

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), THE REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 30, 2014

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Thomas Hawkins:									
Turkey	Dollar	284.00				32.75			316.75
Saudi Arabia	Dollar	505.00				233.00			738.00
Kuwait	Dollar	386.28				125.00			511.28
Total		1,175.28				390.75			1,566.03

SENATOR MITCH MCCONNELL,
The Republican Leader, Jan. 30, 2015.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the resolution of the Senate of January 24, 1901, the traditional reading of Washington's Farewell Address take place on Monday, February 23, following the prayer and pledge; further, that Senator HOEVEN be recognized to deliver the address.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 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, February 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; following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and that the first hour be equally divided, with the Democrats controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. I further ask that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow the for weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Reserving the right to object, may I have one sentence to observe that there appears as yet to be no Republican plan whatsoever to answer the energy chairman's question on climate change—what do we do—and with that noted, I do not object.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would just say to my friend from Rhode Island that the Senator knows we just finished a lengthy floor consideration of the Keystone bill, with an open amendment process on this and other energy-related topics. The Senate voted on several amendments on climate change, including two from the Senator from

Rhode Island, which is more opportunities to vote on these amendments than during the entire 113th Congress.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, may I say how much I appreciate the open amendment process.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to the order of the Senate of January 24, 1901, as modified by the order of February 9, 2015, appoints the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. HOEVEN, to read Washington's Farewell Address on Monday, February 23, 2015.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR VETERANS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this week we celebrate Salute to Veterans Week to honor all those who have served our Nation in uniform and their families who sacrificed so much for our country.

This week is a particularly appropriate time for us to reflect on the importance of fulfilling our commitment to all veterans. Just as we invest in and train our men and women during their military service, we must make the same investments when they return to our communities, hang up their uniforms, and embark on the next phase of their lives. This institution always seems to be willing to vote for

money so we can send people to war, but is a bit less generous in taking care of those veterans when they return home. That should stop.

This morning I visited Eastern Gateway Community College in Youngstown and met with local veterans, including community college graduate Lisa Thomas. She graduated last May and is now pursuing a 4-year degree—after getting a 2-year degree—at Franklin University using her GI benefits.

Community colleges like Eastern Gateway are an important way we provide our veterans with the necessary skills to find decent-paying jobs. They serve as pipelines for veterans so they can attend 4-year universities.

The GI bill's education benefits are critical to investing in returning servicemembers. They help the veterans who have returned from war to learn new skills, and as a result these men and women have helped to build our middle class and led to our Nation's dominance in the second half of the 20th century and into this century. But veterans, as some find out unwittingly, have a limited amount of time before their GI benefits expire.

At crowded colleges, general education requirements and prerequisites often fill up quickly, and it can take several semesters for that veteran to secure a spot. Waiting for a spot in a required course is a luxury many veterans don't have because those veterans benefits could expire. If student veterans are unable to finish their degrees before these benefits expire, they may end up being forced to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket tuition and fees. The veterans who served our Nation without delay should not face delays in getting their education.

Many colleges and universities—Youngstown State, which is the same place where the Eastern Gateway campus in Youngstown is located, is where many Eastern Gateway students complete their degrees. They offer veterans priority registration so they can get the courses they need before their benefits run out.

All of our colleges and universities—2-year, 4-year, public and private—need to follow Youngstown State's lead. If student athletes have priority registration, we can surely extend that privilege to those who have served our Nation. That is why in the coming

months I will introduce legislation to ensure that all veterans, all service-members, and their qualifying dependents can use their GI benefits to their full potential and be guaranteed priority registration. Our veterans have earned these benefits, and we must ensure that all of our veterans, such as Lisa Thomas, are able to take full advantage of those benefits for themselves and for their families. It is our duty to ensure that when veterans return home, they have the education and training and access to jobs they need to fulfill their potential. We have a duty to ensure that those returning from service to our Nation get the care they need when they come home.

As the first Ohioan to serve a full term on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have worked to ease the VA backlog and put in place a better system. The shortage of care providers has been especially pressing for veterans struggling with a brain injury—the so-called invisible injuries.

When our country went into Iraq a dozen years ago, our leader said that

this will be a short war. Our country, our government, our administration, and our Congress failed to scale up veterans hospitals and veterans care and increase the capacity, and we now find it is too small. That is the importance of making sure we do this right.

Nearly 300,000 veterans in this country struggle with post-traumatic distress. Out of an estimated 300,000 traumatic brain injuries, there are 25,000 cases of mild traumatic brain injuries. These cases are hard to diagnose and document since there is often a lack of visible evidence.

Without proper care, each year some 8,000 veterans take their own lives—154 a week, 22 veterans a day commit suicide. What a tragedy. Last week I was proud to stand with my colleagues in this body in support of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act. I look forward to President Obama signing that bill later this week. It is our duty to take an active role in increasing veterans' access to quality mental health care, and the Clay Hunt Act will help ensure that

those who put their lives on the line for us have a lifetime of their own upon returning home. We have a sacred trust between our government and those who protect us all.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:20 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 9, 2015:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL P. BOTTICELLI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.