

Navy nominations beginning with David J. Allen and ending with Tracie M. Zielinski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 22, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with David M. Buzzetti and ending with Eric R. Vetter, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 22, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with David E. Bailey and ending with Christopher J. Stewart, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 22, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with John R. Adams and ending with Mary C. Wise, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 22, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with Sean A. Cox and ending with Luis A. Perez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 22, 2017.

Navy nominations beginning with Elizabeth W. Bundt and ending with Michael G. Watson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 22, 2017.

Navy nomination of Miguel A. Santiesteban, to be Commander.

(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. ROUNDS:

S. 1380. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize officers to opt out of promotion board consideration for promotion; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1381. A bill to require a report on the extension of authorities to the United States Special Operations Command for the development, acquisition, and sustainment of special operations-peculiar technology, equipment, and services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1382. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to temporarily suspend officer grade tables to attract more talent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 1383. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify safe harbor requirements applicable to automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1384. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1385. A bill to provide for a general capital increase for the North American Development Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr.

BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1386. A bill to permit employees to request changes to their work schedules without fear of retaliation and to ensure that employers consider these requests, and to require employers to provide more predictable and stable schedules for employees in certain occupations with evidence of unpredictable and unstable scheduling practices that negatively affect employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 195. A resolution recognizing June 20, 2017, as "World Refugee Day"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. STRANGE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 34

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. STRANGE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 34, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes.

S. 58

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 58, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

S. 75

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 75, a bill to provide for the reconsideration of claims for disability compensation for veterans who were the subjects of experiments by the Department of Defense during World War II that were conducted to assess the effects of mustard gas or lewisite on people, and for other purposes.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 167, a bill to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to provide for non-preemption of measures by State and local governments to divest from entities that engage in commerce-related or investment-related boycott, divestment, or sanctions activities targeting Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 374

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 374, a bill to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to qualify homeless youth and veterans who are full-time students for purposes of the low income housing tax credit.

S. 534

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 534, a bill to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the Land and Water Conservation Fund to maximize the effectiveness of the Fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 708

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 708, a bill to improve the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to interdict fentanyl, other synthetic opioids, and other narcotics and psychoactive substances that are illegally imported into the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 913

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 913, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative, carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home

modifications enabling older individuals to live independently and safely in a home environment, and for other purposes.

S. 929

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 929, a bill to improve the HUBZone program.

S. 1008

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1008, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude cannabidiol and cannabidiol-rich plants from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes.

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1237

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1237, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to clarify the rule allowing discharge as a nonpriority claim of governmental claims arising from the disposition of farm assets under chapter 12 bankruptcies.

S. 1320

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1320, a bill to reform apportionments to general aviation airports under the airport improvement program, to improve project delivery at certain airports, and to designate certain airports as disaster relief airports, and for other purposes.

S. 1343

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1343, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 1349

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1349, a bill to provide that the rate of military basic pay for the Senior Enlisted Advisors to the commanders of the combatant commands shall be equivalent to the rate of military basic pay for the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and for other purposes.

S. 1354

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to establish an Individual Market Reinsurance fund to provide funding for State individual market stabilization reinsurance programs.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S. RES. 154

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 154, a resolution promoting awareness of motorcycle profiling and encouraging collaboration and communication with the motorcycle community and law enforcement officials to prevent instances of profiling.

S. RES. 194

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 194, a resolution designating June 15, 2017, as "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day".

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. NELSON):

S. 1383. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify safe harbor requirements applicable to automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, ensuring that more Americans are better prepared financially for their retirement is one of my top priorities.

That is why I rise to reintroduce with my colleague, Senator NELSON, the Retirement Security Act of 2017. Our bill would encourage more small employers to offer retirement plans, provide incentives for employees to save more for retirement, and make it easier for low- and middle-income taxpayers to claim tax benefits for retirement savings already authorized in law.

According to the non-partisan Center for Retirement Research, there is an estimated \$7.7 trillion gap between the savings American households need to maintain their standard of living in retirement and what they actually have. A recent Gallup poll found that only 54 percent of working Americans believe that they will have enough money to live comfortably in retirement. We must continue to work to ensure that more Americans will have the resources they need to enjoy their "golden years."

The Social Security Administration's most recent report noted that 61 percent of all beneficiaries rely on Social Security for more than half of their in-

come. Many seniors in my State rely almost entirely on Social Security to cover their monthly expenses, despite the fact that the average annual benefit is only about \$16,000 per year. It is hard to imagine stretching those dollars far enough to pay the bills—certainly a "comfortable retirement" is out of the question.

Sadly, they fare no better when it comes to savings: a survey by the Federal Reserve found that nearly half of individuals do not have enough savings to cover an emergency expense of \$400. That is not even enough to buy new tires for a car. For this reason, among others, Americans need to increase their personal savings so that we can better weather financial emergencies without raiding our retirement accounts.

There are many reasons why Americans have struggled to save for retirement, including the shift away from employer-based "defined benefit" plans, or pensions; the severity of the recent financial crisis; rising health care costs; the need for expensive long-term care; and most of all, the fact that Americans are living far longer than they did in the past. Many Americans reaching retirement age also have more debt than retirees of previous generations.

Another contributing factor is that employees of small businesses are much less likely to participate in employer-based retirement plans. According to a study by the PEW Charitable Trusts, more than 30 million U.S. workers lack access to a work-based plan to save for retirement.

Making it easier for smaller businesses to offer retirement plans for their workers would make a significant difference in the financial security of many Americans. That is why the bill we are introducing today focuses on reducing the cost and complexity of retirement plans, especially for small businesses, and on encouraging individuals to save more for retirement. Let me describe the provisions of the bill:

First, our bill would make it easier for businesses to enter into multiple employer plans, known as MEPs, to offer retirement programs to their employees. MEPs permit small companies to share the administrative burden of a retirement plan, which helps lower costs. Current law discourages the use of MEPs because it requires a connection, or "nexus," between unrelated businesses in order to join a MEP, such as membership in the same trade association. Our bill would waive the nexus requirement for businesses.

Second, our bill makes joining a MEP a more attractive option for small businesses. Under current law, if one employer in a MEP fails to meet the minimum criteria necessary for retirement plans to obtain tax benefits, all employers and their employees could lose these tax benefits—which are substantial. For employees, benefits include delaying the taxation of income contributed to a plan until funds are