

TRIBUTE TO BETTY VANDIVER

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor for me to pay tribute today to Betty Russell Vandiver, the former first lady of the State of Georgia from 1959 to 1963.

Sybil Elizabeth "Betty" Russell Vandiver is the wonderful wife of the late Georgia Governor, Earnest Vandiver. She also is the niece of Richard B. Russell, Jr., the former Georgia Senator and Governor after whom one of our U.S. Senate office buildings was named and where my office in Washington, DC, is located. But Betty Vandiver is more than that.

At the time, Mrs. Vandiver became first lady in 1959, Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, GA, served as the State's only State hospital for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled. In the late 1950s, Central State Hospital was home to more than 12,000 patients, many of whom had been abandoned by their families at an early age.

After visiting the hospital, Mrs. Vandiver became concerned about these patients, and she determined that she would devote much of her time and energy as first lady to raising public awareness of the needs of Georgia's mentally ill and developmentally disabled.

One of Mrs. Vandiver's initiatives included working with the Georgia Municipal Association to create a statewide Christmas gift collection drive known as the Mayors' Motorcade. This special event was established in 1959 and expanded years later to support the inhabitants of the State's regional hospitals. Since then, caring Georgians support the Mayors' Motorcade each year by donating gifts to cities participating in the program.

Through Mrs. Vandiver's efforts, thousands and thousands of patients residing at Georgia's State hospitals have received Christmas gifts and visits from city officials at special motorcade events.

On December 1, 2015, we will celebrate Betty Vandiver Day in Georgia. Today it is my pleasure to honor Mrs. Vandiver for having the vision to create the Mayors' Motorcade program as a way of providing not only gifts, but also critical public awareness about the needs of Georgia's mentally ill and developmentally disabled.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 283

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I celebrate the 100th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 283 of Wayzata, MN, which occurred on November 15, 2015. Troop 283 is the oldest continually chartered troop in the State and has counted thousands of Scouts as its members since its inception.

The development of character, physical fitness, and civic engagement have always been central tenants of the Boy Scouts. The Scouts of Troop 283 epitomize these values and continue to learn

the skills necessary to be compassionate, tolerant, and dynamic leaders. In fact, to date, 151 of Troop 283's Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable within the Boy Scouts. Each aspiring Eagle Scout must complete a demanding Eagle project that showcases their ability and willingness to serve their community. These Eagle projects, along with a myriad of other service projects completed by the Scouts of Troop 283, have demonstrated their positive impact to Wayzata and the surrounding community. I am confident that Troop 283 will continue to be a positive influence well into the future.

I recognize Troop 283 for its 100 years of service to Wayzata and the great State of Minnesota. To the Scouts of Troop 283 and the family and friends that support them, thank you and congratulations on your 100th anniversary.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:53 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 90) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make a technical correction in the enrollment of S. 1356.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolutions were discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 23. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from New, Modified, and Reconstructed Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".

S.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units".

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. HATCH (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2283. A bill to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. COATS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOPE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 313. A resolution condemning the terrorist attacks in Paris and offering thoughts and prayers for the victims, condolences to their families, resolve to support the people of France, and the pledge to defend democracy and stand in solidarity with the country of France and all our allies in the face of this horrific attack on freedom and liberty; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 108

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

108, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve access for students to Federal grants and loans to help pay for postsecondary, graduate, and professional educational opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 553

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to marshal resources to undertake a concerted, transformative effort that seeks to bring an end to modern slavery, and for other purposes.

S. 627

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 627, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to revoke bonuses paid to employees involved in electronic wait list manipulations, and for other purposes.

S. 637

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) 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. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) 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. 849

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 849, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection and analysis and epidemiological research regarding Multiple Sclerosis (MS), Parkinson's disease, and other neurological diseases.

S. 901

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 901, a bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the Armed Forces that are related to that exposure, to establish an advisory board on such health conditions, and for other purposes.

S. 1555

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Filipino veterans of World War II, in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans during World War II.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1789

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1789, a bill to improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

S. 1856

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1856, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for suspension and removal of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance or misconduct that is a threat to public health or safety and to improve accountability of employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 1982

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1996

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1996, a bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy.

S. 2042

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors 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. 2045

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2045, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) 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. 2163

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2163, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require that broadband conduits be installed as a part of certain highway construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2232

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2232, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to repeal debt collection amendments made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

S. 2248

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2248, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to coordinate Federal congenital heart disease research efforts and to improve public education and awareness of congenital heart disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2251

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2251, a bill to provide for a supplementary payment to Social Security beneficiaries, supplemental security income beneficiaries, and recipients of veterans benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

MERKLEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to issue prospective guidance clarifying the employment status of individuals for purposes of employment taxes and to prevent retroactive assessments with respect to such clarifications.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reform and reduce fraud and abuse in certain visa programs for aliens working temporarily in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 282

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 282, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BURR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2282. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Reauthorization Act of 2015. I am glad to have Senators REED, BURR, and FRANKEN joining me as sponsors of this bipartisan bill that will reauthorize critical, innovative, and life-saving programs.

We have been working on this legislation throughout the year and have met with stakeholders in blood cell transplantation to receive their input. We also included members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee who are deeply committed to passing this legislation.

In drafting this legislation, we also collaborated with our counterparts in the House of Representatives. I am grateful for the leadership of Congressman CHRIS SMITH and Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, who did so much to get this legislation through the House. I commend my colleagues and their staffs for their hard work.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide some history and background that will explain why this reauthorization bill is so important. This legislation will reauthorize for another five years both the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and the National Cord Blood Inventory, which are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. These vital programs provide access to life-

saving treatments for serious conditions and disease.

Bone marrow contains blood-forming stem cells that develop into the three blood cell types that keep the body healthy. The body uses those red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets as building blocks for blood, tissue, and organs. These blood cells die naturally, and the body must continuously make new ones. Serious health problems can develop in people whose bone marrow cannot make enough new blood cells to replace the cells that die.

Cord blood is a newborn baby's blood that remains in the placenta or after-birth. This blood can be collected after delivery at no risk to the mother and baby. Like bone marrow, cord blood is also rich with stem cells, and doctors can use it as an alternative to bone marrow transplant. In fact, research in the mid-1980s highlighted the promise of cord blood, demonstrating that it is more highly enriched with blood-forming stem cells than bone marrow.

Cord blood transplantation has been used successfully to treat leukemia, lymphoma, immunodeficiency diseases, sickle cell anemia, and certain metabolic diseases. In addition to treating cancer and other blood diseases, researchers are currently testing stem cells for a host of disorders, including autoimmune and genetic disorders.

Cord blood research is also showing potential for use in the innovative fields of cellular therapy and regenerative medicine. Vaccines derived from cord blood to use against viruses and certain types of cancers are currently in early trials. Research has also indicated that cord blood could be used to treat conditions for which few treatments are available, such as stroke, cerebral palsy, hearing loss, autism, and traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg of the Carolinas Blood Bank is one of the world's leading stem cell researchers at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. At the time of that groundbreaking scientific research in the 1980s, Dr. Kurtzberg was caring for a 5 year old boy named Matthew who had a rare, inherited blood disorder called Fanconi anemia—a disease that leads to bone marrow failure. In light of the new scientific findings, doctors planned a cord blood transplant for Matthew at a hospital in Paris, France, using fully matched cord blood that had been collected during the birth of his newly born baby sister. Matthew's transplant in 1988 was a success, laying the groundwork for cord blood transplantation.

Matthew is now in his 30s. He is married, working, and living a healthy and productive life. He is living proof that cord blood contains stem cells that can replenish the bone marrow and immune system throughout a patient's life.

In 1993, with the assistance of Dr. Pablo Rubenstein of the New York Blood Center, Dr. Kurtzberg performed the world's first unrelated donor cord blood transplant at Duke University.

Over the following years, these amazing research doctors discovered more about the use of cord blood transplantation in patients who cannot find a fully matched donor.

Dr. Kurtzberg is also the president of the Cord Blood Association, CBA. I am thankful for Dr. Kurtzberg and the CBA's support in helping us develop meaningful legislation that will help cord blood banks do their jobs. I also owe gratitude for the input and guidance on this reauthorization bill that my staff and I received from Mike Boo and Dr. Jeffrey Chell with the National Marrow Donor Program, NMDP.

I am proud to have a long history of working on this issue. In early 2003, I met with Joanne Kurtzberg, Pablo Rubenstein, and Phil Coelho of Thermogenesis Corporation to discuss umbilical cord blood therapies as a promising alternative to bone marrow transplantation and how the Federal Government could help to increase collection efforts.

That night, I called Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson to talk to him about this new science, and he agreed to meet with Joanne, Pablo, and Phil the very next day. Staff from the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health joined us for that discussion. Secretary Thompson stressed that cord blood banks would need to be managed through HRSA and promised to support my legislation.

In October 2003, I introduced a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a National Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank Network to prepare, store, and distribute human umbilical cord blood stems cells for the treatment of patients and to support peer-reviewed research using those cells. That bill, the Cord Blood Stem Cell Act of 2003, S. 1717, gained strong bipartisan support over the last few months of the 108th Congress.

Although it did not pass the Senate, my 2003 bill helped to generate more interest in and support for blood stem cell transplantation. I kept working on legislation to help increase access to these life-saving transplants in the following Congress. In April 2005, the Institute of Medicine, IOM, issued recommendations to create a national cord blood network. Those of us in Congress who had been working on cord blood and bone marrow realized that combining our bipartisan, bicameral efforts would benefit patients by increasing treatment options and encouraging future research. We reviewed the IOM report and incorporated those important recommendations into one comprehensive bill.

That legislation, the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, P.L. 109-129, that was signed into law on December 20, 2005, created the National Cord Blood Inventory and established an inventory goal of at least 150,000 new and diverse cord blood stem cell units.