

Given our strong interest in not reducing student services and minimizing disruption to the Job Corps Program, we proceeded cautiously in evaluating and implementing cost saving measures in PY 2012. In retrospect, it is clear that we did not act as quickly or decisively as circumstances required. As the Assistant Secretary, I take full responsibility for our failure to manage these issues more aggressively.

Although they ultimately were insufficient, we did take several significant steps throughout PY 2012 to gain better control of Job Corps' expenses. For example, in August a newly-created Office of Financial Administration (OFA) within ETA, headed by a Senior Executive Service-level Comptroller, began operating. OFA oversees the now-centralized budget and financial operations of Job Corps. After OFA began operating, we developed initial targets for both savings and what we believed would be a sufficient reserve for the Job Corps program. We also eliminated a contract for accounting services within the Job Corps Operations account, reduced USDA costs, and negotiated with contractors to identify additional cost-savings measures.

In September 2012, the Secretary approved several additional measures for PY 2012: a reduction in new student biweekly stipend and transition pay to graduates, suspension of enrollments in late November and December, centralizing student transportation costs, and reducing the national academic support contract and career technical support contract. In October 2012, we issued guidance informing the Job Corps community that we would be suspending enrollment from November 26 through December 31, 2012. We also announced that, effective November 1, 2012, Job Corps would reduce the stipends and transition pay for new enrollees.

Despite these cost-cutting measures, our analysis of data in November showed that Job Corps would need to implement additional savings because costs were again exceeding budgeted amounts. Therefore, in December, we took additional steps, including eliminating the student stipend for days when a Job Corps student is not present for duty, which took effect immediately, and reducing the student clothing stipend, effective January 1, 2013. We reduced Job Corps' national media buy by \$4 million for PY 2012. In mid-December, we increased the student to teacher ratio from 15:1 to 18:1 in order to save costs, while properly accounting for the special academic needs of at-risk youth.

In January 2013, we also issued guidance to reduce health care-related costs, including by modifying the current health staffing requirements, adjusting the hours for center physicians, dentists and Training Employee Assistance Program specialists based on center usage, and requiring applicants to provide a current record of immunizations in order to eliminate duplicative care. We also continued our work to cut administrative costs. Among other things, we have issued a solicitation that we anticipate will help Job Corps right-size its career technical training and academic programs and we are exploring the best way to centralize utility and other procurements.

Notwithstanding these efforts to reduce costs for PY 2012, as of the beginning of January 2013 we continued to project insufficient cost savings to remain within budgeted levels for the program year. On January 18, 2013, Job Corps instructed all centers to temporarily suspend outreach and admission activities, effective January 28, except for runaway, homeless and foster care candidates. The length of the suspension will be determined by the time it takes to achieve the necessary savings, but we do not expect it to last past June 30, 2013.

The decision to temporarily freeze Job Corps enrollment nationwide was extremely difficult. It came after we implemented many alternative cost-savings measures, albeit insufficient ones. We also considered other alternatives before deciding to implement the temporary enrollment freeze.

Some of the options we considered include an abbreviated program year, slot reductions at a specified number of centers, cutting student stipends and transition pay to current students, and adopting a student leave policy in lieu of scheduled holiday and other school breaks. Ultimately, we rejected these and other options because of their more harmful effect on the Job Corps program and the students that it serves as well as the insufficient savings we would have obtained. Our conclusion was that the most certain and least detrimental savings Job Corps could achieve for the remainder of PY 2012 was from the temporary suspension. This will result in reduced center operating expenses, lower Outreach/Admissions contract costs, as well as savings in student stipend and transportation costs.

Notwithstanding the temporary enrollment suspension, on January 28, 2013, Job Corps continued to serve 44,268 students as of that date. With the suspension of new enrollments, Job Corps will be able to keep its commitment to students who are already in the program.

In closing, the Department deeply regrets the current situation facing the Job Corps program. I personally take responsibility for not acting more quickly to ensure that the program was operating within its appropriated levels. The decision to temporarily suspend enrollment at all centers is the most balanced, efficient way to achieve the savings now in order to avoid a shortfall in PY 2012. However, we clearly recognize that a comprehensive review and assessment of the Job Corps program, contracting, budget, and management is needed to ensure that we do not face this situation again. We will keep your office updated. Please contact Michelle Rose in the Department's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs with any questions. She may be reached at (202) 693-4600.

Sincerely,

JANE OATES,
Assistant Secretary.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 320—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 14, 2013, AS "WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 320

Whereas 22 years ago, the Wreaths Across America project began an annual tradition, during the month of December, of donating, transporting, and placing Maine balsam fir holiday wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 wreaths have been sent to locations, including national cemeteries and veterans memorials, in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project to "Remember, Honor, Teach" is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery as well as veterans cemeteries and other locations in all 50 States;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans parade between Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of remembering the fallen heroes of the United States, honoring those who serve, and teaching the people of the United States about the sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve the freedoms in the United States;

Whereas in 2012, wreaths were sent to more than 800 locations across the United States and overseas, 100 more locations than the previous year;

Whereas in December 2013, the Patriot Guard Riders, a motorcycle and motor vehicle group that is dedicated to patriotic events and includes more than 250,000 members nationwide, will continue the tradition of the group of escorting a tractor-trailer filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas thousands of individuals volunteer each December to escort and lay the wreaths;

Whereas December 15, 2012, was previously designated by the Senate as "Wreaths Across America Day"; and

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy on December 14, 2013, bringing approximately 130,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery on that day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 14, 2013, as "Wreaths Across America Day";

(2) honors the Wreaths Across America project, the Patriot Guard Riders, and all of the volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes the sacrifices that our veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and their families have made, and continue to make, for our great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 321—HONORING THE LIFE, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND LEGACY OF NELSON ROLIHLEHLA MANDELA AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON HIS PASSING

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. COONS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr.

SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 321

Whereas Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, as Rolihlahla Mandela, to Nonqaphi Nosekeni and Nkosi Mphakanyiswa Gadla Mandela in Transkei, South Africa;

Whereas Nelson Mandela's defiance of injustice, and his commitment to peace and reconciliation, played critical roles in the negotiation process that led South Africa to abolish apartheid, a system of racially focused social, political, and economic discrimination, and to ultimately adopt in its place a system of multiparty democracy and universal suffrage for all South Africans;

Whereas Nelson Mandela became a political activist as a young man and rose through the leadership ranks of the African National Congress (ANC), becoming the ANC President;

Whereas, on August 5, 1962, Nelson Mandela was arrested for his political activism to end the discriminatory policies of apartheid;

Whereas, despite calls for clemency on behalf of Nelson Mandela by the international community, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Secretary General of the United Nations, he was found guilty of all charges against him and sentenced to life in prison;

Whereas, during 18 of his 27 years of imprisonment on Robben Island, Nelson Mandela was permitted only one visitor a year, and for only 30 minutes;

Whereas Nelson Mandela remained resolute, refusing offers to renounce his struggle against the Government of South Africa in exchange for his freedom, and became widely viewed as a martyr for the anti-apartheid movement;

Whereas, during his imprisonment, Nelson Mandela was confined to a small cell where he slept on the floor, and he was sentenced to hard labor while being gravely mistreated by prison officials;

Whereas, on February 11, 1990, under growing international pressure and national campaign efforts, Nelson Mandela was released from prison, marking the end of his 27 years, 6 months, and 1 week of continuous incarceration;

Whereas, upon his release, Nelson Mandela resumed a top leadership role in the ANC and led the party in negotiations that resulted in South Africa's first multiracial elections;

Whereas, in 1994, following the first fully representative, multiracial national elections, Nelson Mandela was elected on May 9 and inaugurated on May 10 as President of the Democratic Republic of South Africa under a Government of National Unity;

Whereas President Nelson Mandela led the transition from minority rule and apartheid to multicultural, multiracial democracy, and played a critical role in initiating South Africa's ongoing efforts to foster national reconciliation and end the diverse, deep-rooted, and enduring social, political, and economic inequalities created by apartheid;

Whereas President Nelson Mandela sought to promote equal opportunity for jobs and education, access to social services, and quality-of-life improvements for all South Africans;

Whereas, during the presidency of Nelson Mandela, South Africa established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to inves-

tigate gross human rights violations committed under the apartheid regime;

Whereas Nelson Mandela's decision to step down after one term as South Africa's elected President serves as a commendable example of commitment to democratic principles for elected national leaders in new democracies around the globe;

Whereas Nelson Mandela continued his social justice and human rights work upon his retirement in 1999, primarily through the Nelson Mandela Foundation and its two sister organizations, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and the Mandela-Rhodes Foundation;

Whereas, on July 18, 2007, Nelson Mandela convened the Elders, a group of world leaders including Desmond Tutu, Graca Machel, and former United States President Jimmy Carter, to contribute their wisdom and insight towards addressing some of the world's toughest problems;

Whereas the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize was jointly awarded to Nelson Mandela and Frederik Willem de Klerk "for their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime, and for laying the foundations for a new democratic South Africa";

Whereas Congress contributed to the attainment of the political ideals and goals for which Nelson Mandela struggled, by enacting the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-440) on October 2, 1986, and has honored Nelson Mandela by passing the Mandela Freedom Resolution in the House of Representatives on September 18, 1984 (H. Res. 430, 98th Congress), and in the Senate on October 10, 1984 (S. Res. 386, 98th Congress), by adopting the resolution concerning United States support for the new South Africa on October 5, 1994 (H. Res. 560, 103rd Congress), and by awarding Nelson Mandela the Congressional Gold Medal on July 29, 1998;

Whereas former United States President Bill Clinton honored Nelson Mandela with the Philadelphia Liberty Medal in 1993, and former United States President George W. Bush honored Nelson Mandela with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002;

Whereas, on July 18 of each year, people around the world celebrate Nelson Mandela Day, in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday, by devoting their time to community service in honor of his legacy;

Whereas, in 1995, Nelson Mandela wrote: "I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended."; and

Whereas Nelson Mandela leaves a legacy that transcends his time and place in history, which will guide and inspire generations to come: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, accomplishments, and legacy of former South African President Nelson Mandela;

(2) extends its heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the members of the family of the late President Nelson Mandela and his fellow citizens;

(3) requests the Secretary of State to communicate these expressions of honor and condolence to Nelson Mandela's family and to the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa; and

(4) requests the President to identify an appropriate and lasting program of the

United States Government to honor Nelson Mandela's legacy.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2546. Mr. REID (for Mr. WHITEHOUSE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 263, designating the week of September 23 through September 29, 2013, as "National Estuaries Week".

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2546. Mr. REID (for Mr. WHITEHOUSE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 263, designating the week of September 23 through September 29, 2013, as "National Estuaries Week"; as follows:

In the seventh whereas clause of the preamble, strike "extreme weather events" and insert "hurricanes and storms".

In the ninth whereas clause of the preamble, insert "some" before "bays in the United States".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on December 13, 2013, at 11 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 299, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 299) congratulating the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee on the celebration of its 100th anniversary and commending its significant contribution to empower and revitalize developing communities around the world.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 299) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of Tuesday, November 19, 2013, under "Submitted Resolutions.")