

EC-3490. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3878" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31281)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3491. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 3877" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31280)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3492. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tomahawk, WI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0651)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3493. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Coast Guard PSU-312 Training Exercise South Bay, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0859)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3494. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; San Juan Harbor, San Juan, PR" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0686)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3495. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Waiver of Citizenship Requirements for Crewmembers on Commercial Fishing Vessels" ((RIN1625-AB50) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0625)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3496. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Beauty and the Beast Triathlon; Christiansted Harbor, St. Croix, Virgin Island" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0893)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3497. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Kissimmee River, Fort Basinger, FL" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0821)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3498. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Atlantic Ocean, Key West, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0631)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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-160. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to enact H.R. 613 and S. 164, the TRICARE Reserve and Select Improvement Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

Whereas, Men and women with full-time careers who are also reservists in the Texas National Guard or another reserve component of the United States armed forces provide a valuable service to Texas and the nation; and

Whereas, Also providing a valuable service to Texas and the nation are men and women who have made the reserves of the armed forces of the United States their full-time career; these military technicians provide day-to-day readiness and training in reserve component units and are considered to be federal employees; and

Whereas, Unfortunately, federal employees who are also reservists or who work full time in a reserve component unit are ineligible for TRICARE Reserve Select, the low-cost health benefits plan offered to all other reserve component service members; instead, these federal employees who are eligible for a federal health benefits plan must use a more expensive health benefits plan; and

Whereas, The cost difference between enrolling in TRICARE and a federal health benefits plan can be significant in a family budget; in a recent example, a full-time base services manager at an Air National Guard base estimated that she paid \$4,700 more of her \$57,000 annual salary for a federal health benefits plan than she would for TRICARE; and

Whereas, To address the different treatment of reserve component service members who are federal employees, Congress is considering H.R. 613/S. 164, the TRICARE Reserve Select Improvement Act, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE of members of the reserve components of the armed forces who are eligible to enroll in a federal health benefits plan; and

Whereas, Enacting the TRICARE Reserve Select Improvement Act would reduce the financial burden on valued members of the Texas National Guard and other reserve components of the United States armed forces; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact H.R. 613/S. 164, the TRICARE Reserve Select Improvement Act; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-161. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the President of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59

Whereas, World War II lasted from 1939 until 1945, and the United States entered the war in 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

Whereas, Over 16 million Americans served their country and its allies over the course of the war; and

Whereas, The generation of men and women who served our country in World War II has been called "the greatest generation" for their selfless sacrifice; and

Whereas, The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration that is awarded by the United States government; and

Whereas, The Medal of Honor is presented by the president of the United States, in the name of Congress; and

Whereas, The Medal of Honor is only conferred upon members of the United States armed forces who distinguish themselves through conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force, or while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; and

Whereas, More than 3,400 Medals of Honor have been awarded to our nation's bravest soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen since the creation of the award in 1861; and

Whereas, The Medal of Honor was awarded to 473 Americans during World War II, and only four of those 473 Americans are alive today; and

Whereas, Charles H. Coolidge of Tennessee, Francis S. Currey of New York, Robert D. Maxwell of Oregon, and Hershel W. Williams of West Virginia all served their country with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life and therefore deserve the gratitude of the American people; and

Whereas, The president of the United States has the sole authority to designate a state funeral; and

Whereas, Historically, the president of the United States has designated state funerals for former presidents, generals, and other extraordinary Americans; and

Whereas, Designating a state funeral when the last surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient dies would be a wonderful way for the American people to unite and honor all 16 million soldiers, sailors, and airmen who served in our armed forces from 1941 to 1945; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas, hereby respectfully urge the president of the United States to designate a state funeral for the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-162. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to repeal the

Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, Social Security is the foundation for retirement income for tens of millions of American workers and their families; nearly two-thirds of the older Americans who receive program benefits rely on Social Security for 50 percent or more of their total income, and one-third rely on it for 90 percent or more; among beneficiaries aged 80 and older, 42 percent rely on Social Security for nearly all of their income; and

Whereas, Two Social Security provisions, however, the Government Pension Offset (GPO), enacted in 1977, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), enacted in 1983, severely and unfairly penalize recipients of public pensions; and

Whereas, The GPO effectively prohibits some government retirees from collecting both their own pension and full Social Security benefits as a surviving spouse; an estimated 9 out of 10 public employees affected by the GPO lose their entire spousal benefit, even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, The WEP reduces the Social Security benefit for public employees who did not participate in Social Security while working for the government, but who at some time in their careers were in jobs where they paid Social Security taxes for the period required to qualify for retirement benefits; the WEP can deprive a retiree of nearly \$450 a month in Social Security benefits duly earned by that individual;

Whereas, Although these provisions were intended to curtail the payment of windfall benefits to highly paid government employees, in practice they have had and continue to have devastating consequences for low-income employees who worked for many years as public servants; more than two million government employees and retirees are affected by either the GPO or the WEP or both, and the repercussions are felt most acutely in Texas and 14 other states where a high proportion of public employees participate in state or municipal retirement systems that do not include Social Security; and

Whereas, These punitive and discriminatory provisions target hundreds of thousands of teachers, police officers, firefighters, and other public servants; although the vast majority of Texas school employees participate in the state's teacher retirement system and therefore are not required to and do not participate in the Social Security system, many Texas teachers and other public school employees nonetheless have earned Social Security benefits on their own behalf through other employment, the WEP notwithstanding, or would be entitled to spousal Social Security benefits based on their spouses' lifetime earnings were it not for the GPO penalty; these provisions cause veteran teachers to retire prematurely and discourage qualified individuals from entering the teaching profession at precisely the time that Texas and the nation face a severe shortage of highly qualified educators; and

Whereas, The GPO and WEP as applied to public employees are unreasonable and unjust and will cause tens of thousands of government retirees to experience a diminished quality of life or be forced to return to work to make up for the effects of these provisions; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision of the Social Security Act; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-163. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to enact H.R. 500 which prevents the IRS from collecting taxes on any amount of student loan forgiven for deceased veterans; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION NO. 97

Whereas, Each member of the United States Armed Forces serves our country to protect the citizens of the United States and, in 2015, there were over one million active duty members of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas, If a service member sustains an injury or illness while on active duty they may be discharged and return home to pursue higher educational opportunities; and

Whereas, Many service members embrace the opportunity to pursue higher education through the various tuition assistance programs and college funds offered to service members, which may be used in combination with federal and private student loans to pay for the cost of college; and

Whereas, If a service member loses his or her life as a result of an injury or illness sustained while on active duty, the federal education loans are forgiven under the Higher Education Act and private loan companies can choose to forgive the education loans; and

Whereas, When an educational loan is forgiven the Internal Revenue Code categorizes the amount of the loan as taxable gross income for a cosigner on the loan, which can include both family and friends of the deceased service member; and

Whereas, Taxing loan forgiveness as income can be burdensome to family members and friends especially during a time when they are grieving the loss of their loved one; and

Whereas, Families of veterans who lost their lives as a result of an illness or injury sustained while serving on active duty have already sacrificed so much for the United States; and

Whereas, The federal bill [H.R. 2874] *H.R. 500*, named the "Andrew P. Carpenter Tax Act," would amend the Internal Revenue Code to prevent the Internal Revenue Service from collecting taxes on any amount of student loan forgiven; and

Whereas, The federal bill will help to ease the financial burden for individuals who are already grieving for the loss of their loved one; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the President and Congress of the United States to enact [H.R. 2874] *H.R. 500* which amends the Internal Revenue Code to prevent the Internal Revenue Service from collecting taxes on any amount of student loan forgiven for deceased veterans.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Defense, the Majority and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the United States

House of Representatives, and every member of Congress from New Jersey.

POM-164. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-165. A resolution passed by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii urging the United States Congress to embrace the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of the United States' national security policy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-166. A petition from a citizen of the State of Louisiana memorializing a resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to support the initiative calling for accurate, third-party application (app) ratings and intuitive parental controls to better protect children from harmful online and mobile device content; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

POM-167. A resolution adopted by the Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments urging the United States Congress to approve H.R. 3631 Territories Health Care Improvement Act; to the Committee on Finance.

POM-168. A petition from a citizen of the State of Illinois relative to the solvency of the Central States Pension Fund; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-169. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to amendments to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-170. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to current laws regarding persons from outside of the United States and their physical presence within the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 881. A bill to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-171).

S. 919. A bill to reduce regulatory burdens and streamline processes related to commercial space activities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-172).

S. 2909. A bill to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Sung Y. Kim, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Indonesia.

Nominee: Sung Y. Kim.

Post: Republic of Indonesia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I