accepted human rights standards. In the face of this repressive policy, ethnic Albanians pursued a policy of non-violent resistance. They boycotted Serbian institutions and built their own parallel set of political, economic and social institutions. In 1992, they elected Ibrahim Rugova as president and a 130-member parliament.

When the policy of non-violent resistance failed to make any progress, some ethnic Albanians turned to violence and over the past two years, the Kosovo Liberation Army has conducted attacks on Serbian police and other officials. On the night of February 28 of this year, Serbian special police reportedly killed more than 20 ethnic Albanians in a sweep through the Drenica region of Kosovo. Since late February, it is estimated that more than 200 ethnic Albanians have been killed in Kosovo at the hands of Serbian special police and military forces. As Serbian police forces have increased their violence against civilians, more and more ethnic Albanians have joined the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Mr. President, the actions of Slobodan Milosevic and his henchmen have been condemned by the entire international community. Russia, at the conclusion of the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council meeting on June 12, 1998, joined the NATO defense ministers in condemning ''Belgrade's massive and disproportionate use of force as well as violent attacks by Kosovar Albanian extremists.''

The United Nations Security Council, by resolution 1160 adopted on March 31, 1998, condemned the excessive use of force by Serbian police forces against civilians and peaceful demonstrators in Kosovo and acting under Chapter VII of the Charter imposed a comprehensive arms embargo on Yugoslavia and urged the Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia to begin gathering information related to the violence in Kosovo.

The Security Council's action is important because, by taking under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has determined that the violence in Kosovo is a threat to international peace and security. This is important because, there is a possibility that Russia may use its veto to prevent the Security Council from authorizing the use of all necessary means to stop the violence in Kosovo. In this regard, I note with approval that both Secretary of State Albright and Secretary of Defense Cohen took the position that the Security Council's authorization was desirable but not required for NATO action to intervene in Kosovo.

Mr. President, I applaud NATO's decision to conduct an air exercise in Albania and Macedonia to demonstrate its capability to project power rapidly in the region. I regret that Russian President Yeltsin was unable to gain Milosevic's commitment to withdraw Serbian special units from Kosovo, when they met in Moscow on June 16. Milosevic has already defaulted on his commitment to President Yeltsin to carry out no repressive actions against civilians.

Mr. President, we all hope that this tragic situation will be resolved peacefully, but that does not appear to be likely. Bosnia has taught us that quick and decisive action can prevent a crisis from getting out of hand. We must not allow Milosevic to draw this crisis out, while the ethnic Albanian people of Kosovo suffer. The international community must let Milosevic know that he must halt the systematic campaign of repression and expulsions in Kosovo. He must withdraw his special police from Kosovo and return his military forces to their barracks. And he must engage in bona fide negotiations to restore a significant degree of autonomy to Kosovo. Anything else will be insufficient and justify strong action by the international community.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2271. An act to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the United States Constitution, have been deprived by final action of Federal agencies, or other government official or entities acting under color of State law, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on July 8, 1998, he had presented to the President of the United States, the following enrolled bill:

S. 731. An act to extend the legislative authority for construction of the National Peace Garden memorial, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2071: A bill to extend a quarterly financial report program administered by the Secretary of Commerce (Rept. No. 105–241).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1534) to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the United States Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other government officials or entities acting under color of State law; to prevent Federal courts from abstaining from exercising Federal jurisdiction in actions where no State law claim is alleged; to permit certification of unsettled State law questions that are essential to resolving Federal claims arising under the Constitution; and to clarify when government action is sufficiently final to ripen certain Federal claims arising under the Constitution (Rept. No. 105–242).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 2272. A bill to amend the boundaries of Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in the State of Montana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 2273. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 1998, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 2274. A bill for relief of Richard M. Barlow of Santa Fe, New Mexico; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2275. A bill to make technical corrections to the Agricultural Research Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998; considered and passed.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 2276. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2277. A bill to protect employees of air carriers who serve as whistleblower under applicable Federal law, or who refuse to violate an applicable law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2278. A bill to exclude certain veterans' educational benefits from being considered a resource in the computation of financial aid; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. Res. 256. A resolution to refer S. 2274 entitled ''A bill for the relief of Richard M. Barlow of Santa Fe, New Mexico'' to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 2272. A bill to amend the boundaries of Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in the State of Montana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

GRANT-KOHRS RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today and introduce legislation which will amend the boundaries of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in the State of Montana.

Congress authorized the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site on August 25, 1972 to preserve the Grant-Kohrs Ranch that operated from 1860–1972. Preserving the ranch also preserved a historic reminder of our Nation's frontier cattle era. The ranch's

intact 120-year archive, 26,000 artifacts, and 88 historic structures capture the heritage of the American cowboy and cattlemen.

Today the area is the hub of a thriving tourism industry and also provides unique educational opportunities. Tourists are constantly in search of a feel for the true American West. The Grant-Kohrs Ranch offers a vivid recollection of life on the frontier while providing a great experience for visitors and jobs for local residents. The ranch has been designated a National Historic Landmark and is a true asset to Montana.

The legislation that I am proposing will incorporate an additional 120 acres of land into the authorized boundary of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site. The 120 acres that will be included in the new boundary of the ranch are already owned by the National Park Service and their inclusion in the ranch's boundary is recommended as a means of conserving the property of the original ranch from future development.

I ask unanimous consent that the administration's letter of transmittal, the bill, and a section-by-section analysis of the legislation be printed in the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

There being no objection, the items were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2272

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site Boundary Adjustment Act of 1997.''

SEC. 2 ADDITIONS TO GRANT-KOHRS RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

The Act entitled ''An Act to authorize the establishment of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in the State of Montana, and for other purposes'', approved August 25, 1972 (86 Stat. 632) is amended by striking the last sentence in the first section and inserting:

''The boundary of the National Historic Site shall be as generally described on a map entitled, ''Boundary Map, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site'', numbered 80030–B, and dated January, 1998, which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the local and Washington, District of Columbia, offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.''.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS—GRANT-KOHRS RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1997

Section 1: Short title.

Section 2: Amends the Historic Site's enabling Act by incorporating 120 acres of land already owned by the National Park Service into the boundaries of Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, March 5, 1998.

Hon. ALBERT GORE, Jr.,
President of the Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Enclosed is a draft bill ''to amend the boundaries of Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in the State of Montana.''

We recommend the bill be introduced, referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and enacted.

The enclosed draft bill would incorporate 120 acres of land, purchased by the Federal government as an uneconomic remnant in 1988 and administered by the National Park Service, into the authorized boundary of Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site. Adjusting the boundary to incorporate this tract is recommended by the site's 1993 General Management Plan and 1995 Management Assessment, both of which had extensive public involvement and review.

This parcel is a critical component of the cultural landscape and a defining character of Grant-Kohrs Ranch implicit in its National Register designations as a National Historic Landmark and Agricultural Historic District. The property also augments the Ranch in conserving open space amid the continued growth of Deer Lodge and Powell County, Montana.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the enactment of the enclosed draft legislation from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

Enclosures.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 2273. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 1998, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1998

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I introduce legislation today to grant a Cost-of-Living-Adjustment (COLA) increase, to take effect at the beginning of next year, to recipients of certain Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.

Mr. President, this legislation is simple and straightforward. It would grant a COLA increase to recipients of various VA benefits—most notably, compensation benefits received by veterans with service-connected disabilities, and the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or ''DIC'' benefits received by the survivors of veterans who died in service or died after service as a result of service-connected injuries or illnesses. The COLA to be awarded under this legislation would be, as in past years, the same COLA awarded to recipients of Social Security benefits.

It is a matter of great importance that VA compensation checks keep pace with inflation. I know this from personal experience; in Depression days, all that kept the wolf from the door of the Specter household was a small veterans disability check. The Congress has not failed to grant cost-of-living adjustments in past years, and I know it will not fail now. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2273

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 1998''.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN COMPENSATION RATES AND LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, as provided in paragraph (2), increase, effective December 1, 1998, the rates of and limitations on Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation.

(2) The Secretary shall increase each of the rates and limitations in sections 1114, 1115(1), 1162, 1311, 1313, and 1314 of title 38, United States Code, that were increased by the amendments made by the Veterans' Compensation Rate Amendments of 1997 (Public Law 105–98; 111 Stat. 2155). This increase shall be made in such rates and limitations as in effect on November 30, 1998, and shall be by the same percentage that benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 1998, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(3) In the computation of increased dollar amounts pursuant to paragraph (2), any amount which as so computed is not an even multiple of $1 shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(b) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(c) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—At the same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 1998, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register the rates and limitations referred to in subsection (a)(2) as increased under this section.●

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 2274. A bill for relief of Richard M. Barlow of Santa Fe, New Mexico; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE RELIEF BILL FOR RICHARD BARLOW

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I introduce a private relief bill on behalf of a constituent from Sante Fe, New Mexico, Mr. Richard Barlow. It appears to me that his case represents a misuse of authority within the government in response to a public servant's concern that the Congress receive accurate information about important matters of national security. In recent years, the Congress has adopted measures to protect ''whistle blowers'' who step forward to identify grievous errors or abuses that occur within the government. Mr. Barlow's case involves government reprisal against a man who never actually blew the whistle, but indicated to his superiors that he might do so if they failed to correct misinformation that they had supplied to

the Congress. Let me provide you with a brief outline of the case that I believe justifies filing this bill on his behalf.

In the summer of 1989 officials from the Department of Defense provided information to the Congress on the sale of F–16 aircraft to Pakistan. Mr. Barlow concluded that the information provided was incorrect and misleading and indicated to his supervisor that he intended to correct that information. What followed is a history of reprisal leading to the loss of career, family, and income. The Department of Defense (DoD) suspended Mr. Barlow's high level security clearances and transferred him to other duties, while conducting its own investigation into the matter. When that investigation led to DoD's decision to terminate his employment, Mr. Barlow resigned. Because of that experience, Mr. Barlow has had significant personal problems including the dissolution of his marriage and long periods of under- and unemployment.

As a constituent, Mr. Barlow asked for our help. In 1993, I asked the Inspector General of the DoD to review this case to see if it had been handled fairly. Because of the nature of the issue, Inspectors General (IG) from DoD, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the State Department reviewed the matter. The former two concluded that DoD had handled the matter fairly; the IG from the State Department disagreed.

Mr. Barlow again appealed for my assistance to enlist the support of the Senate Armed Services Committee in investigating the case. Senators THURMOND and NUNN requested the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review the findings of the IG offices. Last summer, the GAO concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support the findings of the DoD and CIA Inspectors General that Mr. Barlow's case had been handled fairly.

Given those findings, I requested the Secretary of Defense to review the case to determine if Mr. Barlow should be compensated for the losses he incurred. The Secretary replied that, after a careful review, no compensation was warranted.

Mr. President, I continue to believe that from the evidence I have reviewed, Mr. Barlow has been unfairly treated and is worthy of compensation for the price he has paid.

Mr. President, I am introducing this bill today not only because I believe a constituent has been wronged, but because this case involves an issue that's virtually important to the effective functioning of the government. In my view, private relief bills are not undertaken lightly. They are appropriate in cases of individuals who have been wronged, who have exhausted all possible remedies for resolution, and whose case represents matters of important legal or policy matters. In Mr. Barlow's case, in order for the Congress to do its job, it must rely on timely and accurate information from all the agencies of the government, particularly when it involves matters of national security. In 1989 Mr. Barlow was very concerned about efforts in Pakistan to initiate a nuclear weapons program and that the Congress needed to know the full implications of selling nuclear capable F–16 aircraft to Pakistan. Recent history indicates how important those concerns were.

Mr. President, although I believe compensation may be due to Mr. Barlow, I believe that such judgments require careful review by those experienced in such matters such as the Court of Claims. The Court will report its findings back to the Senate to guide our deliberations before determining the outcome of this bill. I hope that the Court will perform its review quickly and report their findings to the Senate in order for us to resolve this matter before the end of this session of the Congress.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2274

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

SECTION 1. COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN LOSSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to Mr. Richard M. Barlow of Santa Fe, New Mexico, the sum of $1,100,000 for compensation for losses incurred by Mr. Richard M. Barlow relating to and a direct consequence of—

(1) personnel actions taken by the Department of Defense affecting Mr. Barlow's employment at the Department (including Mr. Barlow's top secret security clearance) during the period of August 4, 1989, through February 27, 1992; and

(2) Mr. Barlow's separation from service with the Department of Defense on February 27, 1992.

(b) NO INFERENCE OF LIABILITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as an inference of liability on the part of the United States.

(c) LIMITATION ON AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS FEES.—No more than 10 percent of the payment authorized by this Act may be paid to or received by any agent or attorney for services rendered in connection with obtaining such payment, any contact to the contrary notwithstanding. Any person who violates this subsection shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine in the amount provided in title 18, United States Code.

(d) NON-TAXABILITY OF PAYMENT.—The payment authorized by this Act is in partial reimbursement for losses incurred by Mr. Barlow as a result of the personnel actions taken by the Department of Defense and is not subject to Federal, State, or local income taxes.●

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 2276. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate El Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ACT OF 1998

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I introduce legislation on behalf of myself and Senator BREAUX that is very important to the States of Texas and Louisiana, as well as to our neighboring country of Mexico. This bill will designate the El Camino Real de los Tejas Trail in Texas and Louisiana as a National Historic Trail. This legislation is the culmination of efforts by interested parties in Texas, Louisiana and Mexico, including legislators and members of academia, to study the feasibility and suitability of designating this exceptional complex of roads as part of the National Trails System.

El Camino Real, comprised of economically important roads in Mexico and the United States, was used by Native Americans and the colonial powers of Spain, France and England during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These viceregal roads were used for exploration, conquest, mission supply, settlement, cultural exchange and military campaigns, connecting a series of Spanish missions and posts between Monclova, Mexico and Los Adaes, the first capital of the province of Texas, now located in the Red River Valley of Louisiana. In the late seventeenth century, French interests expanded westward from the Mississippi River Valley into Spanish Texas. The official Spanish response was retaliatory. As a result, routes were extended from Mexico north and east into Louisiana. The historic remnants of these efforts can be found today at the Spanish outpost of Los Adaes in northwest Louisiana and the French frontier post of Fort St. Jean the Baptiste near Natchitoches, Louisiana.

El Camino Real de los Tejas, named for the Indian tribes living in what is now east Texas and northwest Louisiana, begins in Maverick County, Texas and extends into Sabine and Natchitoches Parishes in Louisiana. Historically, the trail was composed of several routes, including Camino Pita, Upper Presidio Road, Upper Road, Lower Road, Lower Presidio Road, Camino de en Medio, and the Laredo Road. These roads were established beginning in 1689. The Old San Antonio Road, sometimes called the Camino de Arriba, the nineteenth century route between San Antonio and Natchitoches, is a separate road system that in part followed El Camino Real and overlaps it in many segments. It was used by famous politicians and expansionists, such as Sam Houston and Davy Crockett. Altogether, the roads in the United States make up approximately 2,500 miles of changing routes in Texas and eighty miles in Louisiana. As an important observation, there may well be evidence procured in the future that will show that El Camino Real de los Tejas extended all the way to the Natchez Trace.

In July, the National Park Service will complete its study of the El Camino Real de los Tejas with a positive determination of suitability and feasibility for establishment of a national historic trail. This comes after enthusiastic support from the Natchitoches

community, including Northwestern State University and the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Strong support and contribution to the research and potential of trail designation came from the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Historical Commission, consultants, and many others. Trail designation would make possible coordination of activities along the length of the trail. It also would mean increased opportunities for coordination with the Mexican government on respective resource preservation and research, as well as enhanced opportunities for cooperative educational programs and tourism related to El Camino Real de los Tejas. The study anticipates little, if any, federal acquisition of private land, and only on a willing seller basis. Instead, the management of the trail would depend on cooperative partnerships between the National Park Service and other administering agencies, interested property owners or land managers, and other entities.

Mr. President, this bill represents truly successful efforts on behalf of the National Park Service and State and local governments and associations to commemorate the settlement of Texas and Louisiana. The El Camino Real de los Tejas will make a fine addition to the National Trails System, and I urge its speedy consideration and approval by this body. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2276

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act of 1998''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) El Camino Real de los Tejas (the Royal Road to the Tejas), served as the primary route between the Spanish viceregal capital of Mexico City and the Spanish provincial capital of Tejas at Los Adaes (1721–1773) and San Antonio (1773–1821).

(2) The seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth century rivalries among the European colonial powers of Spain, France, and England and after their independence, Mexico and the United States, for dominion over lands fronting the Gulf of Mexico, were played out along the evolving travel routes in this immense area.

(3) The future of several American Indian nations, whose prehistoric trails were later used by the Spaniards for exploration and colonization, was tied to these larger forces and events and the nations were fully involved in and affected by the complex cultural interactions that ensued.

(4) The Old San Antonio Road was a series of routes established in the early 19th century sharing the same corridor and some routes of El Camino Real, and carried American immigrants from the east, contributing to the formation of the Republic of Texas, and its annexation to the United States.

(5) The exploration, conquest, colonization, settlement, migration, military occupation, religious conversion, and cultural exchange that occurred in a large area of the borderland was facilitated by El Camino Real de los Tejas as it carried Spanish and Mexican influences northeastward, and by its successor, the Old San Antonio Road, which carried American influence westward, during a historic period which extended from 1689 to 1850.

(6) The portions of El Camino Real de los Tejas in what is now the United States extended from the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass and Loredo, Texas and involved routes that changed through time, that total almost 2,600 miles in combined length, generally coursing northeasterly through San Antonio, Bastrop, Nacogdoches, and San Augustine in Texas to Natchitoches, Louisiana, a general corridor distance of 550 miles.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

Section 5(a) of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a) is amended—

(1) by designating the paragraphs relating to the California National Historic Trail, the Pony Express National Historic Trail, and the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail as paragraphs (18), (19), and (20), respectively; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(21) EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—El Camino Real de los Tejas (The Royal Road to the Tejas) National Historic Trail, a combination of routes totaling 2,580 miles in length from the Rio Grande near Eagle Pass and Laredo, Texas to Natchitoches, Louisiana, and including the Old San Antonio Road, as generally depicted on the maps entitled 'El Camino Real de los Tejas', contained in the report prepared pursuant to subjection (b) entitled 'National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment: El Camino Real de los Tejas, Texas-Louisiana', dated _____ 1998. A map generally depicting the trail shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior. No land or interest in land outside the exterior boundaries of any federally administered area may be acquired by the United States for the trail except with the consent of the owner of the land or interest in land.

''(B) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary of the Interior may coordinate with United States and Mexican public and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the government of Mexico and its political subdivisions, for the purpose of exchanging trail information and research, fostering trail preservation and educational programs, providing technical assistance, and working to establish an international historic trail with complementary preservation and education programs in each nation.''●

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. COVERDELL):

S. 2278. A bill to exclude veterans' educational benefits from being considered a resource in the computation of financial aid; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an issue which is of vital importance to our nation's brave veterans and their families.

The Montgomery GI bill, which was made permanent on June 1, 1987, guarantees basic educational assistance for most persons who are, or have been, members of the Armed Forces or the Selected Reserve for significant periods of time.

The Montgomery GI bill was created to help veterans in their readjustment to civilian life, to aid in recruitment and retention of qualified personnel in the Armed Forces, and to develop a more highly educated and productive work force.

Currently, Montgomery GI benefits are considered ''other financial aid'' in the determination of need.

In other words, when a veteran applies for financial aid, colleges and universities are required to consider veterans' educational benefits as a resource when computing the financial award.

The ultimate result is that the total financial aid award is reduced.

This penalty does not exist for other Americans who serve our country.

The National Community Service Act of 1990 decrees that a national service educational award or post-service benefit shall not be treated as financial assistance.

Mr. President, this inequity is an affront to the many veterans who have sacrificed to defend our nation from harm.

Today, I am introducing the Veterans Educational Benefits Protection Act of 1998 to prevent GI bill benefits from being considered a resource in the computation of financial aid.

Let me read to you from a letter that I received from a Florida veteran. He writes:

> I do not think that VA education benefits should be calculated into the financial aid equation for two reasons.
>
> First, I paid for the Montgomery GI Bill, albeit only $1200, but more so with a sacrifice of time serving my country.
>
> I previously paid for these benefits and am currently being penalized for that through financial aid . . . I did not qualify for any type of federal educational grant this year in part because my veterans benefits were counted as financial aid in my package.

It's ironic, Mr. President.

We created the Montgomery GI bill to reward veterans for their dedication to the defense of our liberties.

They earn its benefits through years of service and help to finance them through paycheck deduction.

But current law unfairly penalizes the 94 percent of veterans who sign up for the program and the 40 percent who actually use the benefits to which they are entitled.

Our bill will revoke this self-defeating approach and restore common sense to this important veterans educational program.

If it is enacted, Montgomery GI bill benefits will no longer be treated as other financial assistance for purposes of the need analysis formula.

This is a critical change.

It is well-known and well-documented that education has a dramatic impact on earning potential and employment success.

Employees with a college education are more likely to earn higher salaries—and less likely to become unemployed—than those workers who did not advance beyond high school.

Even worse, failure to enact this legislation will harm our efforts to attract our best and brightest young people to the armed services.

The Department of Defense has identified the Montgomery GI bill as its best available recruitment tool.

Mr. President, just over fifty years ago, in 1945, tens of thousands of American servicemen returned home from defeating totalitarian aggression around the globe.

Because Congress had enacted the original GI bill a year earlier, they arrived with the assurance that the federal government would reward their brave defense of freedom and heroic sacrifice with a chance for a better life.

When Congress passed that first GI bill, it made a covenant with the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect our cherished freedom and democracy.

By making it more difficult for veterans to finance higher education once they leave the armed services, current law has undermined that compact.

I am confident that the Veterans Education Benefits Protection Act will help us reaffirm our commitment to these courageous Americans, and give veterans access to the higher education that they so richly deserve.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2278

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans' Educational Benefits Protection Act of 1998''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Having served their country with honor, veterans of the Armed Forces deserve the Nation's gratitude and support.

(2) Recognizing that education is a key element of economic success and reintegration into civilian life, Congress has for more than 50 years provided aid to veterans seeking postsecondary education.

(3) The escalating costs of postsecondary education make veterans more dependent than ever on veterans' educational benefits.

(4) Recipients of veterans' educational benefits should not be disadvantaged with respect to any other recipients of Federal educational aid programs.

SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS.

Section 480(j)(3) (20 U.S.C. 1087vv(j)(3)) is amended by inserting after ''paragraph (1),'' the following: ''a post-service benefit under chapter 30 of title 38, United States Code, or''.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1089

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1089, a bill to terminate the effectiveness of certain amendments to the foreign repair station rules of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1147

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1147, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for nondiscriminatory coverage for substance abuse treatment services under private group and individual health coverage.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of low-income housing credits which may be allocated in each State, and to index such amount for inflation.

S. 1578

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1578, a bill to make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service web site.

S. 1919

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1919, a bill to provide for the energy security of the Nation through encouraging the production of domestic oil and gas resources from stripper wells on federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 1920

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1920, a bill to improve the administration of oil and gas leases on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2007

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2007, a bill to amend the false claims provisions of chapter 37 of title 31, United States Code.

S. 2078

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2078, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Farm and Ranch Risk Management Accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2091, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure medicare reimbursement for certain ambulance services, and to improve the efficiency of the emergency medical system, and for other purposes.

S. 2154

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to promote research to identify and evaluate the health effects of silicone breast implants, and to ensure that women and their doctors receive accurate information about such implants.

S. 2162

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2162, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to more accurately codify the depreciable life of printed wiring board and printed wiring assembly equipment.

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2162, supra.

S. 2170

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2170, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the temporary increase in unemployment tax.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2175, a bill to safeguard the privacy of certain identification records and name checks, and for other purposes.

S. 2201

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2201, a bill to delay the effective date of the final rule promulgated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

S. 2213

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2213, a bill to allow all States to participate in activities under the Education Flexibility Partnership Demonstration Act.

S. 2236

At the request of Mr. GORTON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2236, a bill to establish legal standards and procedures for product liability litigation, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 95

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 95, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to promoting coverage of individuals under long-term care insurance.