

**SA 2787.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs of section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) in rural areas.

(b) The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of average wait times for veterans in rural areas to receive health care under such section 101, measured from when the veteran first calls the Department to schedule an appointment.

(2) An assessment of utilization rates for health care provided under such section 101 in rural areas.

(3) An assessment of the accessibility of veterans in rural areas to primary and specialty care at medical centers of the Department and from non-Department health care providers under such section 101.

(4) An identification of the number of health care providers providing health care under such section 101 in each Veterans Integrated Service Network.

(5) An assessment of the status of any pilot programs created by the Department to provide care under such section 101 in rural areas.

**SA 2788.** Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

**SEC. 247. REPORT ON USE OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the use of social security numbers by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the plans of the Secretary to discontinue the unnecessary use.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A list of documents and records of the Department of Veterans Affairs that contain social security numbers.

(2) A list of all government and non-government entities and the numbers of their employees that have access to the social security numbers of veterans that are stored by the Department.

(3) A description of how the Department, other governmental entities, and persons use social security numbers they obtain from the Department, including a description of any information sharing arrangements that the Secretary may have with the heads of other governmental entities.

(4) The number of data breaches of Department of Veterans Affairs information systems that involved social security numbers that occurred during the five-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act that the Secretary discovered or that were reported to the Secretary, a description and status of the investigations conducted by the Secretary regarding such breaches, and a description of the plans of the Secretary to remediate such breaches.

(5) The plans of the Secretary, including a timeline, to discontinue the unnecessary use by the Department of social security numbers.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2789.** Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes, with respect to the South Texas Veterans Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the following:

(1) A description of the nature and scope of any foreseeable increase in wait times for medical appointments.

(2) An assessment of whether a shortage of health care providers is the primary cause of any such increase in wait times.

(3) An identification of any other causes of any such increase in wait times.

(4) A description of any action taken by the Department to correct any such increase in wait times.

(5) An assessment of any issues relating to access to care.

(6) A plan for how the Secretary will remedy any such increase in wait times, including a detailed description of steps to be taken and a timeline for completion.

(b) In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2790.** Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2763 proposed by Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. MIKULSKI) to the bill H.R. 2029, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2 \_\_\_\_\_. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that all health care pro-

viders of the Department of Veterans Affairs are trained to treat and address health issues unique to women veterans.

**VETERANS DAY MOMENT OF SILENCE ACT**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1004 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1004) to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 1004) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1004

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act”.

**SEC. 2. OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.**

(a) **TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE.**—Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 145. Veterans Day**

“The President shall issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe two minutes of silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the Nation, beginning at—

“(1) 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time;

“(2) 2:11 p.m. eastern standard time;

“(3) 1:11 p.m. central standard time;

“(4) 12:11 p.m. mountain standard time;

“(5) 11:11 a.m. Pacific standard time;

“(6) 10:11 a.m. Alaska standard time; and

“(7) 9:11 a.m. Hawaii-Aleutian standard time.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“145. Veterans Day.”.

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, November 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following

leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2029, with the time until 11 a.m. equally divided in the usual form; further, that at 11 a.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of the House message to accompany S. 1356, with all other provisions under the previous order remaining in effect; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### UNITED STATES TAX COURT

VIK EDWIN STOLL, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE JAMES S. HALPERN, RETIRED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT ANNAN RILEY III, OF FLORIDA, 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 FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

KAREN BREVARD STEWART, OF FLORIDA, 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 THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY AND SURGEON GENERAL AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 5137:

##### *To be vice admiral*

REAR ADM. CLINTON F. FAISON III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. MICHELLE C. SKUBIC

#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 9, 2015:

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

SCOTT ALLEN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT.

#### WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on November 9, 2015 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

KENNETH J. KOPOCIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PETER SILVA SILVA, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 24, 2015.