

JAVIER VEGA, JR. MEMORIAL ACT OF 2017

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1617 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1617) to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 77 North in Sarita, Texas, as the "Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1617) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1617

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Javier Vega, Jr. Memorial Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A native of La Feria, Texas, Border Patrol Agent Javier Vega, Jr., served his country first a member of the United States Marines Corps and then proudly as a border patrol agent in the canine division with his dog, Goldie.

(2) Agent Vega was assigned to the Kingsville, Texas, Border Patrol Station as a canine handler and worked primarily at the Sarita Border Patrol Checkpoint.

(3) On August 3, 2014, Agent Vega was on a fishing trip with his family near Raymondville, Texas, when 2 criminal aliens attempted to rob and attack them.

(4) Agent Vega was shot and killed while attempting to subdue the assailants and protecting his family.

(5) Agent Vega is survived by his wife, parents, 3 sons, brother, sister-in-law, niece, and dog, Goldie.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION.

The checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 77 North in Sarita, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint".

SEC. 4. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the checkpoint described in section 3 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Javier Vega, Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoint".

REMOVING THE SUNSET PROVISION OF SECTION 203 OF PUBLIC LAW 105-384

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consider-

ation of H.R. 374, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 374) to remove the sunset provision of section 203 of Public Law 105-384, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 374) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 209 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 209) commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, the preeminent public policy trade association in Silicon Valley.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 209) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 28, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 230 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 230) designating the week of September 16 through September 23, 2017, as "National Estuaries Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 230) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 24, 2017, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 247, S. Res. 248, and S. Res. 249.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1757

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1757) to strengthen border security, increase resources for enforcement of immigration laws, and for other purposes.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the

majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Friday, August 18, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SAVE OUR SEAS ACT OF 2017

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 181, S. 756.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 756) to reauthorize and amend the Marine Debris Act to promote international action to reduce marine debris, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sullivan amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 773) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Beginning on page 3, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 3, line 23, and insert the following:

“(2) ASSISTANCE.—If the Administrator makes a determination under paragraph (1) that there is a severe marine debris event, the Administrator is authorized to make sums available to be used by the affected State or by the Administrator in cooperation with the affected State—

“(A) to assist in the cleanup and response required by the severe marine debris event; or

“(B) to conduct such other activity as the Administrator determines is appropriate in response to the severe marine debris event.”.

On page 4, beginning on line 24, strike “Federal funding for research and develop-

ment” and insert “research and development, including through the establishment of a prize competition.”.

The bill (S. 756), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 756

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Save Our Seas Act of 2017” or the “SOS Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. NOAA MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM.

Subsection (b) of section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (5)(C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) work with other Federal agencies to develop outreach and education strategies to address both land- and sea-based sources of marine debris; and

“(7) work with the Department of State and other Federal agencies to promote international action to reduce the incidence of marine debris.”.

SEC. 3. ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.

Section 3 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERE MARINE DEBRIS EVENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Administrator or at the request of the Governor of an affected State, the Administrator shall determine whether there is a severe marine debris event.

“(2) ASSISTANCE.—If the Administrator makes a determination under paragraph (1) that there is a severe marine debris event, the Administrator is authorized to make sums available to be used by the affected State or by the Administrator in cooperation with the affected State—

“(A) to assist in the cleanup and response required by the severe marine debris event; or

“(B) to conduct such other activity as the Administrator determines is appropriate in response to the severe marine debris event.

“(3) FUNDING.—

“(A) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of an activity carried out under the authority of this subsection shall be—

“(i) if the activity is funded wholly by funds made available by an entity, including the government of a foreign country, to the Federal Government for the purpose of responding to a severe marine debris event, 100 percent of the cost of the activity; or

“(ii) for any activity other than an activity funded as described in clause (i), 75 percent of the cost of the activity.

“(B) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In the case of an activity funded as described in subparagraph (A)(i), not more than 5 percent of the funds made available for the activity may be used by the Administrator for administrative expenses.”.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT TO RESPOND TO MARINE DEBRIS.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should—

(1) support research and development, including through the establishment of a prize competition, of bio-based and other alternatives or environmentally feasible improvements to materials that reduce municipal solid waste and its consequences in the ocean;

(2) work with representatives of foreign countries that contribute the most to the global marine debris problem to learn about, and find solutions to, the contributions of such countries to marine debris in the world's oceans;

(3) carry out studies to determine—

(A) the primary means by which solid waste enters the oceans;

(B) the manner in which waste management infrastructure can be most effective in preventing debris from reaching the oceans;

(C) the long-term economic impacts of marine debris on the national economies of each country set out in paragraph (1) and on the global economy; and

(D) the economic benefits of decreasing the amount of marine debris in the oceans;

(4) work with representatives of foreign countries that contribute the most to the global marine debris problem, including land-based sources, to conclude one or more new international agreements that include provisions—

(A) to mitigate the risk of land-based marine debris contributed by such countries reaching an ocean; and

(B) to increase technical assistance and investment in waste management infrastructure, if the President determines appropriate; and

(5) encourage the United States Trade Representative to consider the impact of marine debris in relevant future trade agreements.

SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE INTERAGENCY MARINE DEBRIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

Section 5(b) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1954(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) the Department of State;

“(6) the Department of the Interior; and”.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 9 of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1958) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year 2018 through 2022—

“(1) to the Administrator for carrying out sections 3, 5, and 6, \$10,000,000, of which no more than 10 percent may be for administrative costs; and

“(2) to the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating, for the use of the Commandant of the Coast Guard in carrying out section 4, \$2,000,000, of which no more than 10 percent may be used for administrative costs.”.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish to take a brief detour and congratulate my colleague who has been working aggressively as we worked to address the issue of marine debris. This is something on which, as members of the Oceans Caucus, we have been working with Senator SULLIVAN, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and so many. I want to acknowledge the good work that has gone into this particular piece of legislation we have just passed.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM WAR MEMORIAL ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 873, which was received from the House.