Veterans Affairs to establish the Veteran Family Resource Program, and for other purposes.

S. 728

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 728, a bill to establish the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center in New York, New York, and for other purposes.

S. 730

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 730, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 847

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 847, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion.

S. 877

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 877, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the life and legacy of Roberto Clemente.

S. 921

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 921, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, and for other purposes.

S. 932

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 932, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to unfreeze funding for contract of the Department of Agriculture, to prohibit Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service office closures, and for other purposes.

S. 1238

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1238, a bill to ensure an equitable geographic distribution of projects selected through the Port Infrastructure Development Program.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1241, a bill to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation if the Government of the Russian Federation refuses to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine, violates any such agreement, or initiates another military invasion of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 1295

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1295, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to develop and implement a strategy to interdict fentanyl and other synthetic drugs in the mail at Federal correctional facilities.

S. 1306

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1306, a bill to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reissue a final rule removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

S. 1312

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1312, a bill to establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters within the Department of Agriculture.

S. 1313

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1313, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to eliminate the use of official time by Federal employees.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures relating to gifts and contracts from foreign sources.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Advanced Clean Cars II; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision'' .

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision'' .

S.J. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 47, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''California State Motor Vehicle and Engine and Nonroad Engine Pollution Control Standards; The 'Omnibus' Low $NO_X$ Regulation; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision''.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1342. A bill to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to improve the weatherization assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Weatherization Assistance Program Improvements Act, along with Senators COLLINS, COONS,

and SHAHEEN. Our bipartisan bill will make critical updates to ensure this important program can effectively serve even more households across the country.

Since 1976, the Weatherization Assistance Program has helped more than 7 million low-income households reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. The Department of Energy estimates that these upgrades help each household save $372 or more in energy bills annually. Those energy savings free up limited financial resources for essentials, like groceries and medicine.

In addition to traditional services like attic and wall insulation, the program also provides services that help with home health and safety measures, such as installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Energy efficient homes also help cut down on our carbon footprint, reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change.

An independent study of the Weatherization Assistance Program by Oak Ridge National Laboratory found that children in weatherized households miss less school, improving educational outcomes. Adults miss less work, increasing both their own incomes and their contributions to the economy. Families also reported experiencing fewer flu and cold symptoms and emergency room visits, decreasing costly medical expenses.

The Weatherization Assistance Program also helps boost our economy. The Department of Energy has reported that the program supports over 8,500 jobs while increasing our national economic output by $1.2 billion per year.

The program is a win-win for all involved. That is why, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have led my colleagues in supporting strong funding for it every year. And that is why I am introducing this bill—to ensure it continues to work for years to come.

This bill will help expand the program to many more low-income households that are currently unable to receive weatherization services because their homes need minor structural repairs before they can be weatherized. The bill will authorize a weatherization readiness fund to repair structural issues and prepare homes for weatherization assistance, increasing the number of homes the program is able to serve.

At the same time, it will raise the amount of funding allowed to be spent on each home to keep up with current labor and material costs, and it will raise the cap on the amount of funding allowed to be spent on renewable energy upgrades in each home. These provisions are essential updates to a program that has helped so many families over the past few decades.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this commonsense legislation.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 162—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA ''JERI'' BUSTAMANTE ON THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 162

Whereas Jereima ''Jeri'' Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as ''Jeri Bustamante'') lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2025, marks 7 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima ''Jeri'' Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as ''Jeri Bustamante'');

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2222. Ms. LUMMIS (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 423, to protect regular order for budgeting for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SA 2223. Ms. LUMMIS (for Mr. SHEEHY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 160, to amend the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 to reauthorize the sale by the Department of Defense of aircraft and parts for wildfire suppression purposes, and for other purposes.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2222.** Ms. LUMMIS (for Mr. MORAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 423, to protect regular order for budgeting for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. PROTECTING REGULAR ORDER FOR VETERANS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Protecting Regular Order for Veterans Act of 2025'' or the ''PRO Veterans Act of 2025''.

(b) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS ON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGETARY SHORTFALLS.—

(1) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS.—

(A) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS REQUIRED.—During the first quarter beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and in each quarter thereafter until the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide to the appropriate committees of Congress a quarterly briefing, in person, on the budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs and any shortfall the Department may be experiencing.

(B) PLANS.—In any case in which the Secretary informs Congress during a briefing under paragraph (1) that the Department is experiencing a shortfall, the Secretary shall, during such briefing, present the plans of the Secretary to address or mitigate the shortfall.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(i) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(B) SHORTFALL.—The term ''shortfall'', with respect to a fiscal year, means that the amount of appropriations required by the Department of Veterans Affairs for such fiscal year to meet all of the statutory obligations of the Department during that fiscal year exceeds the amount of appropriations requested for the Department for that fiscal year in the budget of the President submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, for that fiscal year.

(c) LIMITATIONS ON PROVISION OF INCENTIVES FOR CRITICAL SKILLS TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Section 706(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(7)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B)(ii), a critical skill incentive may not be provided under paragraph (1) to an employee of the Department employed in a Senior Executive Service position, or a position in another comparable system for senior-level Government employees, as defined by the Secretary, whose position is at the Central Office of the Department, including the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration, regardless of the actual location where the employee performs the functions of the position.

''(B)(i) A critical skill incentive provided under paragraph (1) to an employee of the Department employed in a Senior Executive Service position, or a position in another comparable system for senior-level Government employees, as defined by the Secretary, not described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph may only be provided—

''(I) on an individual basis and may not be provided to a group of such employees; and

''(II) upon approval of the following officers or those serving in an acting capacity: