

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 2326. A bill to designate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, last year the Pacific Northwest, and the Nation lost one of our greatest civil rights heroes with the passing of Billy Frank, Jr. It is clear a great leader has been lost when an entire community shows up to commemorate his life and celebrate his spirit. I attended Billy's memorial, along with Senator MURRAY and 6,000 others, and was honored to have the chance to pay tribute to the man who fought for the civil rights of Native Americans, the principles of environmental stewardship, and the importance of salmon recovery and preservation in the Pacific Northwest.

Today, I am introducing the Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act, which would change the name of the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge to the "Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge." In addition, this legislation would create a national memorial to commemorate the signing of the Medicine Creek Treaty, the treaty that Billy Frank fought so hard to enforce, within the refuge. The wildlife refuge sits adjacent to the Nisqually Reservation where Billy grew up and lived, and contains the estuary and salmon that Billy devoted his life to protecting.

Billy Frank, Jr. just wanted to fish. He was a fisherman to his core, and that's how he wanted history to remember him. Everyone who knew Billy would want us to remember him as the legend that walked and fished among us. Given his life, his legacy, and the way he changed Washington State and the Nation, it is only right that we honor his legacy by forever linking his name to the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge.

Along with his advocacy for protecting Tribal treaty rights, Billy Frank changed the way we look at the environment. Because of his advocacy, we now have environmental restoration efforts throughout the Puget Sound, including at the Nisqually River Delta, the largest tidal marsh rehabilitation in the Northwest. Additionally, we have the Puget Sound Partnership, a Tribal and public-private partnership dedicated to improve the health of our Puget Sound. Billy understood that we have a sacred responsibility to be stewards of our environment, and that we must leave it for future generations in better condition than it was left to us.

The Billy Frank Jr. Tell Your Story Act has the support of the Nisqually Tribe and the neighboring Puyallup Tribe, along with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the National Congress of American Indians, and the

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. A companion bill introduced by Congressman Denny Heck has been approved by the House Natural Resources Committee and is awaiting consideration by the House. I urge its passage in the Senate, especially given the recent decision by President Obama to posthumously award Billy the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Billy grew up listening to the stories of his father and others belonging to the Nisqually and other tribes. Routinely harassed for fishing his tribe's namesake Nisqually River with nets, Willie Frank, Sr. recalled a warden telling him, "Your treaty isn't worth the paper it's printed on." Billy's father always told him, "Just keep fishing. Even if they arrested you, just keep fishing. Even if they beat you just keep fishing. Keep fishing and claim what was promised in the in the Medicine Creek Treaty." By changing the name of the Nisqually wildlife refuge, we will not only honor the fisherman that fought to protect the land and its people, but we will make this land better than it was left to us, just like Billy Frank, Jr. would have wanted.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2331. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to make invalid and unenforceable predispute arbitration agreements with respect to controversies arising under provisions of such Act and to preserve the rights of servicemembers to bring class actions under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, our Nation has a strong tradition of ensuring that our service members are protected while they serve to keep us safe. As the challenges facing our service members change, we must work to ensure that our laws continue to keep pace. In this regard, I have worked with my colleagues over the years to strengthen the protections for service members and their families under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, SCRA.

Today, I am joined by Senator GRAHAM in introducing on a bipartisan basis legislation to further enhance SCRA protections. The SCRA Rights Protection Act seeks to protect service members from being forced to accept mandatory arbitration clauses as part of everyday transactions, such as those relating to mortgage origination, automobile leases, and student loans. Often service members sign contracts that include arbitration clauses buried in the fine print, and this eliminates their access to the courts, which can limit their ability to assert their rights and reach a fair resolution. In disputes involving SCRA rights, this bill would make arbitration clauses unenforceable unless all parties consent to arbitration after the dispute arises, and would also ensure that service members retain their right to join with other service members to file a case together as a class.

I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this improvement to the SCRA, which will better protect our military families while the men and women of our Armed Forces protect our nation.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 319—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 29, 2015, AS "DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY"

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 319

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on the roads and highways needs to drive in a safer manner to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves as many as 15,000 lives each year; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and to publicize the importance of the day through use of the Citizens Band Radio Service and at truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind their congregations to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving;

(E) motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

(F) all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 29, 2015, as "Drive Safer Sunday".

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 320—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF BURMA ON THEIR COMMITMENT TO PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 320

Whereas Burma conducted general elections on November 8 2015, the country's first national vote since a civilian government was introduced in 2011 that ended nearly 50 years of military rule;

Whereas the people of Burma have, by their vigorous participation in electoral campaigning and public debate, strengthened

the foundations of a free and democratic way of life;

Whereas preliminary reports indicate that voter turnout exceeded 80 percent;

Whereas international observers have reported that election day was largely free and fair and conducted in an orderly and peaceful fashion despite broader structural concerns such as the disenfranchisement of the Rohingya;

Whereas the ruling military-backed Union Solidarity Development Party suffered a dramatic loss at the polls, and the National League for Democracy won a sizable majority in both chambers of Burma's Union Parliament, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and will select Burma's next President;

Whereas Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has symbolized the struggle for freedom and democracy in Burma and has actively supported democratic reform through her leadership of the National League for Democracy;

Whereas the National League for Democracy espouses a policy of nonviolent movement towards multi-party democracy in Burma, supports national reconciliation, and endorses strengthening democratic institutions, protecting human rights, implementing free market economic reforms, and reinforcing rule of law;

Whereas President Thein Sein and Commander-in-Chief Min Aug Hlaing made public commitments to respect the election results and vowed to abide by the law to ensure an orderly and prompt transition to a new government;

Whereas the continued democratic development of Burma is a matter of fundamental importance to the advancement of United States interests in Southeast Asia and is supported by the United States Senate:

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the people of Burma for embracing democracy through their participation in the November 8, 2015 general elections and for their continuing efforts in developing a free, democratic society that respects internationally-recognized human rights;

(2) recognizes the National League for Democracy's victory as a reflection of the will of the Burmese people;

(3) calls on the Union Solidarity Development Party to undertake a peaceful transfer of power and abide by the law to ensure an orderly and prompt transition to a new government;

(4) encourages all parties to pursue national reconciliation talks and work together in the spirit of national unity to seek what is best for the country;

(5) recognizes that while the Government of Burma has made important progress towards democratization, there remain important impediments to the realization of full democratic and civilian government, including the reservation of unelected seats for the military and the disenfranchisement of groups of people including the Rohingya;

(6) expresses hope that newly elected members of parliament and a prompt and orderly transition to a new government will herald a new generation of responsible leadership in Burma;

(7) calls on the Government of Burma to support meaningful efforts to reform the 2008 Constitution of Burma, with the full and unfettered participation of the people of Burma and in a manner that promotes and protects democratic development of Burma and safeguards against arbitrary interference by the military;

(8) supports negotiations between the Government of Burma and ethnic-based peoples and organizations;

(9) encourages the President of the United States to take further steps toward normalization of relations with Burma and consider the potential relaxation of restrictions should the Union Solidarity Development Party respect the election results and proceed with a prompt and orderly transition in power; and

(10) reaffirms that the people of the United States will continue to stand with the people of Burma in support of democracy, partnership, and peace.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 321—HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF CARE

Ms. MIKULSKI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

##### S. RES. 321

Whereas CARE is 1 of the largest and most respected international development and emergency aid organizations in the world;

Whereas CARE was officially founded on November 27, 1945, which is 70 years prior to the month of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas the United States sent 100,000,000 CARE packages to Europe during World War II, which—

(1) delivered canned meats, powdered milk, dried fruits, chocolate, and coffee to brave soldiers of the United States; and

(2) each cost only \$10 but provided 10 soldiers each 1 meal;

Whereas President Harry Truman purchased the first CARE package;

Whereas CARE was originally intended to be a temporary organization, but CARE—

(1) continued as the need for global relief continued; and

(2) grew into an international organization working in 87 countries;

Whereas CARE—

(1) has significantly broadened the scope of its relief work;

(2) provides assistance in the wake of devastating natural disasters;

(3) combats hunger; and

(4) comes to the assistance of refugees, including refugees of the current refugee crisis in Syria;

Whereas CARE also works—

(1) to empower women and girls;

(2) to reduce the incidence of child marriage;

(3) to prevent and respond to gender-based violence; and

(4) to promote gender equality internationally; and

Whereas the words of President John F. Kennedy, that the work of CARE “expresses America's concern and friendship in a language that all peoples understand” are still true today: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes the 70th anniversary of the founding of CARE, which serves as a symbol of hope and humanity throughout the world.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD SUBMIT THE PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT TO THE SENATE FOR ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. ROBERTS,

Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COATS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SASSE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

##### S. CON. RES. 25

Whereas the United States is party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with annexes, done at New York May 9, 1992, and entered into force March 21, 1994 (in this resolution referred to as the “Convention”);

Whereas the Convention requires the United States to “adopt national policies and take corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change, by limiting its anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases,” but does not require the United States to commit to specific targets or timetables for emissions reductions;

Whereas, during the Convention's advice and consent process in the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate (in this resolution referred to as the “Foreign Relations Committee”) a question arose whether future protocols made pursuant to the Convention “containing targets and timetables” for emissions reductions should be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent;

Whereas the Foreign Relations Committee submitted a written question, “Would a protocol containing targets and timetables be submitted to the Senate?” to which the Executive Branch responded, “If such a protocol were negotiated and adopted, and the United States wished to become a party, we would expect such a protocol to be submitted to the Senate.”;

Whereas the Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Senator Claiborne Pell, issued Executive Report 102-55 regarding the Convention in which it noted “that a decision by the Conference of the Parties to adopt targets and timetables would have to be submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent before the United States could deposit its instruments of ratification for such an agreement”;

Whereas Executive Report 102-55 further noted “that a decision by the executive branch to reinterpret the Convention to apply legally binding targets and timetables for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to the United States would alter the ‘shared understanding’ of the Convention between the Senate and the executive branch and would therefore require the Senate's advice and consent”;

Whereas, under the auspices given by the Executive Branch that future agreements made pursuant to the Convention containing targets and timetables for emissions reductions would be submitted to the Senate, the Senate gave its consent to ratification of the Convention on October 7, 1992;

Whereas, in December 2011, at the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-17) in Durban, South Africa, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action was established, inter alia, “to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force” under the Convention to be completed no later than 2015 and adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21);

Whereas, subsequent to COP-17, representatives of President Barack Obama, including the Special Envoy for Climate Change, have made public statements indicating that the United States intends to finalize a climate change agreement at COP-21 that contains