

NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 799, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 799) designating December 2020 as "National Impaired Driving Prevention Month".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be made considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 799) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

'SIX TRIPLE EIGHT' CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2019

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 633 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. 633) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women's Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the "Six Triple Eight".

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the Moran 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. 2702) 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 "'Six Triple Eight' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On July 1, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law legislation that established the Women's Army Corps (referred to in this section as the "WAC") as a component in the Army. The WAC was converted from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (referred to in this section as the "WAAC"), which had been created in 1942 without official military status. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and Mary McLeod Bethune, the founder of the National Council of Negro Women, advocated for the admittance of African-American women into the newly formed WAC to serve as officers and enlisted personnel.

(2) Dubbed "10 percenters", the recruitment of African-American women to the WAAC was limited to 10 percent of the population of the WAAC to match the proportion of African-Americans in the national population. Despite an executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 banning racial discrimination in civilian defense industries, the Armed Forces remained segregated. Enlisted women served in segregated units, participated in segregated training, lived in separate quarters, ate at separate tables in mess halls, and used segregated recreational facilities. Officers received their officer candidate training in integrated units but lived under segregated conditions. Specialist and technical training schools were integrated in 1943. During World War II, a total of 6,520 African-American women served in the WAAC and the WAC.

(3) After several units of White women were sent to serve in the European Theater of Operations (referred to in this section as the "ETO") during World War II, African-American organizations advocated for the War Department to extend the opportunity to serve overseas to African-American WAC units.

(4) In November 1944, the War Department approved sending African-American women to serve in Europe. A battalion of all African-American women drawn from the WAC, the Army Service Forces, and the Army Air Forces was created and designated as the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (referred to in this section as the "6888th"), which was nicknamed the "Six Triple Eight".

(5) Army officials reported a shortage of qualified postal officers within the ETO, which resulted in a backlog of undelivered mail. As Allied forces drove across Europe, the ever-changing locations of servicemembers hampered the delivery of mail to those servicemembers. Because 7,000,000 individuals from the United States were serving in the ETO, many of those individuals had identical names. As an example, 7,500 such individuals were named Robert Smith. One general predicted that the backlog in Birmingham, England would take 6 months to process and the lack of reliable mail service was hurting morale.

(6) In March 1945, the 6888th arrived in Birmingham. Upon their arrival, the 6888th found warehouses filled with millions of pieces of mail intended for members of the Armed Forces, United States Government personnel, and Red Cross workers serving in the ETO.

(7) The 6888th created effective processes and filing systems to track individual servicemembers, organize "undeliverable" mail, determine the intended recipient for insufficiently addressed mail, and handle mail addressed to servicemembers who had died. Adhering to their motto of "No mail, low morale", the women processed an average of 65,000 pieces of mail per shift and cleared the 6-month backlog of mail within 3 months.

(8) The 6888th traveled to Rouen, France in May 1945 and worked through a separate backlog of undelivered mail dating back as far as 3 years.

(9) At the completion of their mission, the entire unit returned to the United States. The 6888th was discontinued on March 9, 1946, at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

(10) The accomplishments of the 6888th in Europe encouraged the General Board, United States Forces, European Theater of Operations to adopt the following premise in their study of the WAC issued in December 1945: "[T]he national security program is the joint responsibility of all Americans irrespective of color or sex" and "the continued use of colored, along with white, female military personnel is required in such strength as is proportionately appropriate to the relative population distribution between colored and white races".

(11) With the exception of smaller units of African-American nurses who served in Africa, Australia, and England, the 6888th was the only African-American women's unit to serve overseas during World War II.

(12) The members of the "Six Triple Eight" received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal for their service.

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 in honor of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion (commonly known as the "Six Triple Eight") in recognition of—

(1) the pioneering military service of those women;

(2) the devotion to duty of those women; and

(3) the contributions made by those women to increase the morale of all United States personnel stationed in the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as 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.—After the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where the medal shall be available for display, as appropriate, and 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 elsewhere, particularly at—

(A) appropriate locations associated with the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion;

(B) the Women in Military Service for America Memorial;

(C) the United States Army Women's Museum;

(D) the National World War II Museum and Memorial; and

(E) any other location determined appropriate by the Smithsonian Institution.

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. NATIONAL 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 bill (S. 633), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

THE “MARGARET COCHRAN CORBIN CAMPUS OF THE NEW YORK HARBOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM”

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1925, which was received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1925) to designate the Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the “Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System”.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the Gillibrand substitute 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. 2703) 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. DESIGNATION OF MANHATTAN CAMPUS OF THE NEW YORK HARBOR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, NEW YORK.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Margaret Cochran was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, on November 12, 1751, and married John Corbin in 1772.

(2) Three years after the marriage, when John Corbin left to fight in the Revolutionary War as an artilleryman, Margaret Corbin accompanied him to war to support the Revolutionary Army.

(3) Margaret Corbin supported the Revolutionary Army by caring for injured and sick soldiers as well as by cooking and cleaning. During battle, she also helped her husband load the cannon he was responsible for manning.

(4) On November 16, 1776, John Corbin was manning a cannon during the Battle of Fort Washington on Manhattan Island, New York, when he was killed. Margaret Corbin heroically took her husband's place, firing the cannon until she, too, was hit by enemy fire and seriously wounded.

(5) Having lost the use of her left arm, Margaret Corbin was assigned to the “Invalid Regiment” at West Point, New York.

(6) The Continental Congress awarded Margaret Corbin a lifelong pension for her injuries, making her the first woman to receive a pension from the United States by virtue of military service for the United States.

(7) Margaret Corbin died in 1789 in Highland Falls, New York. She is honored nearby at West Point as a hero of the Revolutionary War.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Manhattan Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs in New York, New York, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System” or the “Margaret Cochran Corbin VA Campus”.

(c) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Campus referred to in subsection (b) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Margaret Cochran Corbin Campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System.

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. 1925), as amended, was passed.

TRAVIS W. ATKINS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 900.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 900) entitled “An Act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Bozeman, Montana, as the ‘Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic’.”, do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

STAFF SERGEANT ALEXANDER W. CONRAD VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE CLINIC

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4983 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 (H.R. 4983) to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gilbert, Arizona, as the “Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic”.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (H.R. 4983) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES S. KETTLES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7347 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 (H.R. 7347) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the “Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (H.R. 7347) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DRONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 560, S. 2730.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2730) to establish and ensure an inclusive and transparent Drone Advisory Committee.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 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 “Drone Advisory Committee for the 21st Century Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the Sense of Congress that:

(1) *Due to the ever-increasing use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in the agriculture, forestry, and rangeland sectors, as well as the inherently different uses in less populated parts of the nation, membership of the Drone Advisory Committee established by the Federal Aviation Administration should, to the extent practicable,*