

chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide that a member of the Armed Forces and the spouse of that member shall have the same rights regarding the receipt of firearms at the location of any duty station of the member.

S. 966

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define "State of residence" and "resident", and for other purposes.

S. 997

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to modernize the business of selling firearms.

S. 1717

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 1717, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 2690

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that commercial driver's licenses be restricted to United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals authorized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to engage in employment in the United States that includes driving a commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes.

S. 2721

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2721, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, to establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 2960

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2960, a bill to develop economic tools to deter aggression by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan.

S. 3151

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3151, a bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the automatic contingent extension of the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 491

At the request of Mr. GALLEG0, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 491, a resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the commencement of continuous operations of Stars and Stripes in the Pacific and the invaluable service of the Stars and Stripes as the "hometown newspaper" for members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees, and family members stationed around the world.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 492—RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY CARE AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 492

Whereas 10 years ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this preamble as the "VA") experienced a nationwide crisis regarding the ability to provide access to care that highlighted the urgent need for timely, high-quality services for veterans;

Whereas Congress responded with the bipartisan passage of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182; 132 Stat. 1393), which expanded opportunities for veterans to receive care in their communities when the VA could not meet their needs;

Whereas community care has since proven to be a vital complement to the VA health care system, offering veterans greater convenience, accessibility, and choice, particularly for those in rural areas, those facing transportation or mobility challenges, and those requiring specialized treatment;

Whereas VA data demonstrate that community care is cost-effective and also strengthens veteran trust in the VA as an institution;

Whereas veterans, their families, and caregivers have consistently affirmed that community care provides life-saving access to oncology, mental health, emergency, pain management, and other essential services; and

Whereas Congress has consistently provided the VA with record levels of funding to support both direct care and community

care, ensuring that resource constraints should never justify limiting veterans' access to needed treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States;

(2) affirms that community care complements, rather than threatens, the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this resolution as the "VA");

(3) urges the VA to implement the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182; 132 Stat. 1393) in both letter and spirit, ensuring veterans have timely access to community providers when the VA cannot meet their needs; and

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to ensuring that every veteran has timely access to high-quality, affordable, and veteran-centered care, whether provided in VA facilities or in the community.

SENATE RESOLUTION 493—REDUCING THE ANNUAL RATE OF PAY OF SENATORS IF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS DURING A YEAR

Mr. KENNEDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 493

Resolved,

SECTION 1. NO PAY FOR SENATORS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Government shutdown" means a lapse in appropriations for 1 or more Federal agencies or departments; and

(2) the term "Secretary of the Senate" means the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out the requirements of this section.

(b) REQUIRING REDUCTION OF PAY OF SENATORS IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If on any day during a pay period a Government shutdown is in effect, the Secretary of the Senate shall exclude from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to that pay period for the compensation of each Senator an amount equal to the product of—

(A) an amount equal to one day's worth of pay under the annual rate of pay of the Senator under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

(B) the number of 24-hour periods during the pay period during which the Government shutdown is in effect.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days occurring after the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2026 (in this section referred to as the "pay reduction effective date").

(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR SENATORS BEFORE GENERAL ELECTION.—

(1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any day before the pay reduction effective date a Government shutdown is in effect, the Secretary of the Senate shall—

(A) withhold from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to a pay period for the compensation of each Senator an amount equal to the product of—

(i) an amount equal to one day's worth of pay under the annual rate of pay applicable to the Senator under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

(ii) the number of 24-hour periods during which the Government shutdown is in effect which occur during the pay period; and

(B) deposit in an escrow account all amounts withheld under subparagraph (A).

(2) RELEASE OF AMOUNTS AT END OF THE CONGRESS.—In order to ensure that this subsection is carried out in a manner that shall not vary the compensation of Senators in violation of the 27th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Secretary of the Senate shall release for payments to Senators any amounts remaining in any escrow account under this subsection on the pay reduction effective date.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days during the period beginning on the date of adoption of this resolution and ending on the pay reduction effective date.

SENATE RESOLUTION 494—OBSERVING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE SS EDMUND FITZGERALD SANK IN LAKE SUPERIOR, AND REMEMBERING THE 29 LIVES LOST IN ONE OF THE WORST STORMS EVER RECORDED ON THE GREAT LAKES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. SLOTKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 494

Whereas, on November 9, 1975, the *Fitzgerald* left the port of Superior, Wisconsin, captained by Ernest McSorley with a crew of 28 men;

Whereas Captain McSorley had 44 years of experience and a crew of men from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, and California;

Whereas the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* measured 729 feet long and, at the time of construction, was the largest ore freighter on the Great Lakes, earning it the nicknames "The Pride of the American Side," "The Mighty Fitz," and "The Titanic of the Great Lakes";

Whereas the *Fitzgerald* set multiple records, often beating its own records for the most cargo carried in a single shipping season and was the first ship to carry 1,000,000 tons of iron ore through the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan;

Whereas the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* hauled 26,116 tons of iron ore pellets destined for steel mills to be used in the production of automobiles;

Whereas the storm on November 10, 1975, was named "the storm of the century," with gales of 100 miles per hour and 50-foot waves;

Whereas the Great Lakes region is the third largest economy in the world, and its maritime system is the backbone of the region's economy, supporting the livelihoods of farmers, fishers, iron ore miners, steelworkers, shippers, and manufacturers;

Whereas the investigation of the wreck by the Coast Guard led to policy changes that continue to improve the safety of shipping on the Great Lakes, including the deployment of buoys to monitor lake conditions, an effort which later grew into the Coastal-Marine Automated Network; and

Whereas the final voyage of the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* was immortalized in Gordon Lightfoot's famed ballad "The Wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*," helping to ensure that the ship and its crew are never forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the wreck of the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald*;

(2) expresses its support to the families of those who lost their lives;

(3) commends the courageous work of the rescue crews, the Coast Guard, and the commercial vessels and their crews that assisted in the initial search for survivors;

(4) recognizes Gordon Lightfoot and all those who reside in the Great Lakes region who carry on the legacy of the SS *Edmund Fitzgerald* every day; and

(5) reaffirms its commitment to ensuring safe shipping on the Great Lakes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 495—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND HONORING THE UNITED STATES VETERANS WHO SERVED DURING THE CONFLICT

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. GALLEGRO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 495

Whereas, between October 1955 and May 7, 1975, the Armed Forces of the United States supported the cause of freedom in South Vietnam, beginning with the commencement of the Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam;

Whereas, on January 12, 1962, the United States carried out its first combat mission in Vietnam, in support of the Republic of Vietnam against the communist forces of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong;

Whereas, in 1965, ground combat units of the Armed Forces of the United States arrived in the Republic of Vietnam to join approximately 23,000 personnel of the Armed Forces who were already present there;

Whereas, by 1969, the number of such troops reached a peak of approximately 549,500, including members of the Armed Forces in the region who were supporting the combat operations;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States served worldwide during the Vietnam War era;

Whereas the members of the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in Vietnam included approximately 10,000 women, who served as nurses, physicians, air traffic controllers, in military intelligence, in administrative roles, and in many other capacities;

Whereas 58,281 members of the Armed Forces of the United States lost their lives in the Vietnam War, more than 300,000 were wounded in Vietnam, and 771 endured the hardships of being prisoners of war, with 113 dying while in internment;

Whereas 1,545 members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam remain missing and unaccounted for, and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) continues its diligent efforts to locate, identify, and repatriate their remains, providing closure to families and honoring the commitment to leave no one behind;

Whereas significant battles, including the Tet Offensive (1968), the Battle of Hue (1968), the Battle of Khe Sanh (1968), the Easter Offensive (1972), and the Battle of Hamburger Hill (1969), exemplify the courage and commitment to duty of members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the Vietnam War, indigenous forces such as the Hmong, Montagnard, and Lao guerrillas provided in-

valuable support to the Armed Forces of the United States, serving as scouts, fighters, and intelligence operatives, often at great personal risk to themselves and their families, and many of those allies and their families have since sought refuge in the United States;

Whereas, throughout much of the war, American Red Cross volunteers, including 627 young women who were part of the organization's Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas (SRAO) program, known affectionately as the "Donut Dollies," volunteered to be sent to the front lines to support members of the Armed Forces of the United States directly engaged with the enemy, sharing with military personnel the hardships, privation, and dangers of life in a war zone;

Whereas the Donut Dollies, building on the legacies of the American Red Cross volunteers who provided moral support to members of the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II and the Korean War, traveled an average of 27,000 miles every month by jeep, truck, airplane, and helicopter to provide recreation programs for members of the Armed Forces at 28 SRAO unit locations throughout Vietnam;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Paris Peace Accords were signed, officially ending hostilities between the United States and North Vietnam, leading to the withdrawal of United States combat forces and the increased return of American prisoners of war to the United States;

Whereas, from February 12, 1973, to March 29, 1973, Operation Homecoming transported 591 American military and civilian prisoners home to the United States;

Whereas, on April 30, 1975, the fall of Saigon marked the final chapter of the involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War, culminating in the dramatic and heroic evacuation of United States personnel and thousands of South Vietnamese allies, a moment forever etched in history as a testament to the commitment of the United States to those who stood alongside its forces;

Whereas, in the years following the war, hundreds of thousands of refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos fled persecution and hardship under communist rule in search of freedom and safety, with many finding new homes and opportunities in the United States, enriching the Nation with their resilience and contributions to their new communities;

Whereas many returning Vietnam veterans faced mistreatment, discrimination, and a lack of recognition and appreciation for their service;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces who served bravely and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were repeatedly targeted with criticism and disparagement as the result of decisions that were beyond their control;

Whereas Vietnam Veterans of America, the only congressionally chartered national organization exclusively dedicated to Vietnam veterans and their families, was founded in 1978 by Vietnam veterans seeking recognition and advocacy for their unique needs, growing from modest beginnings into a respected national institution with more than 600 chapters worldwide, providing steadfast service, legal assistance, and legislative leadership to advance the welfare, rights, and dignity of Vietnam veterans and their communities;

Whereas many thousands of veterans of the Vietnam War were exposed to Agent Orange and other harmful herbicides during the course of their service, carrying home delayed wounds of toxic exposure such that Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991