

(A) overcame mines, machine gun fire, and enemy artillery while scaling the 100-foot high cliffs at Pointe du Hoc;

(B) held against intense German efforts to retake the position; and

(C) after reaching the top of the cliffs, moved inland roughly 1 mile and sustained heavy casualties while searching for, and ultimately destroying, a German heavy artillery battery.

(11) During June, July, and August of 1944, the 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions were engaged in the campaign in Brest, which included close-range fighting in hedgerows and numerous villages. Later, in operations in Western Germany, the Battalions were frequently used to attack in darkness and gain vital positions to pave the way for the main Army attacks.

(12) During the final drive into Germany in late February and early March 1945, the 5th Ranger Battalion was cited for battle honors for outstanding performance. Under the cover of darkness the unit drove into German lines and secured the objective area blocking the main German supply route. The Germans attacked the position of the Rangers from both sides, resulting in heavy Ranger casualties during 5 days of fighting. As a result of the actions of the Rangers, the main Army attack was able to overcome German defenses more easily, occupy the vital city of Trier, and reach the Rhine River.

(13) The 6th Ranger Battalion operated in the Pacific. In the most notable exploit of the 6th Ranger Battalion, in January and February of 1945, the Battalion formed the nucleus of a rescue force that liberated more than 500 Allied prisoners, including prisoners from the United States, from the Cabanatuan prisoner of war camp in the Philippines. With the help of local Filipino guerrillas, the Rangers, led by Lieutenant Colonel Henry A. Mucci, demonstrated extraordinary heroism by infiltrating Japanese-held territory to reach the prisoners of war and prevent them from being killed by the Japanese. After a 25-mile march at night through the jungle, the unit killed all Japanese sentries with no loss of life of the prisoners of war. The unit successfully returned to American lines having lost only 2 soldiers killed and having another 2 wounded.

(14) The 1st Ranger Infantry Battalion—
(A) participated in the campaigns of—
(i) Algeria-French Morocco (with arrowhead);

(ii) Tunisia;
(iii) Sicily (with arrowhead);
(iv) Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead);
(v) Anzio (with arrowhead); and
(vi) Rome-Arno; and
(B) for its contributions, received—
(i) the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer embroidered with “EL GUETTAR”; and

(ii) the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer embroidered with “SALERNO”.

(15) The 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion—
(A) participated in the campaigns of—
(i) Normandy (with arrowhead);
(ii) Northern France;
(iii) Rhineland;
(iv) Ardennes-Alsace; and
(v) Central Europe; and
(B) for its contributions, received—
(i) the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer embroidered with “POINTE DU HOE”; and

(ii) the French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, World War II, and streamer embroidered with “POINTE DU HOE”.

(16) The 3d Ranger Infantry Battalion—
(A) participated in the campaigns of—
(i) Sicily (with arrowhead);
(ii) Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead);

(iii) Anzio (with arrowhead); and

(iv) Rome-Arno; and

(B) for its contributions, received the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer embroidered with “SALERNO”.

(17) The 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion—
(A) participated in the campaigns of—
(i) Sicily (with arrowhead);
(ii) Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead);
(iii) Anzio (with arrowhead); and
(iv) Rome-Arno; and
(B) for its contributions, received the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer embroidered with “SALERNO”.

(18) The 5th Ranger Infantry Battalion—
(A) participated in the campaigns of—
(i) Normandy (with arrowhead);
(ii) Northern France;
(iii) Rhineland;
(iv) Ardennes-Alsace; and
(v) Central Europe; and
(B) for its contributions, received—
(i) the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer embroidered with “NORMANDY BEACHHEAD”; and

(ii) the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer embroidered with “SAAR RIVER AREA”; and

(iii) the French Croix de Guerre with Silver-Gilt Star, World War II, and streamer embroidered with “NORMANDY”.

(19) The 6th Ranger Infantry Battalion—
(A) participated in the campaigns of—
(i) New Guinea;
(ii) Leyte (with arrowhead); and
(iii) Luzon; and
(B) for its contributions, received—

(i) the Presidential Unit Citation (Army) and streamer embroidered with “CABU, LUZON”; and

(ii) the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation and streamer embroidered with “17 OCTOBER 1944 TO 4 JULY 1945”.

(20) The United States will be forever indebted to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II, whose bravery and sacrifice in combat contributed greatly to the military success of the United States and the allies of the United States.

SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

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

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

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II, the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where the medal shall be—

(A) available for display, as appropriate; and

(B) made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations associated with—

(A) the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II; or

(B) World War II.

(d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under regulations that the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under this section, at a price sufficient to cover the

cost of the medals, including the cost of labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDAL.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The gold medal struck under section 4 shall be a national medal for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For the purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under section 4 shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SA 1525. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1514 proposed by Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) to the amendment SA 1407 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, line 19, strike “2021” and insert “2020”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have 6 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, Stanley Blumenfeld, and Mark C. Scarsi, each to be a United

States District Judge for the Central District of California, John Charles Hinderaker, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, John Leonard Badalamenti, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, William Scott Hardy, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, John F. Heil III, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, David Cleveland Joseph, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana, Anna M. Manasco, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, Drew B. Tipton, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and Grace Karaffa Obermann, of Virginia, Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, and Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, each to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Michael Thomas, a member of my staff, for the remainder of the 116th Congress.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kyle Wood, an intern in Senator SULLIVAN's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the month.

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

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kyle Wood, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the month.

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

UNITED STATES ARMY RANGERS VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 1757 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1757) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

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 Ernst substitute amendment at the desk be considered and 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. 1524) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill (S. 1757), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CHILD CARE PROTECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 370, S. 2683.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2683) to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Care Protection Improvement Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. TASK FORCE TO ASSIST IN IMPROVING CHILD SAFETY.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established a task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force for Child Safety (referred to in this section as the "Task Force") to identify, evaluate, and recommend best practices and technical assistance to assist Federal and State agencies in fully implementing the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f(b)) for child care staff members.

(b) *COMPOSITION.*—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint the members of the Task Force, which shall include—

(1) the Director of the Office of Child Care of the Department of Health and Human Services (or the Director's designee), the Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services (or the Associate Commissioner's designee), and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (or the Director's designee); and

(2) such other Federal officials (or their designees) as may be designated by the President.

(c) *CHAIRPERSON.*—The chairperson of the Task Force shall be the Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families.

(d) *CONSULTATION.*—The Task Force shall consult with representatives from State child care agencies, State child protective services,

State criminal justice agencies, and other relevant stakeholders on identifying problems in implementing, and proposing solutions to implement, the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, as described in that section.

(e) *TASK FORCE DUTIES.*—The Task Force shall—

(1) develop recommendations for improving implementation of the requirements of section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, including recommendations about how the Task Force and member agencies will collaborate and coordinate efforts to implement such requirements, as described in that section; and

(2) develop recommendations in which the Task Force identifies best practices and evaluates technical assistance to assist relevant Federal and State agencies in implementing section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, which identification and evaluation shall include—

(A) an analysis of available research and information at the Federal and State levels regarding the status of the interstate requirements of that section for child care staff members who have resided in one or more States during the previous 5 years and who seek employment in a child care program in a different State;

(B) a list of State agencies that are not responding to interstate requests covered by that section for relevant information on child care staff members;

(C) identification of the challenges State agencies are experiencing in responding to such interstate requests;

(D) an analysis of the length of time it takes the State agencies in a State to receive such results from State agencies in another State in response to such an interstate request, in accordance with that section;

(E) an analysis of the average processing time for the interstate requests, in accordance with that section;

(F) identification of the fees associated with the interstate requests in each State to meet requirements, in accordance with that section;

(G) a list of States that are participating in the National Fingerprint File program, as administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and an analysis of reasons States have or have not chosen to participate in the program, including barriers to participation such as barriers related to State regulatory requirements and statutes; and

(H) a list of States that have closed record laws or systems that prevent the States from sharing complete criminal records data or information with State agencies in another State.

(f) *MEETINGS.*—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall hold its first meeting.

(g) *FINAL REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the first meeting of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives a final report containing all of the recommendations required by paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (e). The report shall also include a list of the members of the Task Force, the agencies such members represent, and the individuals and entities with whom the Task Force consulted under subsection (d).

(h) *EXEMPTION FROM FACA.*—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

(i) *SUNSET.*—The Task Force shall terminate 1 year after submitting its final report, but not later than the end of fiscal year 2021.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn; that the Alexander substitute