

the Veterans Health Administration under subsection (b) shall be available only for the provision of care and treatment, including mental health care services, to veterans who serve abroad in the Global War on Terrorism. Such amount shall be available, without fiscal year limitation, until expended.

SA 337. Mr. HAGEL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1268, Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 159, strike line 6 and all that follows through page 161, line 21, and insert the following:

SEC. 1112. (a) INCREASE IN DEATH GRATUITY.—

(1) INCREASE.—Section 1478(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “\$12,000” and inserting “\$100,000”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE; TERMINATION.—

(A) The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall terminate on September 30, 2005. Effective as of October 1, 2005, the provisions of section 1478 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect on the date before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be revived.

(b) ADDITIONAL GRATUITY FOR DEATHS BEFORE EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) REQUIREMENT TO PAY ADDITIONAL GRATUITY.—In the case of a member of the Armed Forces who died before the date of the enactment of this Act, but on or after October 7, 2001, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall pay a death gratuity in accordance with this subsection that is in addition to the death gratuity payable in the case of such death under sections 1475 through 1477 of title 10, United States Code.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a field hearing in St. Paul, MN entitled “Tax Related Financial Products Can Be Costly,” regarding the Subcommittee's investigations into tax-related financial products. These bank products include refund anticipation loans (RALs), refund anticipation checks (RACs) and refund transfers that are offered by tax preparers such as H&R Block and Jackson Hewitt. Also included are products offered solely by the tax preparation companies such as tax preparation guarantees. The Subcommittee field hearing will examine these products' costs, the extent to which these products are fairly marketed, and whether the costs of

these products are fully disclosed. Additionally, the Subcommittee will examine the refunds, incentives and rebates that are paid by banks to tax preparers for selling these products and the ethical implications that can be presented from a client service perspective.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2005, at 1 p.m. in “The Reading Room” of the James J. Hill Reference Library at 80 West 4th Street in St. Paul, Minnesota. For further information, please contact Raymond V. Shepherd, III, Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, at 224-3721.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to review the preparedness of the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior for the 2005 wildfire season, including the agencies' assessment of the risk of fires by region, the status of and contracting for aerial fire suppression assets, and other information needed to better understand the agencies' ability to deal with the upcoming fire season.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Frank Gladics at (202) 224-2878 or Amy Millet at (202) 224-8276.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on the S. 241—to exempt the Universal Service Fund from sections of the Antideficiency Act, on Monday, April 11, 2005, at 2 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, April 11, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. to hold a Nomination hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 11, 2005, at 2 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the Chemical Demilitarization Program of the Department of Defense in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2006.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Les Spivey, Mr. B.G. Wright, and Mr. Chad Schulken of the Appropriations Committee staff be granted full floor access during the consideration of H.R. 1268, the fiscal year 2005 emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Harry Christie, a detailee to the committee from the U.S. Secret Service, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the debate on H.R. 1268.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection it is so ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Katy Hagan, a detailee with the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, be granted privileges of the floor during consideration of this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jyoti Sharma, a legal fellow for Senator CLINTON's office, be granted the privilege of the floor during today's session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 2005 first quarter mass mailings is Monday, April 25, 2005. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224-0322.

CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA UNION MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate