

Whereas NHL Hall of Famer Mario Lemieux and Ron Burkle have jointly owned the team for 18 years, saving the Penguins from relocation and maintaining the team for the city of Pittsburgh;

Whereas longtime Penguins radio announcer Mike Lange is beloved by loyal fans of the team for such expressions as “Lord Stanley, Lord Stanley, get me the brandy”;

Whereas Penguins Captain Sidney Crosby, who has shown immense leadership, commitment to the team, and unparalleled skill throughout his outstanding career, was awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy as the 2017 NHL Playoffs Most Valuable Player, his second Conn Smythe Trophy in 2 years;

Whereas goaltender Matt Murray dazzled throughout the playoffs, becoming the first goaltender to win 2 Stanley Cups as a rookie, shutting out the Nashville Predators for the final 126 minutes, 52 seconds, and setting a rookie record with 2 shutouts in the Final series;

Whereas goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury contributed to the defensive prowess of the team throughout the Stanley Cup Playoffs, playing in 15 games, including a memorable shutout performance in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference Second Round; and

Whereas the entire Penguins roster contributed to the Stanley Cup victory, including Josh Archibald, Nick Bonino, Sidney Crosby, Matt Cullen, Jean-Sebastien Dea, Jake Guentzel, Carl Hagelin, Patric Hornqvist, Phil Kessel, Tom Kuhnhackl, Chris Kunitz, Evgeni Malkin, Kevin Porter, Carter Rowney, Bryan Rust, Tom Sestito, Conor Sheary, Dominik Simon, Daniel Sprong, Oskar Sundqvist, Garrett Wilson, Scott Wilson, Ian Cole, Frank Corrado, Trevor Daley, Brian Dumoulin, Cameron Gaunce, Ron Hainsey, Kris Letang, Olli Maatta, Derrick Pouliot, Chad Ruhwedel, Justin Schultz, Mark Streit, David Warsofsky, Marc-Andre Fleury, Tristan Jarry, Sean Maguire, and Matt Murray: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Pittsburgh Penguins and the loyal fans of the Penguins for becoming the 2017 National Hockey League Stanley Cup champions; and

(2) respectfully directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the co-owners of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Mario Lemieux and Ron Burkle; jointly

(B) the President of the Pittsburgh Penguins, David Morehouse; and

(C) the Head Coach of the Pittsburgh Penguins, Mike Sullivan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 240—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2017 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

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

S. RES. 240

Whereas, on June 27, 2017, the University of Florida Gators won the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association College World Series after sweeping the Louisiana State University Tigers 2-0 in the series in Omaha, Nebraska;

Whereas the University of Florida baseball team has competed in 11 College World Series tournaments;

Whereas, in winning the 2017 College World Series, the University of Florida baseball team secured the first national championship in baseball and the 39th national championship in a team sport for the University of Florida since the founding of the institution in 1833;

Whereas Head Coach Kevin O'Sullivan won his first national title as Head Coach in his tenth season at the University of Florida;

Whereas pitcher Alex Faedo was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2017 College World Series;

Whereas outfielder Alex Langworthy, pitcher Alex Faedo, and pitcher Brady Singer were named to the 2017 College World Series All-Tournament Team; and

Whereas the University of Florida is only the sixth school to win a national championship in baseball, football, and basketball; and

Whereas the University of Florida Gators baseball team is the 2017 Division I National Champion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Florida for winning the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association College World Series;

(2) recognizes the achievement and dedication of all players, coaches, and support staff who contributed to winning the national championship;

(3) congratulates the citizens of Florida, the University of Florida, and Florida Gators fans everywhere; and

(4) requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Dr. W. Kent Fuchs, President of the University of Florida;

(B) Scott Stricklin, Director of Athletics at the University of Florida; and

(C) Kevin O'Sullivan, Head Coach of the University of Florida baseball team.

SENATE RESOLUTION 241—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL PURPLE HEART RECOGNITION DAY

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HELLER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Purple Heart Recognition Day. I am pleased to have been joined in sponsoring this resolution by the senior Senator from West Virginia, Senator Manchin, and 25 of our Senate colleagues.

The Purple Heart's history goes as far back as the founding of our Nation. General George Washington established what is now known as the Purple Heart Medal when he issued an order establishing the Military Badge of Merit on August 7, 1782. General Washington wished for the award to be used to recognize meritorious action performed by members of the Continental Army, and it took the form of a purple heart.

The Military Badge of Merit was discontinued after the Revolution and was

not revived until 1932, when the Purple Heart medal was authorized as its official successor decoration. On February 22, 1932, the 200th Anniversary of the birth of George Washington, then-Army Chief of Staff General Douglas MacArthur resurrected the award, and it was redesignated as the Purple Heart. Quite appropriately, this reestablished Purple Heart Medal exhibits the bust and profile of George Washington.

It is around this time that the Purple Heart became synonymous with those unfortunate heroes who were killed or wounded in combat. Since 1932, the U.S. Military has awarded more than 1.8 million Purple Hearts.

Mr. President, just as the Purple Heart Medal has held a special meaning to its millions of recipients and their families, it also has special significance to my family. My father is a World War II veteran who was wounded twice during the Battle of the Bulge in Europe. He earned two Purple Hearts and the Bronze Star, and it was from him that I first learned to honor and respect our veterans.

The Purple Heart is a reminder that freedom is a gift purchased at the greatest possible price, and it is for that reason that I introduce this resolution. It is vitally important for all Americans to learn the history of this important military award, and understand and honor the sacrifices of the many men and women in uniform who have earned the Purple Heart. I am grateful to all of my colleagues who joined me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection: the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. RES. 241

Whereas, on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, General George Washington established what is now known as the Purple Heart Medal when he issued an order establishing the Badge of Military Merit;

Whereas the Badge of Military Merit was designed in the shape of a heart in purple cloth or silk;

Whereas, while the award of the Badge of Military Merit ceased with the end of the Revolutionary War, the Purple Heart Medal was authorized in 1932 as the official successor decoration to the Badge of Military Merit;

Whereas the Purple Heart Medal is the oldest United States military decoration in present use;

Whereas the Purple Heart Medal is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to recognize members of the Armed Forces who are killed or wounded in action against an enemy of the United States or are killed or wounded while held as prisoners of war;

Whereas the Purple Heart Medal has been awarded to an estimated 1,800,000 recipients; and

Whereas August 7, 2017, is an appropriate day to celebrate as National Purple Heart Recognition Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Purple Heart Recognition Day; and

(2) encourages all people of the United States—

(A) to learn about the history of the Purple Heart Medal;

(B) to honor recipients of the Purple Heart Medal; and

(C) to conduct appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for people who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 741. Mr. GRASSLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 860, to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

SA 742. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 178, to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases.

SA 743. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes.

SA 744. Mr. PORTMAN (for Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 339, to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands.

SA 745. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BROWN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2288, 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.

SA 746. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 582, to reauthorize the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 741. Mr. GRASSLEY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 860, to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 40, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 41, line 23.

SA 742. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. GRASSLEY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 178, to prevent elder abuse and exploitation and improve the justice system's response to victims in elder abuse and exploitation cases; as follows:

On page 12, line 3, strike "individual" and insert "individually".

Beginning on page 23, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 24, line 15 and insert the following:

(1) Federal Government efforts to monitor—

(A) the exploitation of older adults of the United States in global drug trafficking schemes and other international criminal enterprises;

(B) the extent to which exploitation of older adults of the United States by international criminal enterprises has resulted in the incarceration of these citizens of the United States in foreign countries; and

(C) the total annual number of elder abuse cases pending in the United States; and

(2) the results of intervention by the United States with foreign officials on behalf of citizens of the United States who are elder abuse victims in international criminal enterprises.

SA 743. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. RUBIO) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 601, to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 8, line 20, strike "; and" and insert a semicolon.

On page 8, line 23, strike the period at the end and insert "; and".

On page 8, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

"(E) promote United States values, especially respect for all persons and freedoms of religion, speech, and the press.

On page 12, line 14, strike "; and" and insert a semicolon.

On page 12, strike line 17 and insert "educational systems; and".

On page 12, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

"(C) there is the greatest opportunity to reduce childhood and adolescence exposure to or engagement in violent extremism or extremist ideologies."

SA 744. Mr. PORTMAN (for Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 339, to amend Public Law 94-241 with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands; as follows:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 19, and all that follows through the end and insert the following:

(B) by striking "ending on December 31, 2019." and inserting "ending on December 31, 2019, except that for fiscal year 2017 an additional 350 permits shall be made available for extension of existing permits, expiring after the date of enactment of the Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act through September 30, 2017, of which no fewer than 60 shall be reserved for healthcare practitioners and technical operations (as that term is defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 29-0000 or any successor provision), and no fewer than 10 shall be reserved for plant and system operators (as that term is defined by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification Group 51-8000 or any successor provision)."

SA 745. Mr. PORTMAN (for Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. NELSON, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. BROWN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2288, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of deci-

sions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. REFORM OF RIGHTS AND PROCESSES RELATING TO APPEALS OF DECISIONS REGARDING CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 101 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(34) The term 'agency of original jurisdiction' means the activity which entered the original determination with regard to a claim for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.

"(35) The term 'relevant evidence' means evidence that tends to prove or disprove a matter in issue.

"(36) The term 'supplemental claim' means a claim for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary filed by a claimant who had previously filed a claim for the same or similar benefits on the same or similar basis."

(b) NOTICE REGARDING CLAIMS.—Section 5103(a) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by striking "The" and inserting "Except as provided in paragraph (3), the";

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)(i) by striking ", a claim for reopening a prior decision on a claim, or a claim for an increase in benefits;" and inserting "or a supplemental claim;"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) The requirement to provide notice under paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a supplemental claim that is filed within the timeframe set forth in subparagraphs (B) and (D) of section 5110(a)(2) of this title."

(c) MODIFICATION OF RULE REGARDING DISALLOWED CLAIMS.—Section 5103A(f) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking "reopen" and inserting "re-adjudicate"; and

(2) by striking "material" and inserting "relevant".

(d) MODIFICATION OF DUTY TO ASSIST CLAIMANTS.—Section 5103A of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) through (g) as subsections (g) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsections:

"(e) APPLICABILITY OF DUTY TO ASSIST.—(1) The Secretary's duty to assist under this section shall apply only to a claim, or supplemental claim, for a benefit under a law administered by the Secretary until the time that a claimant is provided notice of the agency of original jurisdiction's decision with respect to such claim, or supplemental claim, under section 5104 of this title.

"(2) The Secretary's duty to assist under this section shall not apply to higher-level review by the agency of original jurisdiction, pursuant to section 5104B of this title, or to review on appeal by the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

"(f) CORRECTION OF DUTY TO ASSIST ERRORS.—(1) If, during review of the agency of original jurisdiction decision under section 5104B of this title, the higher-level adjudicator identifies or learns of an error on the part of the agency of original jurisdiction to satisfy its duties under this section, and that error occurred prior to the agency of original