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SA 2740. Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2741. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2742. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2730 proposed by Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) to the bill H.R. 3082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2743. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2730 proposed by Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) to the bill H.R. 3082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2744. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2745. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2737. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. BOND) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2730 proposed by Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 229. Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "MEDICAL SERVICES", \$150,000,000 shall be available for the grant program under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, and per diem payments under section 2012 of such title.

SA 2738. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. WEBB) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 27, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

SEC. 128. (a) Of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT, 2005", \$450,000 shall be available for the Secretary of Defense to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study through the Transportation Research Board of Federal funding of transportation improvements to accommodate installation growth associated with the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) program.

(b) The study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine case studies of congestion caused on metropolitan road and transit facilities when BRAC requirements cause shifts in personnel to occur faster than facilities can be improved through the usual State and local processes;

(2) review the criteria used by the Defense Access Roads (DAR) program for determining the eligibility of transportation projects and the appropriate Department of Defense share of public highway and transit improvements in BRAC cases;

(3) assess the adequacy of current Federal surface transportation and Department of Defense programs that fund highway and transit improvements in BRAC cases to mitigate transportation impacts in urban areas with preexisting traffic congestion and saturated roads;

(4) identify promising approaches for funding road and transit improvements and streamlining transportation project approvals in BRAC cases; and

(5) provide recommendations for modifications of current policy for the DAR and Office of Economic Adjustment programs, including funding strategies, road capacity assessments, eligibility criteria, and other government policies and programs the National Academy of Sciences may identify, to mitigate the impact of BRAC-related installation growth on preexisting urban congestion.

(c) The Secretary of Defense shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences to provide the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) by not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of the Act.

(d)(1) Not later than May 15, 2010, the National Academy of Sciences shall provide an interim report of its findings to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) Not later than January 31, 2011, the National Academy of Sciences shall provide a final report of its findings to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SA 2739. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 229. Not later than January 29, 2010, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representative a report on the use of advanced technology to automate the administration of veterans disability claims. Such report shall include the following:

(1) A survey of advanced technology that can be used for such automation.

(2) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of using such technology for such automation.

SA 2740. Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 229. Section 315(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2009" and inserting "December 31, 2010".

SA 2741. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 229. (a) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES.—The amount appropriated by this title under the heading "GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE VETERANS CEMETERIES" is hereby increased by \$4,000,000.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading "GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES" is hereby decreased by \$4,000,000.

SA 2742. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2730 proposed by Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 229. (a) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR HOMELESS VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The amount appropriated by this title under the heading "MEDICAL SERVICES" is hereby increased by \$43,387,240, with the amount of the increase to be available for the following:

(1) The grant program under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) Per diem payments under section 2012 of such title.

(3) Housing assistance and supportive services under subchapter V of chapter 20 of such title.

(b) OFFSETTING RESCISSION.—There is hereby rescinded, from amounts appropriated for fiscal years beginning before fiscal year 2010 for the guaranteed transitional housing loan program authorized by subchapter VI of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, that remain available for obligation as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the amount of \$43,387,240.

(c) REDUCTION IN AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR GUARANTEED TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LOANS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM.—The amount made available by this title under the heading "GUARANTEED TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LOANS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT" is hereby reduced by \$750,000.

SA 2743. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2730 proposed by Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 229. (a) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR HOMELESS VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The amount appropriated by this title under the heading “MEDICAL SERVICES” under the heading “VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION” is increased by \$750,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for the following:

(1) The grant program under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) Per diem payments under section 2012 of such title.

(3) Housing assistance and supportive services under subchapter V of chapter 20 of such title.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this title under the heading “GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES” under the heading “DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION” is decreased by \$750,000.

SA 2744. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Section 129 of the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2010 (Public Law 111-68) is amended by striking “by substituting” and all that follows through the period at the end, and inserting “by substituting June 30, 2010 for the date specified in each such section.”.

SA 2745. Mr. FRANKEN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3082, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 52, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 229. Of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by this title for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$5,000,000 shall be available for the study required by section 1077 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that LTC Joseph J. Martin, a U.S. Army Special Forces officer currently serving as Senator REID’s military legislative fellow this year, be granted floor privileges for the duration of H.R. 3082, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010.

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

CONSTITUTING MAJORITY PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. Res. 343, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 343) to constitute the majority party’s membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table without further intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 343) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 343

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party’s membership on the following committee for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Schumer (Chairman), Mr. Byrd, Mr. Inouye, Mr. Dodd, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Nelson (Nebraska), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Pryor, Mr. Udall (New Mexico), Mr. Warner.

REGARDING THE TRAGIC SHOOTING AT FORT HOOD, TEXAS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 344, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 344) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the tragic shooting at Fort Hood, Texas on November 5, 2009.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 344) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 344

Whereas Fort Hood, Texas, the largest military installation in the world, is home to numerous distinguished units of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the Third Corps, the First Cavalry Division, the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment, and others;

Whereas Fort Hood has long been a source of pride for the State of Texas and for all the people of the United States who value the selfless service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform;

Whereas the soldiers, family members, and civilian employees who live and serve at Fort Hood play a critical role in the defense of our Nation;

Whereas the soldiers of Fort Hood have served with honor and distinction in the Global War on Terror, frequently on the front lines in the combat theaters of Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas the Fort Hood community experienced a monumental tragedy on November 5, 2009, when a gunman opened fire on large groups of soldiers on the installation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) offers its deepest and most sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the innocent victims killed or wounded in the senseless violence that occurred on November 5, 2009;

(2) offers support and hope for a full recovery for those who have been wounded.

(3) honors the heroic service, actions, and sacrifices of law enforcement personnel, first responders, soldiers present on the scene, medical personnel, and countless others who aided the innocent victims of this attack; and

(4) shares in the pain and grief felt by the people of the United States in the aftermath of this tragic event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc Calendar Nos. 480 and 522; that the nominations be confirmed, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

NOMINATION DISCHARGED

I further ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged of PN931, the nomination of Barbara Bennett to be CFO of the EPA; that the Senate then proceed to the nomination; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; that the Senate return to legislative session; and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. Both requests are agreed to.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Joseph G. Pizarchik, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

David S. Ferriero, of North Carolina, to be Archivist of the United States.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Barbara J. Bennett, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.