

(Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 940 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

AMENDMENT NO. 943

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 943 intended to be proposed to S. 954, an original bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 992. A bill to provide for offices on sexual assault prevention and response under the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, to require reports on additional offices and selection of sexual assault prevention and response personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Ms. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today, Senator FISCHER and I, rise today to speak about the alarming crisis of sexual assault within our nation's military.

Three particularly disturbing cases have arisen in recent weeks. First, an Air Force Lieutenant Colonel was arrested for sexual battery, and an Army first sergeant is alleged to have engaged in sexual misconduct at Fort Flood. Finally, the Army also relieved a lieutenant colonel from his post for a domestic dispute that violated a stalking protection order. What is most concerning is that all were responsible for either handling sexual assault cases or managing policies pertaining to military sexual assault.

We have seen three incidents of this kind in a period of two weeks. The fact that the cases involved multiple services speaks volumes to the need to elevate all Sexual Assault Prevention Response, SAPR, jobs to the level of importance that they deserve. Given the challenge of addressing the sexual assault crisis, we need the best and brightest taking on these jobs in our military today.

We should take steps to ensure that these jobs are on par with those that the military values most. This will address one of the primary factors at the heart of the issue—the need for cultural change in the military. It starts with increasing the value of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response positions and enforcing a rigorous application, intense record review and an interview process that screens applicants prior to selection for those duties.

While we appreciate Secretary Hagel's efforts to ensure that candidates for these jobs are rescreened, retrained and recertified, the bigger

issue is making sure that there is a robust process in place to get the highest caliber candidates into all Sexual Assault Prevention and Response jobs at the start. We firmly believe that changes to the military justice system are critical, but we also believe that changing military culture will require transforming the process by which we fill these positions. It will also require holding the leadership accountable for selecting those individuals.

That is why, today, we are introducing legislation that will make the highest-level Sexual Assault Prevention and Response positions nominative ones.

Nominative jobs, also referred to as "high visibility," are given that designation because of the caliber of person needed to fill them. These are some of the most significant, challenging and highly desired positions in the military. Transitioning SAPR jobs to a nominative process enables direct leadership involvement from the commander, who would now hand-pick the person to fill the role. Furthermore, there is a level of prestige that comes with taking nominative jobs because they are recognized as premiere jobs within the organization. Applicants know up front that these jobs will be challenging and career-enhancing. As such, only the best of the best need apply.

This crisis has reached a breaking point that requires more than the traditional process for filling military positions. We can no longer be comfortable placing the service member in a SAPR position solely based upon individual career paths and personal aspirations. As proven over the last several weeks, there are holes in that process. We need to enact a stringent application, record review and interview process that holds leaders accountable for SAPR job selection and increases the likelihood of getting the best possible applicants.

There is a sense of urgency surrounding military sexual assault that requires answers now. Secretary Hagel was correct in saying, "Sexual assault has no place in the United States military" and that "the American people, including our service members, should expect a culture of absolutely no tolerance for this deplorable behavior." We could not agree more, but we are also of the belief that the change in culture with respect to sexual assault will require more than education and awareness training. Our military needs to develop a culture that gives preeminence to jobs related to sexual assault prevention.

We know that military leaders share our concerns and appreciate the leadership demonstrated thus far. We trust that they will also acknowledge the benefits of making SAPR jobs nominative positions. We hope my colleagues in the Senate will take up and pass this legislation as we attempt to address the scourge that is sexual assault in our military.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 993. A bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 993

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO JAMES MEGELLAS FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of title 10, United States Code, to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for the acts of valor described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTION DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of James Megellas on January 28, 1945, in Herresbach, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge, during World War II, when, as a first lieutenant in the 82d Airborne Division, he led a surprise and devastating attack on a much larger advancing enemy force, killing and capturing a large number and causing others to flee, single-handedly destroying an attacking German Mark V tank with two hand-held grenades, and then leading his men in clearing and seizing Herresbach.

(c) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—The award under subsection (a) may be made without regard to the time limitations specified in section 3744(b) of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation established by law or regulation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Army.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 995. A bill to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, there is currently no national memorial dedicated to the valor and sacrifices made by those members of our Armed Forces who honorably fought, and in some cases made the ultimate sacrifice, in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. For this reason, I am joining with Senator JOE DONNELLY to introduce the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act." This legislation will authorize the establishment of a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial to honor the service and sacrifice of those who fought in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 995

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASSOCIATION.—The term “Association” means the National Desert Storm Memorial Association, a corporation that is—

(A) organized under the laws of the State of Arkansas; and

(B)(i) described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(ii) exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code.

(2) MEMORIAL.—The term “memorial” means the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial authorized to be established under section 3.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL DESERT STORM AND DESERT SHIELD MEMORIAL.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.—The Association may establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work, on Federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—The establishment of the memorial under this section shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Commemorative Works Act”).

(c) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS PROHIBITED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the memorial under this section.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY OF ASSOCIATION.—The Association shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the memorial.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If, on payment of all expenses for the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), or on expiration of the authority for the memorial under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the memorial, the Association shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 997. A bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. As a so-

cial worker, I understand the critical role social workers have in the overall care of our population. Social workers can be found in every facet of community life—in hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, schools, and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need. They play a crucial role combating the social problems facing our nation and are essential providers in our health care system. Yet, there are not enough social workers to meet these needs.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act provides research grants to social workers to train the next generation of social workers; creates a Social Work Reinvestment Commission; authorizes workplace improvement grants to identify workplace safety issues and workforce shortage challenges that need to be addressed to improve the services social workers provide in our communities; and makes grants available to community based programs of excellence to identify, test, and replicate effective social work interventions. I am honored to introduce this bill named after two social visionaries, Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young. Dorothy Height was a pioneer of the civil rights movement. Like me, she began her career as a case worker and continued to fight for social justice. Whitney Young, another trailblazer of the civil rights movement, also began his career transforming our social landscape as a social worker. He helped create President Johnson's War on Poverty and served as President of the National Association of Social Workers.

I believe that social work is full of great opportunities, both to serve and to lead. Social work is about puffing our values into action. Social workers are among our best and brightest, our most committed and compassionate. They are at the frontlines of providing care, often putting themselves in dangerous and violent situations. Social workers have the ability to provide psychological, emotional, and social support. Quite simply, the ability to change lives. As a social worker, I have been on the frontlines of helping people cope with issues in their everyday lives. I started off fighting for abused children, making sure they were placed in safe homes. I will continue to fight every day for our children, seniors, military personnel, and families on the floor of the United States Senate.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act is supported by the National Association of Social Workers. I thank Senators STABENOW and CARDIN for co-sponsoring this bill.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COATS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 1001. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Government of Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1001

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Iran Export Embargo Act”.

SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

The Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1245 the following:

“SEC. 1245A. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

“(1) The Government of Iran stands in violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted at Paris December 10, 1948, by denying its citizens basic freedoms, including the freedoms of expression, religion, and peaceful assembly and movement, and for flagrantly abusing the rights of minorities and women.

“(2) The Government of Iran remains the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world. That Government's sponsorship of terrorism includes recent involvement in a terrorist attack in Bulgaria, a plot to blow up a cafe in Washington, D.C., a plot to assassinate United States officials in the Republic of Azerbaijan, and attempted terrorist attacks in Canada and the Republic of Georgia.

“(3) The Government of Iran stands in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008), and 1929 (2010) by refusing to suspend proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities, including all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities and work on all heavy water-related projects.

“(4) The Government of Iran continues to develop ballistic missiles capable of threatening the interests and allies of the United States.

“(5) The Government of Iran stands in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006) by its continued transfer of arms to terrorist groups in southern Lebanon.

“(6) The Government of Iran continues to provide arms to terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip.

“(7) The Government of Iran continues to support the Government of Syria in carrying out human rights abuses and crimes against humanity against the people of Syria.

“(b) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—On and after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person described in subsection (f) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(c) FACILITATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—The President shall prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict conditions on the maintaining, in the United States of a correspondent account or a payable-through account by a foreign financial

institution that the President determines has knowingly, on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, conducted or facilitated a significant transaction with respect to the importation, sale, or transfer of goods or services from Iran on behalf of a person described in subsection (f).

“(d) IMPORTATION, SALE, OR TRANSFER OF GOODS AND SERVICES FROM IRAN.—The President shall impose sanctions pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) with respect to a person if the President determines that the person knowingly, on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, imports, purchases, or transfers goods or services from a person described in subsection (f).

“(e) INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanctions pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) with respect to a person if the President determines that the person knowingly, on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, provides underwriting services or insurance or reinsurance to a person described in subsection (f).

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR UNDERWRITERS AND INSURANCE PROVIDERS EXERCISING DUE DILIGENCE.—The President may not impose sanctions under paragraph (1) with respect to a person that provides underwriting services or insurance or reinsurance if the President determines that the person has exercised due diligence in establishing and enforcing official policies, procedures, and controls to ensure that the person does not underwrite or enter into a contract to provide insurance or reinsurance for a person described in subsection (f).

“(f) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person described in this subsection is any of the following:

“(1) The state and the Government of Iran, or any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of that Government, including the Central Bank of Iran.

“(2) Any person owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by that Government.

“(3) Any person acting or purporting to act, directly or indirectly, for or on behalf of that Government.

“(4) Any other person determined by the President to be described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

“(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A person described in subsection (f) is subject to sanctions under this section without regard to whether the name of the person is published in the Federal Register or incorporated into the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury.

“(h) APPLICABILITY TO EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL FROM IRAN.—Subsections (c) and (d) shall apply with respect to the exportation, importation, sale, or transfer of crude oil from Iran on and after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—TO DESIGNATE THE YEAR 2013 AS THE “INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF STATISTICS”

Mrs. HAGAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 150

Whereas more than 2,000 organizations worldwide have recognized 2013 as the International Year of Statistics, a global celebration and recognition of the contributions of statistical science to the well-being of humankind;

Whereas the science of statistics is vital to the improvement of human life because of the power of statistics to improve, enlighten, and understand;

Whereas statistics is the science of collecting, analyzing, and understanding data that permeates and bolsters all sciences;

Whereas statisticians contribute to the vitality and excellence of myriad aspects of United States society, including the economy, health care, security, commerce, education, and research;

Whereas rapidly increasing numbers of students in grades K through 16 and educators are recognizing the many benefits of statistical literacy as a collection of skills to intelligently cope with the requirements of citizenship, employment, and family;

Whereas statisticians contribute to smart and efficient government through the production of statistical data that informs on all aspects of our society, including population, labor, education, economy, transportation, health, energy, and crime;

Whereas the goals of the International Year of Statistics are to increase public awareness of the power and impact of statistics on all aspects of society, nurture statistics as a profession, especially among young people, and promote creativity and development in the sciences of probability and statistics; and

Whereas throughout the year, organizations in countries across the world will reach out to adults and children through symposia, conferences, demonstrations, workshops, contests, school activities, exhibitions, and other public events to increase awareness of the history and importance of statistics: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year 2013 as the “International Year of Statistics”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the International Year of Statistics;

(3) recognizes the necessity of educating the public on the merits of the sciences, including statistics, and promoting interest in the sciences among the youth of the United States; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to participate in the International Year of Statistics through participation in appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies that call attention to the importance of statistics to the present and future well-being of the people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN TO ENSURE TRANSPARENT AND CREDIBLE PRESIDENTIAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN APRIL 2014 BY ADHERING TO INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED DEMOCRATIC STANDARDS, ESTABLISHING A TRANSPARENT ELECTORAL PROCESS, AND ENSURING SECURITY FOR VOTERS AND CANDIDATES

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 151

Whereas Afghanistan’s Independent Election Commission has affirmed that Afghanistan will hold presidential and provincial elections in April 2014 and parliamentary elections in 2015;

Whereas Afghanistan’s current electoral process was established in 2004 by the Constitution of Afghanistan;

Whereas the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework conditions some international assistance to Afghanistan on the holding of credible, inclusive, and transparent elections in 2014 and 2015, among other measures to improve governance;

Whereas Afghanistan lacks a comprehensive and accurate voter registry, and previous voter registration drives have resulted in duplicate or fraudulent registrations, according to a report by the National Democratic Institute;

Whereas security concerns and voter intimidation have impeded the ability of people in Afghanistan to cast votes reliably and safely in past elections;

Whereas Afghan women in particular are prevented from meaningful participation in the electoral process due to the security environment, the scarcity of female poll workers, and lack of awareness of women’s political rights and opportunities, according to the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan;

Whereas Afghanistan’s 2009 presidential election was characterized by inadequate security for voters and candidates, low voter turnout, and widespread fraud, according to the National Democratic Institute;

Whereas Afghan officials, including President Karzai and Attorney General Mohammad Ishaq Aliko, disputed the results of Afghanistan’s 2010 parliamentary elections and established a Special Election Tribunal to investigate allegations of fraud;

Whereas, following the 2010 parliamentary elections, Democracy International’s Afghanistan Election Observation Mission concluded that comprehensive electoral reform is necessary to ensure a free, fair, and credible election process in 2014;

Whereas the Honorable Hamid Karzai is the first democratically elected president of modern Afghanistan and has served two terms in that position;

Whereas the Constitution of Afghanistan states, “No one can be elected as president for more than two terms.”;

Whereas President Karzai stated on January 11, 2013, alongside President Barack Obama, “The greatest of my achievements [. . .] will be a proper, well-organized, interference-free election in which the Afghan people can elect their next president.”;

Whereas, on several occasions since the late 1970s, civil war has broken out in Afghanistan over the legitimacy of the Afghan government;

Whereas United States taxpayers have invested more than \$89,500,000,000 in reconstruction and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan since October 2001, according to the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR);

Whereas a democratically-elected and legitimate government that reflects the will of the Afghan people is in the vital security interests of Afghanistan, the United States, its partners in the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and Afghanistan’s neighbors; and

Whereas the most critical milestone for Afghanistan’s future stability is a peaceful and credible transition of power through presidential elections in 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that the electoral process in Afghanistan should be determined and led by