

with disabilities from participating fully in our economy. Not just because it is the right thing to do, but because it is the smart thing to do.

I want to make one final point. I mentioned that the Americans with Disabilities Act is part of a tradition of important civil rights achievements. But there is one fundamental way in which the ADA differs from some of those other milestone laws.

The Civil Rights Act was enacted primarily to combat legal, institutionalized racism against African Americans. Title IX of the education amendments of 1972 was passed to prevent discrimination against women and girls in education. Those laws and others protect people from discrimination based on certain fundamental, unchangeable characteristics. If you are not born black, you are not going to become black. But any of us can become disabled—in an instant.

Today, you may think the ADA is for other people and other families, but you may think differently by the time we celebrate the 16th anniversary of the ADA a year from now. In fact, one in three 20-year-olds today will become disabled before the reach retirement age.

This past year, I have had the privilege of getting to know an extraordinary American who became disabled doing her job. Her name is Tammy Duckworth. She is major in the U.S. Army National Guard. Her job was piloting a Black Hawk helicopter in Iraq. Last November, just before Thanksgiving, her Black Hawk was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade and she lost both of her legs. Although now a double amputee, she is determined to both walk and fly helicopters again.

Thanks to advances in medicine, we are able to save more people who—15 years ago—would not have survived a car crash, or bone cancer, or even military combat. Thank goodness for that.

As we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, I hope we will commit ourselves as a Nation to work to close the gap between our medical abilities, and our mental attitudes. Let us agree that men and women like Tammy Duckworth, who suffered permanent disabilities, will not be forced to fight in this country for basic rights and gainful employment that is worthy of their skills and talents. Let us commit to work across party lines—as Congress did when it passed the Americans with Disabilities Act 15 years ago—to fulfill not just the letter but the spirit of this important law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I welcome everyone back for the remaining time of this work period. This will be the last week before the August recess, we expect.

It will be a busy week. Today we begin with a resolution regarding the anniversary of the ADA, the Americans with Disabilities Act, which Senator HARKIN was just discussing. We will be voting on the adoption of that resolution at 5:30 p.m. today.

Also, we resume debate on the Defense authorization bill. As a reminder, a cloture motion was filed on the Defense bill, and under the consent agreement all first-degree amendments should be filed at the desk no later than 2 p.m. today.

Tomorrow we will have a very busy morning. Under the agreement reached last week, we have a series of votes lined up for Tuesday morning. There could be as many as five votes starting early tomorrow morning, and Senators should adjust their schedules to be on or close to the floor tomorrow morning.

Having said that, this will certainly, as I indicated earlier, be a busy week as we consider the Defense authorization bill, the gun manufacturers liability bill, as well as a number of conference reports that may become available during the week. We certainly hope they will become available. With the cooperation of all Senators, we can finish our work in a timely way and adjourn at the end of the week.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, will the Chair advise the Senate as to the pending business?

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1042, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1042) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Frist modified amendment No. 1342, to support certain youth organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America.

Inhofe amendment No. 1311, to protect the economic and energy security of the United States.

Inhofe-Collins amendment No. 1312, to express the sense of Congress that the President should take immediate steps to establish a plan to implement the recommendations of the 2004 Report to Congress of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Inhofe-Kyl amendment No. 1313, to require an annual report on the use of United States funds with respect to the activities and management of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Lautenberg amendment No. 1351, to stop corporations from financing terrorism.

Ensign amendment No. 1374, to require a report on the use of riot control agents.

Ensign amendment No. 1375, to require a report on the costs incurred by the Department of Defense in implementing or supporting resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Collins amendment No. 1377 (to amendment No. 1351), to ensure that certain persons do not evade or avoid the prohibition imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

Durbin amendment No. 1379, to require certain dietary supplement manufacturers to report certain serious adverse events.

Hutchison-Nelson of Florida amendment No. 1357, to express the sense of the Senate with regard to manned space flight.

Thune amendment No. 1389, to postpone the 2005 round of defense base closure and realignment.

Kennedy amendment No. 1415, to transfer funds authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Energy for the National Nuclear Security Administration for weapons activities and available for the robust nuclear earth penetrator to the Army National Guard, Washington, District of Columbia, chapter.

Allard-McConnell amendment No. 1418, to require life cycle cost estimates for the destruction of lethal chemical munitions under the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program.

Allard-Salazar amendment No. 1419, to authorize a program to provide health, medical, and life insurance benefits to workers at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site, Colorado, who would otherwise fail to qualify for such benefits because of an early physical completion date.

Dorgan amendment No. 1426, to express the sense of the Senate on the declassification and release to the public of certain portions of the Report of the Joint Inquiry into the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001, and to urge the President to release information regarding sources of foreign support for the hijackers involved in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Dorgan amendment No. 1429, to establish a special committee of the Senate to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism.

Salazar amendment No. 1421, to rename the death gratuity payable for deaths of members of the Armed Forces as fallen hero compensation.

Salazar amendment No. 1422, to provide that certain local educational agencies shall be eligible to receive a fiscal year 2005 payment under section 8002 or 8003 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Salazar-Reed amendment No. 1423, to provide for Department of Defense support of certain Paralympic sporting events.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am very pleased the Senate has turned to this important legislation. It was first brought up Wednesday night with activity on Thursday and again on Friday. I thank all those who participated.