

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.

\*Nazakhtan Nikakhtan, 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, Ms. 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

the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2106. A bill to require States to automatically register eligible voters at the time they turn 18 to vote in Federal elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 324. A resolution designating November 9, 2017, as “National Diabetes Heart Health Awareness Day”, coinciding with American Diabetes Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 325. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of October 29 through November 4, 2017, as “National Obesity Care Week”; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 200, a bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress.

S. 422

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 422, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 803

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations.

S. 1050

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1050, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1063

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1063, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1188  
At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to amend title XXIX of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program under such title relating to lifespan respite care.

S. 1276

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1276, a bill to require the Attorney General to make a determination as to whether cannabidiol should be a controlled substance and listed in a schedule under the Controlled Substances Act and to expand research on the potential medical benefits of cannabidiol and other marijuana components.

S. 1344

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1344, a bill to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 with public and private resources, to enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, and for other purposes.

S. 1350

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1350, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to the timing of elections and pre-election hearings and the identification of pre-election issues, and to require that lists of employees eligible to vote in organizing elections be provided to the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 1539

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1539, a bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence.

S. 1591

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1591, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking.

S. 1742

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1742, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an option for any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 55 to 64 to buy into Medicare.

S. 1838

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1838, a bill to repeal the authority under the National Labor Relations Act for States to enact laws prohibiting agreements requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment, and for other purposes.

S. 1916

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1916, a bill to prohibit the possession or transfer of certain firearm accessories, and for other purposes.

S. 1917

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1917, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2038

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2038, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2057

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2057, a bill to prevent conflicts of interest that stem from the revolving door that raises concerns about the independence of pharmaceutical regulators.

S. 2070

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2070, a bill to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program, and to promote initiatives that will reduce the risk of injury and death relating to the wandering characteristics of some children with autism.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2070, *supra*.

S. 2080

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2080, a bill to increase the role of the financial industry in combating human trafficking.

S. RES. 279

At the request of Mr. McCAIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr.