

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 918. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish mental health care to certain former members of the Armed Forces who are not otherwise eligible to receive such care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1133. An act to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for an operation on a live donor for purposes of conducting a transplant procedure for a veteran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1900. An act to designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio, as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2123. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of health care professionals to treat veterans through the use of telemedicine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2148. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify capital requirements for certain acquisition, development, or construction loans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2601. An act to amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to improve the access of veterans to organ transplants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3634. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that individuals may access documentation verifying the monthly housing stipend paid to the individual under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3897. An act to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of the Gold Star Installation Access Card to the surviving spouse, dependent children, and other next of kin of a member of the Armed Forces who dies while serving on certain active or reserve duty, to ensure that a remarried surviving spouse with dependent children of the deceased member remains eligible for installation benefits to which the surviving spouse was previously eligible, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 3911. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 with respect to risk-based examinations of Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3404. A communication from the Acting Director, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imposition of Special Measure

against Bank of Dandong as a Financial Institution of Primary Money Laundering Concern" (RIN1506-AB38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3405. A communication from the Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's decision to enter into a contract with a private security screening company to provide screening services at Atlantic City International Airport (ACY); to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3406. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "CMS Ensured Nearly All Part D Drug Records Contained Valid Prescriber Identifiers in 2016"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3407. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-96; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3408. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Removal of Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Rule" (RIN9000-AN52) (FAC 2005-96)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3409. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-96; Introduction" (FAC 2005-96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3410. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3385-EM in the State of Florida having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3411. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3384-EM in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3412. A communication from the Acting Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2016 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3413. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of

Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-3414. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an opinion of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia (United States v. James Marvin Reed); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3415. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Center's consolidated financial statements, supplemental schedules of operations, and independent auditor's report for years ended October 2, 2016, and September 27, 2015, and a report relative to the Center's schedule of expenditures of federal awards and independent auditor's reports for the year ended October 2, 2016; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-3416. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Gulf War Veterans" (RIN2900-AP84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2017; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-3417. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uninformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2017"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-134. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to properly fund the Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals and to urge the Board to streamline its process so that appeals are decided in a more timely manner; to the Committee on Appropriations.

### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Whereas, Military veterans have a number of benefits available to them when honorably discharged from service. However, to receive disability benefits, veterans must apply and be approved by agents at local veterans affairs offices. If denied, the veteran has a right to appeal to the federal Board of Veterans' Appeals; and

Whereas, As of July 2016, more than 81,000 cases were pending before the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and veterans are waiting an average of five years for cases to be determined. The wait time for a case to be resolved is unacceptable to the men and women who have served our country, and action must be taken to ensure that they are able to access the benefits they have earned; and

Whereas, Additional funding and staff are necessary to properly address the backlog, as well as the estimated 57,000 new complaints received in 2016. Streamlining the complex appeals process is also required. Increased funding for the board was included in H.R.

2577 of 2015. However, the bill did not pass the U.S. Senate before the congressional session ended. Legislation is pending in the 115th Congress (H.R. 457) to require changes to the appeals process to address the backlog of appeals; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (The Senate Concurring),* That we urge the Congress of the United States to properly fund the Department of Veterans Affairs Board of Veterans' Appeals and to urge the Board to streamline its process so that appeals are decided in a more timely manner, and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

POM-135. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing the United States Congress to award a posthumous Medal of Honor to Sergeant Thomas Henry Sheppard for his actions during the Civil War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Whereas, A most remarkable—and long overlooked—sustained act of patriotism and honor in U.S. military history is credited to Sgt. Thomas Henry Sheppard of Michigan's Almont, Marlette, and Imlay City area, during his service as flag bearer for Company E, First Michigan Cavalry, in the Civil War; and

Whereas, These actions include riding with his oversize personal flag in multiple engagements with Confederate troops in Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862 and in the Battle of Gettysburg of 1863; and

Whereas, These actions also include secreting his flag on his person after being wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg, subsequently keeping his flag safely hidden by wrapping it around his body during 505 days as a prisoner of war in Andersonville and other Confederate camps, all the while risking severe punishment or even execution; and

Whereas, Sgt. Sheppard and his flag received wide recognition at multiple Civil War reunions and other events, as reported in newspaper accounts in the late 19th century; and

Whereas, The Sheppard flag, punctured by 72 bullet holes, has been authenticated as genuine after having been restored and preserved for permanent display at the Dearborn Historical Museum; and

Whereas, Sgt. Sheppard never received official recognition for his sustained act of patriotism and honor; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (The Senate Concurring),* That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to award a posthumous Medal of Honor to Sergeant Thomas Henry Sheppard for his actions during the Civil War; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-136. A resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Syracuse, New York urging the United States Congress to take the necessary actions to ensure that the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction remains a part of the Federal Tax Code; to the Committee on Finance.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 873. A bill to amend section 8433 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for flexibility in making withdrawals from the Thrift Savings Fund (Rept. No. 115-183).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 195. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the distribution of free printed copies of the Federal Register to Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-184).

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

\*Bruce Landsberg, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2022.

\*Dana Baiocco, of Ohio, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2017.

\*Raymond Martinez, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

\*Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

\*Nazakhtar Nikakhtar, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

\*Neil Jacobs, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

\*Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

## 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. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2094. A bill to require the prompt reporting for national instant criminal background check system purposes of members of the Armed Forces convicted of domestic violence offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2095. A bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2096. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to prohibit payments of premium subsidy for harvest price policies; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. HELLER, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2097. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the administration of State homes furnishing care to veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BURR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2098. A bill to modernize and strengthen the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to more effectively guard against the risk to the national security of the United States posed by certain types of foreign investment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2099. A bill to provide for the management by the Secretary of Agriculture of certain Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2100. A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2101. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the U.S.S. Indianapolis, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2102. A bill to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2103. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2104. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income earthquake loss mitigation received under State-based earthquake loss mitigation programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 2105. A bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in