

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions; Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Montana" (FRL No. 9839-2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2013; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2597. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Belize Concerning the imposition of import restrictions on categories of archaeological material representing the cultural heritage of Belize from the pre-ceramic, pre-classic, classic, and post-classic periods of the pre-Columbian era through the early and late colonial periods; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2598. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System—Update for Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 2013 (FY 2014)" (RIN0938-AR63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 30, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2599. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Recognizing Advance Payments for Gift Cards that are Redeemable for Goods and Services from an Unrelated Entity" (Rev. Proc. 2013-29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2013; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2600. A communication from the General Counsel, Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the Peace Corps, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 24, 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2601. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of State, Category Rating Report"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2602. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-109); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2603. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-108); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2604. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to sections 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 13-015); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2605. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 30, 2013; to the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2606. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "ATF 2013 PACT Act Report"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2607. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for a report entitled "Transforming Today's Vision Into Tomorrow's Reality"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2608. A communication from the Director of the Regulation Policy and Management Office of the General Counsel, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Access to Records" (RIN2900-AO61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2013; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-118. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine memorializing the President of the United States and Congress of the United States to adopt the Veterans Remembered Flag in honor of all veterans; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Whereas, there are flags for all branches of the Armed Forces of the United States and there is a flag for prisoners of war and those missing in action, but there is no flag to honor the millions of former military personnel who have served our nation; and

Whereas, a flag is a symbol of recognition for a group or an ideal, and veterans compose a group, certainly represent an ideal and surely deserve their own symbol; and

Whereas, the estimated 20,400,000 veterans, affiliated and unaffiliated with veterans' organizations, who have served in our nation's military compose a significant portion of our nation's population; and

Whereas, there is now a flag that has been designed and created to honor the veterans of the United States called the Veterans Remembered Flag, and displaying and flying a Veterans Remembered Flag would honor the lives of millions of individuals who have served our country in times of war, peace and national crisis; and

Whereas, a Veterans Remembered Flag would memorialize and honor past, present and future veterans and provide an enduring symbol to support tomorrow's veterans today; and

Whereas, displaying and flying a Veterans Remembered Flag would fill the need for a flag honoring all veterans who have served in our nation's armed forces; and

Whereas, the symbolism of this unique flag's design would be all-inclusive, would pay respect to all branches of the military and to the history of our nation and would honor those who have lived, and died, serving our nation; and

Whereas, the design of the flag honors the founding of our nation through the 13 stars that emanate from the hoist of the flag and lead to the large red star that represents our nation and the five branches of our nation's military, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines and the Coast Guard; and

Whereas, the white star on the flag symbolizes veterans' dedication to service, the blue star on the flag honors all the men and women who have served in our nation's military and the central gold star on the flag memorializes those who have fallen defending our nation; and

Whereas, the blue stripe that bears the title of the flag honors the loyalty of veterans to our nation, flag and government, and the green field on the flag represents the hallowed ground where fallen veterans rest eternally; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, request that the President of the United States and the United States Congress work together to support adoption of the Veterans Remembered Flag to honor our nation's veterans; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Barack H. Obama, President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-119. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts memorializing the federal government of the United States to prioritize distribution of veterans' benefits; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the members of the Armed Forces of the United States, including active duty members of the Massachusetts National Guard, have honorably and with great distinction served their country and have earned the right to be welcomed home with all honors and benefits prescribed by law by a grateful nation; and

Whereas, the words of our first president, George Washington, are a reminder of the importance of honoring promises made to our veterans and their families, when he said, "the willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation"; and

Whereas, veterans' benefits must be delivered in a timely fashion out of respect for the significant sacrifice and valiant service of those to whom such benefits are owed, especially given the fact that today's veterans urgently need jobs, health care, housing, education and training in order to successfully re-enter civilian life; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is reported to be unable to keep up with a torrent of benefits claims, and the backlog leaves many service members waiting for well over a year after first filing their forms, according to a report from the Center for Investigative Reporting; and

Whereas, according to the center's report, the average wait time for veterans benefits is 273 days, and that veterans filing their first claim, including those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, wait nearly two months longer, between 316 and 327 days, and in some major population centers wait up to twice as long—642 days in New York, 619 days in Los Angeles and 542 days in Chicago; and

Whereas, the ranks of veterans waiting more than a year for their benefits grew from 11,000 in 2009 to 245,000 in December 2012, an increase of more than 2,000 per cent, and the Veterans Administration is predicting that the situation will get worse, as the number of veterans waiting on the Department to process their claims is expected to reach 1 million by the end of March, 2013: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate hereby requests that the Federal Government of the United States provide sufficient funding and personnel to process veterans' claims in a more timely manner so that the tangible gratitude of the nation can be promptly distributed to all who have earned such recognition; and be it further

Resolved, That resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, the leaders of the Congress of the United States and to each United States senator and representative from Massachusetts.

POM-120. A communication from citizens of the State of Hawaii petitioning for verification and tabulation of State applications for an Article V Convention; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-121. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to repeal their longstanding prohibition on men who have sex with men from donating blood; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-122. A resolution adopted by the Lawrence City Council of the City of Lawrence, Massachusetts supporting comprehensive immigration reform and urging action from the 113th Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-123. A resolution adopted by the City Electors of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin seeking to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the corrupting influence of unregulated political contributions and spending; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-124. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Orange County, New York opposing the enactment of any legislation that would infringe upon the right of people to bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-125. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Webster, Texas protecting and defending the constitutional right to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-126. A resolution adopted by the Blount County Board of Commissioners of the State of Tennessee protecting and defending the constitutional right to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-127. A resolution adopted by the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs urging the President and the Congress of the United States to enact legislation regarding gun control; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-128. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Edgewater, New Jersey expressing its condolences and support for the victims of gun violence and their families in Newtown, CT, Aurora, CO, Blacksburg, VA, Oak Creek, WI, Tucson, AZ, and other communities throughout the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-129. A resolution adopted by the City of River Oaks, Texas supporting the Constitution of the United States and defending the constitutional right to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-130. A resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Tupper Lake, New York opposing any legislation infringing upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-131. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Naples, Florida urging Congress and the President to protect the

constitutional right of the people to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-132. A resolution adopted by the Catlin Town Board of the State of New York calling for the repeal of the New York SAFE Act of 2013; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-133. A resolution adopted by the Northwest Municipal Conference supporting immigration reform that provides a clear and earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, clears immigration backlogs, addresses the current labor market needs and improves state and local economic competitiveness, provides for effective employment verification, promotes immigrant integration, and enhances national security and safety with a sensible enforcement policy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-134. A resolution adopted by the Alabama Town Board of the State of New York opposing the Early Voting Proposal; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 1429. An original bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 113-85).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 933. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2018.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations. Steve A. Linick, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of State.

*Matthew Winthrop Barzun, of Kentucky, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Nominee Matthew Winthrop Barzun.
Post United Kingdom.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributors, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$215, 2/23/2009, Democratic National Committee; \$2,500, 9/12/2011, Chandler; \$5,000, 9/8/2011, Tim Kaine/Virginia; \$35,800, 9/9/2011, Obama Victory Fund; \$2,500, 10/10/2011, Yarmuth; \$5,000, 12/15/2011, DWS for Congress Weston FL; \$9,200, 12/31/2011, Swing State Victory Chicago; \$30,800, 1/13/2012, Obama Victory Fund; \$5,000, 1/30/2012, Mark Warner/Senator-Virginia; \$5,000, 3/10/2012, Claire McCaskill/Senator-Missouri; \$2,500, 3/24/2012, Yarmuth; \$2,500, 6/29/2012, Chandler, Ben for Congress; \$2,500 7/26/2012, Russ Carnahan/U.S. Senate; \$2,500, 8/2/2012, Jon Tester/U.S. Senate; \$100,000, 9/12/2012, Committee for Charlotte 2 NC; \$2,500, 9/25/2012, Kentucky Hse Dem Caucus; \$2,500, 10/30/2012, Shelli Yoder/Congress.

2. Spouse: Brooke Browne Barzun: \$35,800, 9/9/2011, Obama Victory Fund; \$2,500, 10/10/

2011, Yarmuth; \$9,200, 12/31/2011, Swing State Victory Chicago; \$30,800, 1/13/2012, Obama Victory Fund; \$2,500, 3/24/2012, Yarmuth; \$5,000, 6/30/2012, Elizabeth Warren for Massachusetts; \$2,500, 8/28/2012, Chandler, Ben for Congress; \$2,500, 9/24/2012, Kentucky Hse Dem Caucus; \$2,500, 10/25/2012, Shelli Yoder/Congress.

3. Children and Spouses: Charles Winthrop Barzun, None; Eleanor C. Barzun, None; Jacques M. Barzun, None.

4. Parents: Roger Barzun: \$700, 10/7/2011, Obama for America; \$700, 10/7/2011, Obama Victory Fund; \$250, 10/29/2012, House Majority PAC; \$338, 10/31/2012, Barack Obama For America. Serita Winthrop: \$500, 5/30/2011, Bill Nelson for U.S. Senate; \$10,000, 11/17/2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012; \$2,500, 11/17/2011, Obama for America; \$2,500, 11/17/2011, Obama for America; \$5,000, 11/17/2011, DNC Services Corp./Democratic National Committee.

5. Grandparents: Deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Charles Barzun: \$250, 3/15/2012, John Douglass for Congress; \$250, 9/9/2012, John Douglass for Congress; \$500, 2/8/2010, Thomas Perriello for Congress; \$500, 3/22/2010, Thomas Perriello for Congress; \$250, 6/4/2010, Thomas Perriello for Congress; \$2,100, 10/12/2011, Obama for America; \$4,600, 10/12/2011, Obama Victory Fund 2012. Emily Little Barzun (sister in law): None.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Mariana Mensch (sister), None; Jon Mensch (brother-in-law), None; Lucretia Barzun Donnelly (sister), None; Robert Donnelly (brother in law), None.

*David Hale, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Lebanon

Nominee: David Hale.

Post: Beirut, Lebanon.

The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: N/A.
2. Spouse: N/A.
3. Children and Spouses: N/A.

Parents: Marjorie Freeman: \$25, 5/20/10, RNC; \$25, 2/19/12, RNC; \$10, 4/12/12, RNC; \$20, 8/15/12, RNC; \$20, 9/21/12, RNC; \$25, 9/27/12, Romney Victory Fund.

5. Grandparents: N/A.
6. Brothers and Spouses: John Hale: \$50, 5/20/10; Bridgewater, NJ Republican Municipal Committee.

7. Sisters and Spouses: N/A.

*Liliana Ayalde, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

Nominee: Liliana Ayalde

Post: State/WHA

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Luis Jorge Narvaez: None.
3. Children and Spouses Names: Stefanie Narvaez: None. Natalia Narvaez: None.
4. Parents Names: Jaime Ayalde: None. Mercedes Ayalde: None.