

amendment No. 3504 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3566

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3566 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3582

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3582 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3595

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3595 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3597

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3597 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3601

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3601 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3611

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3611 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3612

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from New

York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3612 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3619

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3619 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3644

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3644 intended to be proposed to H.R. 6147, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3298. A bill to extend the authority of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., to establish a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, the Vietnam War spanned twenty years with nearly 60,000 American soldiers' lives lost. Many others served in this war and either came back wounded or were changed forever. Simply put, this war shaped an entire generation. It is imperative that we honor and commemorate this generation of American service members who sacrificed their livelihood, and in some cases their lives, for the sake of their Nation.

I firmly believe that history is our greatest teacher. In an attempt to venerate and educate the American public of the sacrifices American soldiers made in Vietnam, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund was founded. Dedicated in 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial spans over 493 feet with the names of fallen servicemen and women inscribed into the black granite. Each year millions come to pay their respects at The Wall.

To further commemorate the sacrifices made by American soldiers, the Education Center at The Wall will be added as an addition to the Memorial. It will aid in the continual education of

the sacrifices made in the Vietnam War, so that all who visit may learn from this period of history and pass it on to the generations to come.

The Education Center at The Wall will be an underground center, located near The Wall. The proposed center will show the faces of each soldier whose name is on the wall, showcase some of the artifacts left behind at The Wall, and highlight the inspiration of the monument designer Maya Lin.

In 2003, Congress authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) to raise funds to construct a visitor and education center. The funds needed to complete this project must be completely raised by private donations. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$130 million and after fifteen years of fundraising, the VVMF still needs a few extra years to raise the needed capital.

I am proud to introduce the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Extension Act along with my colleague, Senator Duckworth. This bill will extend the authorization for an additional four years until 2022, to allow VVMF the time they need to complete this important project to honor those who served and died in Vietnam.

It is imperative that we continually educate the American public and all who visit about those who served and sacrificed for their country during the Vietnam War. The Education Center at The Wall will allow for this unique educational opportunity. I ask my colleagues to join Senator DUCKWORTH and me in supporting this bipartisan effort.

Mr. DAINES. 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. 3298

*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 "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Extension Act".

## SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER.

Section 6(b)(5) of Public Law 96-297 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note; 94 Stat. 827; 117 Stat. 1348; 124 Stat. 2851; 127 Stat. 490) is amended by striking "2018" and inserting "2022".

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 597—URGING THE RELEASE OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TERRORIST ATTACKS UPON THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

## S. RES. 597

Whereas tens of thousands of pages of documents relating to the September 11, 2001,

terrorist attacks upon the United States remain classified by the Federal Government;

Whereas the contents of these documents are necessary for a full public understanding of the events and circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the decision to maintain the classified status of many of these documents prevents the people of the United States from having access to information about the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, including the involvement of certain foreign governments in the attacks; and

Whereas the people of the United States and the families of the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks deserve full and public disclosure of the events surrounding the attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) documents related to the events of September 11, 2001, should be declassified to the greatest extent possible; and

(2) the survivors, the families of the victims, and the people of the United States deserve answers about the events and circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 598—CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO GIVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 598

Whereas the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was adopted by Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in December 1982, and entered into force in November 1994 to establish a treaty regime to govern activities on, over, and under the world's oceans;

Whereas UNCLOS builds on four 1958 law of the sea conventions to which the United States is a party, including the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, the Convention on the High Seas, the Convention on the Continental Shelf, and the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas;

Whereas the treaty and an associated 1994 agreement relating to implementation of the treaty were transmitted to the Senate on October 6, 1994, and, in the absence of Senate advice and consent to adherence, the United States is not a party to the convention and the associated 1994 agreement;

Whereas the convention has been ratified by 167 parties, which includes 166 states and the European Union, but not the United States;

Whereas the United States, like most other countries, believes that coastal states under UNCLOS have the right to regulate economic activities in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), but do not have the right to regulate foreign military activities in their EEZs;

Whereas the treaty's provisions relating to navigational rights, including those in EEZs, reflect the United States diplomatic position on the issue dating back to UNCLOS's adoption in 1982;

Whereas becoming a party to the treaty would reinforce the United States perspective into permanent international law;

Whereas becoming a party to the treaty would give the United States standing to

participate in discussions relating to the treaty and thereby improve the United States ability to intervene as a full party to disputes relating to navigational rights, and to defend United States interpretations of the treaty's provisions, including those relating to whether coastal states have a right under UNCLOS to regulate foreign military activities in their EEZs;

Whereas relying on customary international norms to defend United States interests in these issues is not sufficient, because it is not universally accepted and is subject to change over time based on state practice;

Whereas relying on other nations to assert claims on behalf of the United States at the Hague Convention is woefully insufficient to defend and uphold United States sovereign rights and interests;

Whereas the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in their July 12, 2016, ruling on the case *In the Matter of the South China Sea Arbitration*, stated that "the Tribunal forwarded to the Parties for their comment a Note Verbale from the Embassy of the United States of America, requesting to send a representative to observe the hearing" and "the Tribunal communicated to the Parties and the U.S. Embassy that it had decided that 'only interested States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will be admitted as observers' and thus could not accede to the U.S. request";

Whereas the past Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, stated "as a party to UNCLOS, we will be in a better position to counter the efforts of coastal nations to restrict freedom of the seas" on February 16, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, stated that "the UNCLOS treaty guarantees rights such as innocent passage through territorial seas; transit passage through, under and over international straits; and the laying and maintaining of submarine cables," and that "the convention has been approved by nearly every maritime power and all the permanent members of the UN Security Council, except the United States" on February 16, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, further stated that "[o]ur notable absence as a signatory weakens our position with other nations, allowing the introduction of expansive definitions of sovereignty on the high seas that undermine our ability to defend our mineral rights along our own continental shelf and in the Arctic," and that "the Department strongly supports the accession to UNCLOS, an action consistently recommended by my predecessors of both parties" on February 16, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the President and the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Thomas J. Donahue, stated that the Chamber "supports joining the Convention because it is in our national interest—both in our national security and our economic interests," that "becoming a party to the Treaty benefits the U.S. economically by providing American companies the legal certainty and stability they need to hire and invest," and that "companies will be hesitant to take on the investment risk and cost to explore and develop the resources of the sea—particularly on the extended continental shelf (ECS)—without the legal certainty and stability accession to LOS provides" on June 28, 2012, before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

Whereas Mr. Donahue further stated that "the benefits of joining cut across many im-

portant industries including telecommunications, mining, shipping, and oil and natural gas," and "joining the Convention will provide the U.S. a critical voice on maritime issues—from mineral claims in the Arctic to how International Seabed Authority (ISA) funds are distributed" on June 28, 2012, before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel J. Locklear, stated that UNCLOS is "widely accepted after a lot of years of deliberation by many, many countries, most countries in my Area of Responsibility (AOR)" and that "when we're not a signatory, it reduces our overall credibility when we bring it up as a choice of how you might solve a dispute of any kind" on April 16, 2015, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Admiral Paul Zukunft, stated on February 12, 2016, that "[w]ith the receding of the icepack, the Arctic Ocean has become the focus of international interest," that "[a]ll Arctic states agree that the Law of the Sea Convention is the governing legal regime for the Arctic Ocean . . . yet, we remain the only Arctic nation that has not ratified the very instrument that provides this accepted legal framework governing the Arctic Ocean and its seabed," and that "[r]atification of the Law of the Sea Convention supports our economic interests, environmental protection, and safety of life at sea, especially in the Arctic Ocean";

Whereas former Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, further stated that "remaining outside Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) is inconsistent with our principles, our national security strategy and our leadership in commerce and trade" and that "virtually every major ally of the U.S. is a party to LOSC, as are all other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all other Arctic nations" on June 14, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas Admiral Greenert further stated that "our absence [from LOSC] could provide an excuse for nations to selectively choose among Convention provisions or abandon it altogether, thereby eroding the navigational freedoms we enjoy today" and that "accession would enhance multilateral operations with our partners and demonstrate a clear commitment to the rule of law for the oceans" on June 14, 2012, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the United States Special Representative of State for the Arctic and former Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., stated that "as a non-party to the Law of the Sea Convention, the U.S. is at a significant disadvantage relative to the other Arctic Ocean coastal States," that "those States are parties to the Convention, and are well along the path to obtaining legal certainty and international recognition of their Arctic extended continental shelf," and that "becoming a Party to the Law of the Sea Convention would allow the United States to fully secure its rights to the continental shelf off the coast of Alaska, which is likely to extend out to more than 600 nautical miles" on December 10, 2014, before the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

Whereas the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph F. Dunford, stated that "[t]he Convention provides legal certainty in the world's largest maneuver space," that "access would strengthen the legal foundation for our ability to transit through international straits and archipelagic waters; preserve our right to