

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE MUSEUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the American Merchant Marine Museum, where it will be available for display as appropriate and available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the American Merchant Marine Museum should make the gold medal given to the Museum under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at appropriate locations associated with the United States Merchant Marine and that preference should be given to locations affiliated with the United States Merchant Marine.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 550), as amended, was passed.

DOGS AS WITNESS GUARDIANS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1029 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1029) to allow the use of certified facility dogs in criminal proceedings in Federal courts, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The amendment (No. 1274), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Courthouse Dogs Act”.

SEC. 2. USE OF CERTIFIED FACILITY DOG FOR TESTIMONY IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 223 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3502 the following:

“§ 3503. Use of certified facility dog for testimony in criminal proceedings

“(a) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term ‘certified facility dog’ means a dog that has graduated from an assistance dog organization that is a member of an internationally recognized assistance dog association that has a primary purpose of granting accreditation based on standards of excellence in areas of—

- “(1) assistance dog acquisition;
- “(2) dog training;
- “(3) dog handler training; and
- “(4) dog placement.

“(b) REQUESTS FOR USE OF CERTIFIED FACILITY DOGS.—Either party in a criminal proceeding in a Federal court may apply for an order from the court to allow a certified facility dog, if available, to be present with a witness testifying before the court through—

- “(1) in-person testimony; or
- “(2) testimony televised by 2-way, closed-circuit television.

“(c) CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL.—A Federal court may enter an order authorizing an available certified facility dog to accompany a witness while testifying at a hearing in accordance with subsection (b) if the court finds that—

“(1) the dog to be used qualifies as a certified facility dog;

“(2) the use of a certified facility dog will aid the witness in providing testimony; and

“(3) upon a showing by the party seeking an order under subsection (b), the certified facility dog is insured for liability protection.

“(d) HANDLERS.—Each certified facility dog authorized to accompany a witness under subsection (c) shall be accompanied by a handler who is—

“(1) trained to manage the certified facility dog by an assistance dog organization described in subsection (a); and

“(2) a professional working in the legal system with knowledge about the legal and criminal justice processes.

“(e) DEADLINE.—The party seeking an order under subsection (b) shall apply for such order not later than 14 days before the preliminary hearing, trial date, or other hearing to which the order is to apply.

“(f) OTHER ORDERS.—A Federal court may make such orders as may be necessary to preserve the fairness of the proceeding, including imposing restrictions on, and instructing the jury regarding, the presence of the certified facility dog during the proceedings.

“(g) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prevent a Federal court from providing any other accommodations to a witness in accordance with applicable law.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 223 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3502 the following:

“3503. Use of certified facility dog for testimony in criminal proceedings.”.

The bill (S. 1029), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1029

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

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States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3502 the following:

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RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following resolutions introduced earlier today en bloc: S. Res. 459, S. Res. 460, and S. Res. 461.

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

AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in recognition of its centennial anniversary, I rise to offer my congratulations and appreciation to the American Geophysical Union, also known as the AGU. Since December 1919, the AGU has played an instrumental role in supporting international cooperation while also fostering American leadership in the fields of Earth and space science. Senator MURKOWSKI and I introduced a resolution in honor of this critical milestone, and I am pleased to see the Senate pass it today.

The National Research Council created the AGU as the representative for the United States of America in the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics in 1919. Only 1 year after the end of World War I, this was an occasion for international cooperation that illustrated the importance of bridging divides in the name of science. The AGU is a prime example of our Nation’s commitment to a vision of shared peace and prosperity, and by serving as a key forum for gifted geophysicists from across the world, it is an example of our positive role in the international community for advancing knowledge.

In the century since its founding, the AGU has connected countless geophysicists to facilitate information-sharing, peer review, and innovation. The AGU today counts more than 60,000 scientists and students among its membership, across 137 countries. Their work has not only expanded our understanding of our home planet and the celestial bodies beyond, but it has also led to critical health, environmental, commercial, and technological breakthroughs. If we are to confront climate change and other systemic challenges and, indeed, if we are truly to live as stewards in harmony with our surroundings, humanity needs the international cooperation and scientific integrity the AGU demonstrates so aptly.

It is my hope that this resolution and the occasion of the AGU’s centennial anniversary can inspire us all to appreciate the significance of scientific integrity and independence. Research from the geophysical community has deeply informed our society on the

need for responding to pressing challenges, chief among them climate change. But unfortunately, it is not always so easy. Under President Trump, scientists have had to censor their work, voluntarily or involuntarily, due to political interference.

Under the Trump administration, for instance, the United States Geological Survey has opted to limit the scope of the projected consequences of climate change through 2040, despite the agency’s historic use of models stretching through 2100. Perhaps more worrisome, the White House released an Executive Order on June 14, 2019, that instructs each agency to slash at least one-third of its advisory committees, which consist of experts and scientists ready to advise on a wide range of issues, especially for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Through reason and empiricism, science brings us closer to the truth. When administration officials or other individuals purposefully interfere with science to paint an incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading image, science ceases to be science and becomes just another battleground for politics. Policymakers should not be in the business of manipulating or silencing the work of the men and women who make up the scientific community. We should let scientists do their jobs. The AGU has done an excellent job representing many of those scientists over the last 100 years, and I congratulate it on the occasion of its centennial.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 resolution (S. Res. 459) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The resolutions (S. Res. 460 and S. Res. 461) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

COMBATING GLOBAL CORRUPTION ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 144, S. 1309.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1309) to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to assess United States assistance to designated countries in order to advance anti-corruption efforts in those countries and better serve United States taxpayers.

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

had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CORRUPT ACTOR.—The term “corrupt actor” means—

(A) any foreign person or entity that is a government official or government entity responsible for, or complicit in, an act of public corruption; and

(B) any company, in which a person or entity described in subparagraph (A) has a significant stake, which is responsible for, or complicit in, an act of public corruption.

(2) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—The term “foreign assistance” means assistance made available under—

(A) the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.); or

(B) the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

(3) GRAND CORRUPTION.—The term “grand corruption” means public corruption committed at a high level of government that—

(A) distorts policies or the central functioning of the country; and

(B) enables leaders to benefit at the expense of the public good.

(4) PETTY CORRUPTION.—The term “petty corruption” means the unlawful exercise of entrusted public power for private gain by low- or mid-level public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens, including by bribery, nepotism, fraud, or embezzlement.

(5) PUBLIC CORRUPTION.—The term “public corruption” means the unlawful exercise of entrusted public power for private gain, including by bribery, nepotism, fraud, or embezzlement.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to help other countries promote good governance and combat public corruption, particularly grand corruption;

(2) multiple departments and agencies across the United States Government operate programs that promote good governance in foreign countries and enhance foreign countries’ ability to combat public corruption;

(3) the Department of State should promote coordination among programs described in paragraph (2) to improve their effectiveness and efficiency; and

(4) the Department of State should identify areas in which United States efforts to help other countries promote good governance and combat public corruption could be enhanced.

SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT.

The Secretary shall annually submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish, on a publicly accessible website, a report that—

(1) groups foreign countries, by quintile, based on—

(A) the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicator on Control of Corruption; and

(B) the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicator on Voice and Accountability;

(2) adds context and commentary, as appropriate, to the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicator on Control of Corruption and the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicator on Voice and Accountability groupings under paragraph (1), as appropriate, based on the factors outlined in section 4;

(3) describes, based on the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators and the factors outlined in section 4, the status of foreign governments’ efforts to combat public corruption; and

(4) describes the status of each foreign country’s active membership in voluntary multi-sectoral global governance initiatives as evidence of the country’s government-led efforts to combat public corruption.