

With the implementation of the latest 2005 BRAC round, a number of military installations have been closed across the country resulting in severe economic distress for those communities and States that have realized these closures. Redeveloping these BRAC'd properties proved quite difficult in good economic times, and now it is made even more difficult with the national and State economic recession we are experiencing.

While it would seem that the HUBZone designation for a closed military installation would be an aid to its redevelopment efforts, the 35% residency rule in the existing law actually makes the program not a very effective redevelopment tool for these properties at all. With the exception of closed military installations, most of the HUBZones in the Country are census tract based. Under current law, only the closed military base itself (i.e., the geographic area which used to be the former base) is designated as a HUBZone, which is a much smaller area than the census tract basis. Furthermore, many closed military installations do not have a substantial amount of residential areas from which to draw sufficient future employees (35%) for the businesses desiring to locate on those properties.

In addition the above, the Small Business Act established a five year time-frame for the duration of the HUBZone from the actual date of base closure. This is of particular concern given that the actual transfer of properties from the military services to the base closure communities often occurs many years following closure. Thus, these properties are not available for business development until actually transferred.

The net effect is that eligible HUB businesses seeking new or expanded opportunities on closed installations cannot meet these requirements and thus are not able to realize the HUBZone benefits for BRAC'd installations as envisioned by Congress. This issue exacerbates the difficulties for us and other similar communities to overcome the devastating economic effects of base closures.

In order to make the BRAC HUBZone designation an effective economic development tool for Brunswick Landing, as well as all the other closed installations across the country, the attached amendment language to the existing law is recommended. It should be noted that these recommendations do not create a new program, require additional government spending, or increase federal contracting goals.

Thank you for your service to our Country and the State of Maine and your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

STEVEN H. LEVESQUE,
Executive Director.

HEATHER D. BLEASE,
Freeport, ME, December 12, 2012.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
U.S. Senator, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS: I have established a new contact center business that focuses on providing service to the federal government. A key strategy for our success hinges upon the establishment of my business as a HUBZone certified entity.

As a native of Brunswick, Maine, I am keenly interested in locating my business at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station, now called Brunswick Landing. As a BRAC facility, the SBA rules limit the boundary of the HUBZone geographically to base property which has very few housing units.

In order to achieve HUBZone certification, 35% of my employees need to reside within the HUBZone.

As the law is written, I cannot locate at Brunswick Landing and hope to achieve

HUBZone status. The BRAC HUBZone law is flawed as written. Our Congress attempted to create an economic development vehicle to help communities recover from base closures, but unless the law is tweaked, the HUBZone designation is meaningless.

Please help modify the existing definition for BRAC HUBZones by broadening the boundary of the HUBZone for closed military installations to include the surrounding community. In the case of my company, it provides me with HUBZone employees to put to work so I can meet the HUBZone certification requirements.

If the law is changed, I will locate my business at Brunswick Landing and provide hundreds of jobs to the economically depressed area. Otherwise, I will need to seek out other alternatives.

Thank you for your service to our country, the State of Maine and your interest in helping small businesses thrive.

With greatest respect,

HEATHER D. BLEASE,
CEO, Savi Systems, LLC.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 23—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT A POSTAGE STAMP SHOULD BE ISSUED TO COMMEMORATE THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUAN PONCE DE LEON LANDING ON FLORIDA

Mr. NELSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 23

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States Postal Service should issue a postage stamp to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de Leon landing on Florida; and

(2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued.

SENATE RESOLUTION 24—COMMEMORATING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOSS OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HELLER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COBURN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 24

Whereas a sense of adventure is innate to the human spirit;

Whereas the urge to explore continues to motivate the United States as a nation;

Whereas the global leadership of the United States is determined by the resolve of the people of the United States;

Whereas the drive to innovate and explore has led the people of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and related industry and education leaders to

make important discoveries with a broad impact on humanity, in spite of inherent risk;

Whereas the men and women of the space program of the United States have captured the curiosity of the people of the United States, inspiring generations of scientists, engineers, and pioneers, and delivering technological advances and innovation, scientific research, and international partnerships to the benefit of nearly all sectors of the economy of the United States;

Whereas, on February 1, 2003, the United States joined the world in mourning the loss of 7 astronauts who perished aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia as it re-entered the atmosphere of the Earth;

Whereas United States Air Force Colonel Rick D. Husband, Mission Commander; United States Navy Commander William "Willie" C. McCool, Pilot; United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Anderson, Payload Commander/Mission Specialist; United States Navy Captain David M. Brown, Mission Specialist; United States Navy Commander Laurel B. Clark, Mission Specialist; Dr. Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist; and Israeli Air Force Colonel Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist were killed in the line of duty and in pursuit of discovery during the STS-107 mission;

Whereas the people of the United States are driven to continue the exploration and pursuit of discovery with as much passion and determination as these brave men and women;

Whereas an innate curiosity about what lies beyond our world drives us to expand the limits of human exploration and discovery in space, in the furtherance of the leadership and strategic interests of the United States;

Whereas exploring the heavens and the celestial bodies of the solar system is not without great risk and peril;

Whereas the loss of the 7 brave souls aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia and others who have sacrificed their lives in pursuit of human space exploration shall forever serve as a solemn reminder of the firm commitment of the United States to devote the capacity and resources necessary to improve safety, minimize risk, and do everything possible to protect the next generation of explorers willing to risk themselves in the service of mankind;

Whereas those involved in the Space Shuttle program of the United States have sought to apply the lessons learned from the Space Shuttle Columbia accident to future human spaceflight by the United States, which included 22 additional program missions and shepherding the Space Shuttle program to its safe and successful conclusion;

Whereas the lessons learned from the Space Shuttle Columbia accident should be applied to current policy of the space program of the United States; and

Whereas the people of the United States will not forget the sacrifice of those 7 determined explorers aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, as well as others who perished in the exploration of the unknown: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers the 7 astronauts who tragically lost their lives aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia as it re-entered the atmosphere of the Earth 10 years ago on February 1, 2003;

(2) expresses its condolences to the friends and families of the astronauts who died that day;

(3) commends those who have honored the memory of the Space Shuttle Columbia over the past decade, including the employees of Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as regular citizens and volunteers, who assisted

in the debris recovery and accident investigation process; and

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the people and the Government of the United States to provide the leadership and resources necessary to ensure robust and safe human spaceflight capability in low Earth orbit and beyond in the 21st century, to make certain that the sacrifice of those heroes shall not have been in vain.

SENATE RESOLUTION 25—HONORING GONZAGA UNIVERSITY ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. CANTWELL (for Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 25

Whereas, in 1881, at the request of the citizens of the City of Spokane Falls, Washington, Father Joseph Cataldo, S.J., a Jesuit from the Rocky Mountain Mission, committed to establishing a school along the banks of the Spokane River;

Whereas, on September 17, 1887, Gonzaga College officially opened its doors with an inaugural class of 18 students;

Whereas Gonzaga College, known today as Gonzaga University, has grown into a nationally recognized 4-year liberal arts university, where nearly 8,000 students can choose from more than 75 fields of study, select from 25 master's degree programs, and pursue doctoral degrees in law and leadership studies;

Whereas Gonzaga University is repeatedly listed as one of the best comprehensive regional universities in the western United States, is ranked second in the United States among small universities for alumni serving in the Peace Corps, and consistently earns a place on the President's Higher Education and Community Service Honor Roll;

Whereas Gonzaga University invests more than \$60,000,000 annually in scholarships and in financial assistance to its students; and

Whereas notable Gonzaga alumni include a former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, a Governor of the State of Washington and the first female Attorney General of the State of Washington, the current Chaplain of the United States House of Representatives, judges of the United States district courts, and members of the Washington State Supreme Court: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Gonzaga University on its 125th anniversary;

(2) celebrates the commitment of Gonzaga University to its students and to educating the whole individual, including the mind, body, and spirit;

(3) applauds Gonzaga University for its dedication to instilling the importance of service to others and civic engagement; and

(4) congratulates the students, staff, faculty, alumni, and supporters of Gonzaga University for their many contributions in the United States and abroad.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6. Mr. PORTMAN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 325, to ensure the complete and timely payment of the obligations of the United States Government until May 19, 2013, and for other purposes.

SA 7. Mr. PORTMAN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 325, supra.

SA 8. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 325, supra.

SA 9. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 325, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6. Mr. PORTMAN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 325, to ensure the complete and timely payment of the obligations of the United States Government until May 19, 2013, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR REQUIREMENT.

(a) DEBT LIMIT CONTROL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3101A the following:

“§ 3101B. Debt limit control

“(a) DECLARATION OF A DEBT LIMIT WARNING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a near breach of the public debt limit established by section 3101, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue a debt limit warning to the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives that shall include a determination as to when extraordinary measures may be necessary in order to prolong the funding of the United States Government.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES.—The term ‘extraordinary measures’ means measures that may be taken by the Secretary of the Treasury in the event of a breach of the debt limit by the United States to prolong the function of United States Government in the absence of a debt limit increase.

“(B) NEAR BREACH.—The term ‘near breach’ means the point at which the Secretary of the Treasury determines that the United States Government will reach the statutorily prescribed debt limit within 60 calendar days notwithstanding the implementation of extraordinary measures.

“(b) PRESIDENTIAL SUBMISSION OF DEBT LIMIT LEGISLATION.—

“(1) SAVINGS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENT.—Any formal Presidential request to increase the debt limit under this section shall include the amount of the proposed debt limit increase and be accompanied by proposed legislation to reduce spending over the sum of the current and following 10 years by an amount equal to or greater than the amount of the requested debt limit increase. Net interest savings may not be counted towards spending reductions required by this paragraph.

“(2) CALCULATION.—The spending savings under paragraph (1) shall be calculated against a budget baseline consistent with section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. This baseline shall exclude the extrapolation of any spending that had been enacted under an emergency designation.”

(2) SUBCHAPTER ANALYSIS.—The table of sections for chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item for section 3101A the following:

“3101B. Debt limit control.”

(b) CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENT TO RESTRAIN SPENDING WHILE RAISING THE DEBT LIMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Congress and Budget Act of 1974 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“SEC. 316. DEBT LIMIT INCREASE POINT OF ORDER.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) POINT OF ORDER.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall not be in order in

the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that increases the statutory debt limit unless the bill contains net spending reductions of an equal or greater amount over the sum of the current and next 10 fiscal years. Net interest savings may not be counted towards spending reductions required by this paragraph.

“(2) COMPONENTS OF NET SPENDING REDUCTION.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—The savings resulting from the proposed spending reductions under paragraph (1) shall be calculated by the Congressional Budget Office against a budget baseline consistent with section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. This baseline shall exclude the extrapolation of any spending that had been enacted under an emergency designation.

“(B) AVAILABILITY.—The Senate and the House of Representatives may not vote on any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that increases the public debt limit unless the cost estimate of that measure prepared by the Congressional Budget Office has been publicly available on the website of the Congressional Budget Office for at least 24 hours.

“(C) PROHIBIT TIMING SHIFTS.—Any provision that shifts outlays or revenues from within the 10-year window to outside the window shall not count towards the budget savings target for purposes of this subsection.

“(b) SENATE SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

“(1) WAIVER.—In the Senate, subsection (a)(1) may be waived or suspended only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

“(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a)(1).”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after section 315 the following new item:

“Sec. 316. Debt limit increase point of order.”

SA 7. Mr. PORTMAN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 325, to ensure the complete and timely payment of the obligations of the United States Government until May 19, 2013, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

SEC. _____. END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “End Government Shutdowns Act”.

(b) AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1310 the following new section: “SEC. 1311. CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a)(1) If any appropriation measure for a fiscal year is not enacted before the beginning of such fiscal year or a joint resolution making continuing appropriations is not in effect, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary to continue any program, project, or activity for which funds were provided in the preceding fiscal year—

“(A) in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding fiscal year; or

“(B) if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year did not become