

David Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2015.

Army nomination of Matthew P. Tarjick, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Judith S. Meyers, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Thomas W. Wisenbaugh and ending with Harold P. Xenitelis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2015.

Army nomination of Michael A. Blaine, to be Colonel.

Navy nomination of Terry A. Petropoulos, to be Lieutenant Commander.

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*Sarah Elizabeth Feinberg, of West Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(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 Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2207. A bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards of not less than \$10,000,000 for information that leads to the arrest or conviction of suspects in connection with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2208. A bill to promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 2209. A bill to revise various laws that interfere with the right of the people to obtain and use firearms for all lawful purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2210. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 2211. A bill to authorize additional uses of the Spectrum Relocation Fund; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 12

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 12, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 281

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 281, a bill to require a Federal agency to include language in certain educational and advertising materials indicating that such materials are produced and disseminated at taxpayer expense.

S. 520

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 520, a bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act.

S. 619

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to include among the principal trade negotiating objectives of the United States regarding commercial partnerships trade negotiating objectives with respect to discouraging activity that discourages, penalizes, or otherwise limits commercial relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 637, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to modify the definitions of a mortgage originator and a high-cost mortgage.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 773

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to prevent harassment at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 776

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 776, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to im-

prove access to medication therapy management under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide protections for active duty military consumers, and for other purposes.

S. 1334

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1334, a bill to strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 1565

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1565, a bill to allow the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to provide greater protection to servicemembers.

S. 1719

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 1937

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1937, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to improve nutrition in tribal areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1982, a bill to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain

private contributions to fund the Wall of Remembrance.

S. 2009

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2009, a bill to prohibit the sale of arms to Bahrain.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2089

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2089, a bill to provide for investment in clean energy, to empower and protect consumers, to modernize energy infrastructure, to cut pollution and waste, to invest in research and development, and for other purposes.

S. 2145

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2145, a bill to make supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016.

S. 2148

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent an increase in the Medicare part B premium and deductible in 2016.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2152, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

S. 2166

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2166, a bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings and assessments are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care.

S. 2184

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2184, a bill to direct the President to

establish guidelines for United States foreign development and economic assistance programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2621

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2621 proposed to S. 754, an original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2716

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2716 proposed to S. 754, an original bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2210. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to establish peer specialists in patient aligned care teams at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, in 2013, the VA estimated that about 1.5 million veterans required mental health services, which VA provides in a variety of settings. In addition to the traditional VA medical centers, veterans may access mental health services and support through Vet Centers—which often appeal to veterans because of their welcoming, home-like environment; Community Based Outpatient Clinics, which play an important role in telehealth delivery by connecting rural veterans to psychiatry services from the medical center home-base, a Veterans Crisis Line, VA staff on college and university campuses, and other outreach efforts. Another important means of delivering mental health services has been the inclusion of mental health professionals within primary care delivery through VA's Patient Aligned Care Teams, which improves the screening process and allows providers to recognize and treat mental health issues occurring among those veterans who present in their primary care locations.

In addition to providing ongoing care to veterans with mental health needs, VA plays a role in suicide risk assessment and prevention among veterans. According to VA, about one-quarter of the 18 to 22 veterans who die by suicide each day were receiving care through

VA. Suicide rates are even higher among those veterans who do not use VA for the health care services. Given the stigma and reluctance of some veterans to seek mental health treatment, veterans using VA for primary care may be missing a key entry point to the peer support model of care. Expanding this effective model into the primary care setting could provide another opportunity for veterans to access mental health services through VA. That is why, today, I am introducing—with my cosponsors Senators BALDWIN and MARKEY—the Veteran Partners' Efforts to Enhance Reintegration, Veteran PEER Act, a bill that would expand the peer support model of care for mental health services within the VA system to help ensure that veterans receive the effective and timely care they deserve.

VA has begun a program to co-locate mental health care providers within primary care settings in an effort to promote effective treatment of common mental health conditions in the primary care environment. This is a positive step; however, the peer support model of care for mental health services has not been similarly integrated. Research on the use of the peer support model of care for mental health services within the VA has shown that Peer Specialists helped patients become more active in treatment, which can promote recovery. Peer support was recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as an evidence-based practice in 2007; and over 20 states have Medicaid reimbursement for peer support services. In response to the President's August 2014 Executive Orders to improve mental health services for veterans, VA committed to integrating and expanding the peer support model of care beyond traditional mental health settings into primary care clinics in order to better connect with veterans wherever they seek care. However, progress toward placing Peer Specialists in primary care teams has been slow.

The Veteran PEER bill would require VA to expand its use of Peer Specialists—VA employees who promote veterans' recovery by sharing their own recovery stories, providing encouragement, and teaching skills needed for successful recovery. These professionals may also provide case management assistance, help with accessing the right mental health care, and teach coping and self-advocacy skills. In general, peer support programs aim to develop veterans' self-management skills and restore participation in work and other social roles. Recognizing this effective model of care, this bill would require VA to establish Peer Specialists in Patient Aligned Care Teams within VA medical centers to promote the use and integration of mental health services into the primary care setting. Over a two year period, the program would be carried out in 25 locations.