

who will be laid to rest in a manner consistent with our Nation's high esteem for their valiant service.●

TRIBUTE TO RYAN AND RHONDA KELLY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President today I wish to recognize Ryan and Rhonda Kelly of Rapid City, SD, as my nominees for the 2013 Angels in Adoption Award. Since 1999, the Angels in Adoption program, through the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, has honored nearly 2,000 individuals, couples, and organizations nationwide for their work in providing children with loving, stable homes.

Since 2005, 6 girls from China have come to know the love and compassion of high school sweethearts Ryan and Rhonda Kelly. One morning in January 2005, Rhonda woke up and felt a calling to pursue an adoption of a baby girl in China.

That calling has since developed into a deep passion for providing a loving, Christian home to girls from China. Over the last 8 years, Rhonda and Ryan have joyfully welcomed 6 girls from China into their family: Jenna, Jocelyn, Jade, Jolise, Janelle, and Joy. They have adopted girls as young as 18 months to age 14. Each adoption has given the Kellys a new opportunity to meet the unique physical and emotional needs of each child, a task they have faced with grace, determination, and humility. These girls joined biological children Jacob, Joshua, Julia, and Jonah.

Ryan, Rhonda, and their 10 children, now ranging in age from 22 to 4, are shining examples of what it means to make the dream of a family a reality for every child. Adoption has given the girls the opportunity to receive the medical care they need, a family to love and care for them forever, and a chance for a bright future. Adoption has given the Kelly family an entirely different outlook on life: they look at the big picture and choose not to sweat the small things. This family clearly loves each other, supports each other, has empathy for each other, and gets to witness the miracle of adoption each and every day.

With National Adoption Day just around the corner on November 23, 2013, it is important that we recognize the compassionate families who fulfill the roles of foster and adoptive parents. Thus, it brings me great pride to honor South Dakotans Ryan and Rhonda Kelly as my nominees for the 2013 Angels in Adoption award, as they have bestowed a gift onto others in an immeasurable way and the impact their love has had is profound.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1961. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend the exemption from the fire-retardant materials construction requirement for vessels operating within the Boundary Line.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 793. An act to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:11 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3092. An act to amend the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 527. An act to amend the Helium Act to complete the privatization of the Federal helium reserve in a competitive market fashion that ensures stability in the helium markets while protecting the interests of American taxpayers, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 26, 2013, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 793. An act to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States, and for other purposes.

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-135. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging Congress to award the United States 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers, the Congressional Gold Medal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1266

Whereas, the Borinqueneers trace their lineage to the "Puerto Rico Regiment of Volunteer Infantry," authorized by Congress on March 2, 1899, as the first body of native troops in Puerto Rico, the only Hispanic-segregated unit in the United States Armed Forces that played a prominent role in American military history; and

Whereas, during World War I, the Borinqueneers rallied a force of over 1,500 to defend the Panama Canal, and upon their return to Puerto Rico were renamed "The 65th Infantry Regiment;" and

Whereas, during World War II, the Borinqueneers served in North Africa and Europe, winning Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Central Europe, and Rhineland battle cam-

paign awards; and were assigned security, anti-sabotage, and other occupation missions around Kaiserslautern and Mannheim, Germany after the war; and

Whereas, during the Korean War, the Borinqueneers were the only all-Hispanic unit; joined the United States 3rd Infantry Division to be among the first infantry to engage in battle with North Korean troops; served with distinction to earn 4 Distinguished Service Crosses, 124 Silver Stars, 9 Korean battle campaign awards, the Presidential and Meritorious Unit Commendations, 2 Korean Presidential Unit Citations, and the Greek Gold Medal for Bravery; and are credited with launching the last recorded battalion-sized bayonet assault in United States Army history; and

Whereas, legendary United States Army General Douglas MacArthur lauded the Borinqueneers, crediting them with a resolute will to victory and loyalty to the United States, saying, "They are writing a brilliant record of heroism in battle and I am indeed proud to have them under my command. I wish that we could count on many more like them;" and

Whereas, in 1959, the Borinqueneers passed their colors to the National Guard of the United States Territory of Puerto Rico, withdrawing from the Regular Army, the only time in United States Army history that active unit colors were not retired, but, instead, turned over to a National Guard unit; and

Whereas, today, the legacy of the Borinqueneers lives on in the National Guard in Puerto Rico, which continues to defend the United States in the ongoing War on Terrorism; and

Whereas, the Borinqueneers served and sacrificed, shedding blood for our democracy and helping to ensure our prosperity as they faced segregation and discrimination, protecting our nation and fighting for the good of all; and

Whereas, these warriors, the Borinqueneers, deserve a place with all American heroes, and should be honored, commended, and never forgotten for their feats; and

Whereas, the Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award given by the United States Congress, awarded as an expression of public gratitude on behalf of the nation for distinguished contributions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida, That, in recognition of the bravery and sacrifice of the United States 65th Infantry Regiment, the Borinqueneers, the President and the Congress of the United States are urged to award the Congressional Gold Medal to these true heroes and defenders of our great nation; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress, to the Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner, to the President of the United States 65th Infantry Regiment Association, the chairman of the Hispanic Achievers Grant Council, the chairman of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance, and the National Association for Uniformed Services.

POM-136. A resolution adopted by the York County Commissioners, Maine, urging Congress to recognize the importance of the F-35 Lightning II to Maine, the United States and our allies around the world by supporting full funding and full production for the F-35 program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-137. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging Congress to reconsider the statute and appropriations creating FirstNet; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, Ohio's first responders require mission critical communications infrastructure to effectively do their jobs; and

Whereas, Ohio has invested over \$500,000,000 in system assets that include over 200 tower sites, shelters, generators, mobile towers, microwave backhaul consoles, and mobile and portable radios; and

Whereas, Over 55,000 first responders and public service users at the federal, state, and local government levels rely on the assets that Ohio has invested in; and

Whereas, The federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) within the United States Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration and tasked FirstNet with building and maintaining a single, nationwide, interoperable broadband public safety network; and

Whereas, FirstNet is requiring states to inventory their assets and develop statewide plans to allow federal use or takeover of those assets for the undetermined nationwide broadband public safety network; and

Whereas, FirstNet is requiring states to opt into, and provide an undetermined level of financial support to, the nationwide broadband public safety network; and

Whereas, FirstNet appears to lack sufficient funding for the nationwide broadband public safety network, but is requiring a self-sustaining model; and

Whereas, FirstNet lacks planning and did not seek input from Ohio as evidenced by the witnesses who testified before, and submitted testimony to, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology in a March 2013, hearing entitled "Oversight of FirstNet and Emergency Communications": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology to hold regular hearings regarding the nationwide broadband public safety network and require that FirstNet create a publicly vetted business plan that identifies the exact costs that Ohio will be mandated to appropriate or obligate for the nationwide broadband public safety network; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology to include amendments to the law that would allow Ohio to opt-out of the nationwide broadband public safety network with no net costs; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology to include amendments to the law that require FirstNet to provide full written assurances that communications provided by the nationwide broadband public safety network will meet and exceed the current level of service for Ohio's state and local public safety officers in the areas of reliability, redundancy, and state-based system control; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology to include

amendments to the law that require FirstNet to provide fair market compensation to Ohio for access and utilization of state-owned assets in support of the network's deployment; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, respectfully urge the United States Congress to reconsider the statute and appropriations creating FirstNet; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, all members of the United States House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee, the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

POM-138. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Utah urging Congress to pass legislation that would reduce the federal tax on fuels by the amount of any increase in the rate of the tax on fuels by the states; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, federal fuel taxes associated with the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 were implemented to construct a 41,250-mile National System of Interstate and Defense Highways, commonly called the Interstate System;

Whereas, the Interstate System, with more than 46,000 miles open to traffic, has been completed for more than 20 years;

Whereas, federal highway user fees are increasingly used for nonhighway purposes;

Whereas, states are required to adopt federal labor regulations, such as Davis-Bacon rules, that can substantially increase project costs; and to the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

POM-139. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to enact amendments to the federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act to require law enforcement authorities to have a warrant to access e-mail, no matter the age or location of the email; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

Whereas, More and more citizens rely on electronic mail communication to conduct both private and professional business. Our ability to store communications at locations other than where the communication originated, such as "in the cloud," has contributed to new challenges in protecting individual's privacy. ECPA fails to adequately protect Americans from unreasonable searches of their private information stored with cloud and mobile providers; and

Whereas, The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that law enforcement must have a valid warrant to access e-mail stored on a provider's server, no matter the age of the e-mail. However, rulings in the lower courts have limited jurisdiction. E-mail providers and storage location can be anywhere in the United States and possibly the world; and

Whereas, Google, Inc. has stated that it will not release any e-mails, regardless of age, without a warrant. Google officials note that the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures and that Amendment takes priority over ECPA;

Whereas, The United States Senate had before it an amendment last November that would have required warrants for all e-mail seizures. However, that amendment was

stripped from the vehicle bill before passage; and

Whereas, The legislature finds that, in an era where technology dominates communication and increasingly more business-related and sensitive information is being stored via cloud-based email, more than ever, it is important for government to protect the rights of privacy and due process afforded to all of our state's residents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge Congress to enact amendments to the federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act to require law enforcement authorities to have a warrant to access email, no matter the age or location of the e-mail; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-140. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact legislation that promotes growth of domestic alternative fuel sources, such as natural gas, and reduces dependence on foreign oil; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 132

Whereas, the United States needs a balanced and sensible domestic energy policy; and

Whereas, the Renewable Fuel Standard, established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and expanded and extended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, requires the blending of increasing volumes of designated renewable fuels into the total transportation fuel supply, in a large part, as a way to reduce our country's dependence on foreign petroleum; and

Whereas, reducing dependence on foreign oil is not only a matter of national security but a significant opportunity to enhance economic prosperity and job growth in Louisiana; and

Whereas, currently there are multiple routes to ethanol, including several from traditional fossil fuels such as natural gas, which is plentiful in Louisiana and several other states in the country; and

Whereas, Louisiana is committed to being a leader in development of a sustainable national energy policy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to enact legislation that promotes growth of domestic alternative fuel sources, such as natural gas, and reduces dependence on foreign oil; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-141. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission memorializing support for the Federal Land Transportation Facilitation Act Reauthorization of 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-142. A resolution adopted by the California State Lands Commission urging Congress to ensure that the entire Harbor Maintenance and Trust Fund receipts and interest is for the intended purpose of maintaining navigation channels; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-143. A resolution adopted by the Lancaster City Council, California urging Congress to enact comprehensive immigration

reform; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-144. A communication from citizens of California memorializing their support for the President's plan to increase investments for preschool and early childhood education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-145. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Delaware memorializing a commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and Delaware; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, Taiwan and the United States are long-standing friends with a shared historical relationship and dearly cherished values of freedom, democracy, and human rights; and

Whereas, 2013 will mark the 13th anniversary of the sister-state relationship between Delaware and Taiwan; and

Whereas, for the past 12 years, the sister-state relationship with Taiwan has been strengthened through the efforts of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) resulting in better mutual understanding; and

Whereas, Taiwan is the world's eighteenth largest economy, one of the key trading partners of the United States, and the two-way trade volume between the United States and Taiwan reached sixty-three billion dollars in 2012; and

Whereas, Taiwan is now a member of the U.S. Visa Waiver program (effective November 1st, 2012); reflecting our friendship, trust, and cooperation, and making travel between Taiwan and the United States for business and tourism even more convenient; and

Whereas, negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Agreement (BIA) between Taiwan and the United States are ongoing and are an important step towards strengthening bilateral trade and paving the way for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA); and

Whereas, President Barack Obama and the leaders of eight Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) countries announced the achievement of the broad outlines for a 21st century TPP agreement on November 12, 2011, and Taiwan has expressed a keen interest to participate, so as to forge close linkages among economics, enhance competitiveness, and benefit consumers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the 147th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, that we hereby reaffirm our commitment to the strong and deepening relationship between Taiwan and Delaware; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, and the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

POM-146. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or rights of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

Calling upon the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment addressing the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*.

Whereas, in 2010, the United States Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Citizens*

United v. Federal Election Commission that enabled corporations and unions to spend unlimited amounts of money in support of or in opposition to candidates for election; and

Whereas, the people of West Virginia and all other states should have the power to limit by law the extent to which money can be spent in their political systems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate: That the Senate hereby calls upon the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment addressing the Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission*; and be it further

Resolved, that the West Virginia Senate supports an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations and unions are not entitled to the same rights and protections as natural persons under the Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, that such an amendment should assure the power of the federal, state and local governments to limit, regulate and require disclosure of sources of all money spent in the course of political elections; and be it further

Resolved, that the West Virginia Senate requests that the West Virginia Congressional Delegation support such an the United States had the opportunity to vote on state and local ballot measures, including the states of Montana and Colorado, calling for a constitutional amendment to limit money in politics, including the entire states of Montana and Colorado, and all proposed resolutions passed with overwhelming and bipartisan support, averaging seventy-five percent of voters in favor: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate: That the Senate calls upon the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment overturning the United States Supreme Court's *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* ruling and related cases; and be it further

Resolved, that the West Virginia Senate supports an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations and unions are not entitled to the same rights and protections as natural persons under the Constitution; and, be it

Resolved, that such an amendment should assure the power of the federal, state and local governments to limit, regulate and require disclosure of sources of all money spent to influence elections; and, be it

Resolved, that the West Virginia Senate requests that the West Virginia Congressional Delegation support such an amendment, work diligently towards its passage and vote at all stages to advance such legislation in the Congress; and, be it

Further Resolved, that the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States and the President pro Tempore of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the majority and minority leaders of both houses of Congress and to each United States Senator and Member of the House of Representatives from West Virginia.

Opposing the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* regarding the constitutional rights of corporations; supporting an amendment to the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or rights of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech; and calling on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution.

Whereas, in 2010 the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, holding that independent spending on elections by corporations and other groups could not be limited by government regulations; and

Whereas, this decision rolled back the legal restrictions on corporate spending in the electoral process, allowing for the unlimited corporate spending to influence elections, candidate selection and policy decisions; and

Whereas, in reaching this decision, a narrow majority of the Supreme Court, relying on and expanding prior decisions, interpreted the First Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as natural persons; and

Whereas, the Supreme Court relied on other prior decisions which afforded the spending of money to influence elections the full protection of the First Amendment and disregarded the distorting and corrupting effects of unlimited money in elections; and

Whereas, in his eloquent dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens rightly recognized that, "corporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often serves as a useful legal fiction. But they are not themselves members of 'We the People' by whom and for whom our Constitution was established"; and

Whereas, the court's decision in *Citizens United* severely hampers the ability of federal, state and local governments to enact reasonable campaign finance reforms and regulations regarding corporate political activity; and

Whereas, corporations should not be afforded the entirety of protections or rights of natural persons, such that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is a form of constitutionally protected speech; and

Whereas, in 2012 the same narrow majority of the Supreme Court voted to strike down longstanding campaign finance laws in the State of Montana without hearing any evidence or argument on that state's own history and experience with corporate spending and corruption; and

Whereas, several proposed amendments to the Constitution have been introduced in Congress that would allow government to regulate the raising and spending of money by corporations to influence elections; and

Whereas, on Election Day, 2012, over six million voters across the United States, including the states of Colorado and Montana, had the opportunity to vote on state and local ballot measures calling for a constitutional amendment to limit money in politics, and all proposed initiatives passed overwhelmingly, averaging seventy-five percent support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Senate opposes the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* regarding the constitutional rights of corporations; supports an amendment to the Constitution to provide that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections or rights of natural persons, specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process is no longer a form of constitutionally protected speech; and calls on Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, that the Senate respectfully opposes the United States Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases allowing unlimited corporate election spending; and be it further

Resolved, that the Senate supports an amendment to the United States Constitution to establish that corporations are not entitled to the same rights and protection as natural persons under the Constitution; and, be it

Further Resolved, that such an amendment should assure the power of the federal, state and local governments to limit, regulate and require disclosure of sources of all money spent to influence elections; and be it further

Resolved, that the Senate charges the West Virginia Congressional Delegation with the duty to support such an amendment, to work diligently towards its passage and to vote at all stages to advance such legislation in the Congress; and be it further

Resolved, that the Senate declares its intention to ratify such an amendment if and when the Congress shall submit it to the states; and be it further

Resolved, that the Clerk is hereby directed to deliver a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States and the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of both houses of Congress and to each United States Senator and Member of the House of Representatives from West Virginia.

POM-147. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Catano, Puerto Rico petitioning for the release of a Puerto Rican political prisoner; to the Committee on the Judiciary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-148. A resolution adopted by the Alabama Town Board, New York memorializing opposition to any legislation which infringes upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-149. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to operate the fleet of the United States Postal Service vehicles on natural gas; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 180

Whereas, since its founding in 1775, the United States Postal Service has been an indispensable part of the country's communication network; and

Whereas, the modern United States Postal Office has struggled to compete with the package delivery services of the Federal Express and the United Parcel Service; and

Whereas, with the decline in first class mail volume and increased competition in package delivery, the United States Postal Office loses billions every year; and

Whereas, in attempts to stay solvent the United States Postal Office has delivered more junk mail, closed smaller postal offices, and considered ending mail deliveries on Saturdays; and

Whereas, one avenue that the United States Postal Office has not explored is the operation of the Postal Service motor vehicle fleet on natural gas; and

Whereas, on average natural gas costs one-third less than gasoline at the pump and natural gas is convenient and abundant; and

Whereas, natural gas prices have exhibited significant stability compared to oil prices and this stability makes it easier to plan accurately for long-term costs; and

Whereas, natural gas vehicles have lower maintenance costs because the gas burns cleanly resulting in less wear and tear on engines; and

Whereas, the operation of the fleet of the United States Postal Service vehicles on natural gas would be an excellent way to

save the United States Postal Service millions of dollars each year while making their vehicles safer and more efficient: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to operate the fleet of the United States Postal Service vehicles on natural gas; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Zachary Thomas Fardon, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Patricia M. Wald, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board for a term expiring January 29, 2019.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 1552. A bill to demonstrate a commitment to our nation's scientists by increasing opportunities for the development of our next generation of teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 1553. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to reauthorize the State infrastructure bank program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1554. A bill to direct the heads of Federal public land management agencies to prepare reports on the availability of public access and egress to Federal public land for hunting, fishing, and other recreational purposes, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide funding for recreational public access to Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER:

S. 1555. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for a delay in the implementation schedule of the reductions in disproportionate share hospital payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PRYOR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DUR-

BIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BURR, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. Kaine, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. Res. 261. A resolution designating the week beginning September 23, 2013, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 262. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of suicide prevention awareness; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WARNER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 263. A resolution designating the week of September 23 through September 29, 2013, as "National Estuaries Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 252

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 252, a bill to reduce preterm labor and delivery and the risk of pregnancy-related deaths and complications due to pregnancy, and to reduce infant mortality caused by prematurity.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to provide for increased Federal oversight of prescription opioid treatment and assistance to States in reducing opioid abuse, diversion, and deaths.

S. 357

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S.