam 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. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I rise to address an issue that concerns families and children and veterans and so many children in North Carolina and Ohio and around the country and around the world. I rise for millions of Americans, family members, friends, loved ones, and colleagues who experience some level of disability.

People living with disabilities have long been isolated, pushed to the margins of society. An example of that is America's deaf community. The deaf community strongly supports this treaty. Gallaudet University is a university founded in 1864 by an act of Congress, the charter signed by President Lincoln. The university shows that people with disabilities are capable of doing so much more to enrich our culture. I sit on the board, the only Senator in this body who sits on the board of Gallaudet, this great university. It is the only one of its kind in the world. It is close to 150 years old. We know how important it is.

Many students at Gallaudet from other countries want to be able to go home to the same kinds of accessibility they have experienced while studying in the United States, but they do not have it in far too many places. A recent State Department report found that people with disabilities remain one of the groups most at risk of being trafficked. That should spur all of us to do what we can to ensure that every human being has the chance to reach her or his God-given potential.

Yet too many people with disabilities around the world and Americans abroad lack this protection. This includes being forced into low-wage employment, being forced to beg for meals, being less likely to have access to transportation and the justice system in whatever country they happen to be located.

In America, we fought to pass the Americans With Disabilities Act, and we lead the world in services and accessibility for disabled people. We passed it because democracy is only as vibrant as it is open to the participation of all citizens. That is why I was proud to co-sponsor critical amendments to the ADA, the Americans With Disabilities Act, to make the definition of disability more inclusive. We fought hard for the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 because access to a good-paying job, to public transportation, to public accommodation should be universal.

Some detractors say Americans are taken care of here at home; why should we worry about discrimination that disabled people in other countries might suffer? Dr. King wrote in "Letter from the Birmingham Jail" that:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

He explained that:

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.

If we are to maintain our global leadership, if we believe in American exceptionalism, and if we are to strengthen our moral leadership, then surely we must ratify treaty No. 112-7 in support of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

This is not a liberal or conservative issue. It is not a Republican or Democrat issue. This is a cause for people who fight for what is right. That is why some 300 organizations support ratification, including the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the Wounded Warrior Project, the Hindu American Foundation, the Islamic Society of North America, the Jewish Federation of North America, the National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Let me share a couple letters. Bernard from Franklin County, in the center of my State, wrote:

I am concerned about recent grumblings . . . I have a lot of regard for the ADA and a keen awareness of discrimination against people with disabilities.

When will the Senate take up this U.N. Resolution? What can I do to help convince oppositional Senators that this is an important and necessary resolution for people with disabilities, especially our Nation's veterans?

Bernard, my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Senator MCCAIN, former majority leader Bob Dole, both of whom served our country honorably in the Armed Forces, and 21 veterans organizations agree with you. Senator MCCAIN wrote: "Ratifying this treaty affirms our leadership on disability rights and shows the rest of the world our leadership commitment continues."

This should be an opportunity for all Americans to come together and show the world we are committed to ensuring the basic dignity of every human being.

An advocate for people with disabilities, Deborah Kendrick of Cincinnati, recently wrote that supporting the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is “the good old-fashioned right thing to do.”

She is absolutely right. The CRPD is an antidiscrimination treaty, a civil rights issue, a human rights issue. It embraces the values of our own Americans with Disabilities Act.

It will not affect U.S. law and does not infringe upon U.S. sovereignty. Ratifying this treaty does allow us to reassert our leadership globally on disability rights. It will give us a seat at the table as parties to the convention grapple with how best to implement it. This treaty is important for Americans with disabilities, including soldiers and veterans when they work abroad, study abroad or simply travel abroad. That is why I urge my colleagues to join in ratifying this treaty, to stand up for people with disabilities in Ohio, throughout America, and around the world.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

DAVID BETTS DOUBLE PLAY DIAMOND

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I rise to commemorate the grand opening of the David Betts Double Play Diamond, which will take place a week from today in Bryan, OH.

As the result of a community’s commitment to working together, an unused farm field will soon cultivate the next generation of Bryan-area baseball players—nourishing friendships and supporting sportsmanship.

This new indoor field in Williams County honors the life of an extraordinary young Ohioan.

David Betts would have been 26 years old on December 10, 2012, the day that this field will open for members of the entire Bryan community to enjoy.

David, the beloved son of John and Joy, died in a March 2007 motorcoach accident along with other members of the Bluffton University baseball team in Atlanta, GA.

He was a graduate of Bryan High School.

After this tragedy, John and Joy Betts made a promise that David’s

death—and the loss of four other players and the bus driver and his wife—would not be in vain.

Out of the Bluffton bus tragedy—and other tragedies like it—Senator HUTCHISON and I introduced the Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act—to help prevent the loss of life on our nation’s roadways.

President Obama signed the bill into law earlier this year to ensure that tour buses are equipped with seatbelts, stronger roofs, safer windows, and drivers that are better trained.

This safety bill was written with the support of the Betts Family, the Bryan community, and a national community of people who have lost loved ones in motorcoach crashes.

Some 5 years later, this close-knit Ohio community also has a tangible monument in memory of one of their sons.

May the David Betts Double Play Diamond serve as a remembrance to this wonderful young man and help this community continue to heal and move forward.

HONOR FLIGHT OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the military service of a group of remarkable Coloradans. At critical times in our Nation’s history, these veterans played a role in defending the world from tyranny, truly earning their reputation as guardians of democracy and peace through their service and sacrifice. Now, thanks to an organization dedicated to honoring those who have defended us abroad, these great Coloradans have come to Washington, D.C. to visit the national memorials built to honor their service, to share their experiences with later generations, and to pay tribute to those who gave their lives. It was an honor to have them here, and I join with all Coloradans in thanking them for all they have done for us.

I also want to say a word about the volunteers from Honor Flight of Northern Colorado who made this trip possible. They are great Coloradans in their own right, and their mission to bring our Northern Colorado veterans to Washington, D.C. is truly commendable. They have been doing great work since their inception in 2008 and their flight in September brought another group of American heroes to Washington, D.C. The volunteers of Honor Flight of Northern Colorado believe our veteran heroes aren’t asking for recognition, but they certainly deserve it. This opportunity to come to Washington is just a small token of appreciation for those who gave so much.

I want to publicly recognize the members of the Northern Colorado Honor Flight who are visiting their Nation’s capital today, many seeing for the first time the memorials that stand as a tribute to their selfless service. These Coloradans risked their lives to

defend freedom, and they have earned our deepest respect. I rise today to thank the veterans of Northern Colorado Honor Flight, and pause to remember those who laid down their lives for us all. I would like to read the names of all those who made this visit to our Nation’s capital and to each of them, I say thank you.

Veterans from World War II include: Willard Bauer, Robert Bell, Edward Coleman, Floyd Ewing, Albert Fairweather, Marvin Fowler, Elwyn Frazier, Robert Fulton, William Garcia, Edward Glover, Herold Hettinger, Raymond Holiday, Buford Johnson, William Kammlade, Donald Lawless, Russell Maxwell, Dale Norwood, Philip Owen, Paul Painter, George Parker, Theodore Pratt, Henry Redd, Kenneth Robb, Harley Rouze, Harold Scatterday, Dean Severin, Leonie Shannon, Keith Simons, Jacob Stieb Jr., Howard Teague, Margaret Thompson, Charles Vogel, Thomas Weathers, Victor Weidmann, Milo Whitcomb, John Williams, and Quentin Younglund

Veterans from the Korean War include:

Bobby Andersen, Emmett Achuletta, Donald Armagost, Robert Arnbrecht, Gary Beverlin, Stanley Black, Ronald Brasseur, Earl Buckendorf, Robert Buttner, Donald Campbell, Clarence Carnes, Jerald Clark, Robert Clayton, Keith Coates, Kenneth Comin, Victor Crenshaw, Dean Daggett, Lester Edgett, Arnold Engele, Roy Erickson, William Erickson, Bernard Erthal, Donald Fenske, Donald Fickenschner, Russell Foster, Franklin Fronek, Porfelio Garbiso, William Goble, Carl Goeglein, Delbert Gorsline, George Gray, Kenneth Hoff, Robert Hull, Robert Jones Jr., George Knaub, Arthur Kober, John Leach, Roger London, Willard Loose, Joseph Lopez, Arthur Lukemire, Charles Mahoney, Eathon Marr, Vernon Marston, Robert Martin, George Maxey, Loren Maxey, and Albert Melcher

Veterans who served in Vietnam include:

Leonard Beutelspacher, John Gruver, Gaylord Mekelburg, and Cloyd Rael.

And from the War in Iraq:

Marshall Spring

Our Nation asked a great deal of these individuals. They left their families to fight in distant lands against our nation’s enemies. And each of these brave Coloradans bravely answered the call, placing themselves between this country and harm. They served our country through dangerous times, when democratic nations and ideals around the world were threatened, and they saved millions of people from falling to fascism and tyranny.

Please join me in thanking these American veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Northern Colorado for their tremendous service to an eternally grateful nation.

REMEMBERING LARRY HAGMAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Larry Hagman, who passed away